



### March in the Dominican Republic

March has been a month of routine. The season of Cuaresma has been appropriately reverent and full of extra services, both Tuesdays and Wednesday. Tuesday's Rev. Dr. Jonathan Naumann the chaplain to the English-speaking missionaries offers a service in English.

On Wednesday's we attend La Iglesia Luterana de Pueblo Nuevo for the midweek lenten series of vespers. The sermon series has been on the Lord's Prayer, each week covering a different petition.



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## Walking the Walk, y Hablando con La Palabra



Pastors Roberto Weber and Fernando Caballero walking the community.

### Sharing the Gospel in Licey al Medio

In March, I had the opportunity to join Latin American seminarians for a Jornada Evangelística (Evangelism Day) in Licey al Medio, Dominican Republic. The morning began with a Bible study focused on marriage and mutual submission to God and one another (Ephesians Chapter 5). Together with members of the local community, we explored what it means to reflect Christ in our relationships—how husbands and wives can both imitate Jesus, who submitted to the will of the Father and gave Himself up in love for His bride, the Church. In the afternoon, we went out in small groups to share short devotionals door-to-door. The people we met were gracious and welcoming. One highlight was an impromptu Bible study held right in the doorway of a neighborhood colmado (corner store), where several passersby stopped to hear the Gospel. Experiences like this are preparing us for ministry in Belize, where building relationships, opening the Scriptures, and speaking the Gospel into everyday life will be key. We're learning how to listen well, speak clearly, and meet people where they are—all for the sake of pointing them to Christ.

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# Adventures

One of the most iconic landmarks in Santiago is the Monumento a Los Héroes de la Restauración, rising above the city from its hilltop perch. Originally built by dictator Rafael Trujillo in 1944 to glorify himself, the monument was renamed after his death to honor the heroes of the Dominican Restoration War—a conflict fought from 1863 to 1865 to restore independence from Spain. Today, it stands not as a symbol of tyranny, but of the resilience and courage of those who fought for freedom.

During our time in Santiago, we've enjoyed visiting this monument and learning about the deep history it represents. Its sweeping views of the city and surrounding mountains are breathtaking—but even more powerful is the reminder that nations, like people, go through seasons of hardship and renewal. It's a humbling reflection point for our own mission, as we prepare to serve in Belize, trusting that the Gospel can bring restoration far greater than any monument can mark.



Monumento a Los Heroes de la Restauracion in Santiago de Los Caballeros.



## Dispensationalism

While in the Dominican Republic, I've met several Christians who hold to Dispensationalism—a theology common in many evangelical circles. Dispensationalism teaches that God works in different eras (or “dispensations”) in distinct ways, often drawing a sharp line between God's plan for Israel and His plan for the Church. It also frequently includes a belief in a future, earthly millennial reign of Christ. In contrast, Lutherans see Scripture as telling one unified story of salvation through Christ. We

believe God has always had one people, saved by grace through faith, and that the Church is the continuation of Israel—not a separate plan. We confess that Christ already reigns, and we await His return to judge the living and the dead and bring the new heavens and new earth. These conversations have opened doors for fruitful dialogue and remind us of the importance of clarity in proclaiming the Gospel and the hope we have in Christ's finished work.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- **Hearts Ready to Serve:** As we near our move to Belize, pray that our hearts would be prepared for the joys and challenges ahead. Ask the Lord to grant us humility, patience, and love for those we are sent to serve.
- **Gospel Opportunities:** Pray for opportunities to share Christ in both word and deed as we continue building relationships. May the Holy Spirit open doors for faithful witness in every interaction.
- **Unity and Encouragement:** Pray for unity among the missionary team and for encouragement in times of transition. May we build one another up in love as we serve together in Christ's name.

**PRAISE GOD FOR:**

- **Gospel Conversations:** We give thanks for the many opportunities to speak about Jesus—whether in Spanish class, at local events, or during ministry outings. Each conversation is a reminder of God's grace at work.
- **Growing Confidence in Spanish:** Praise God for continued progress in language learning! It's a joy to experience moments where we can share, listen, and connect more naturally with those around us.
- **Supportive Community:** We are thankful for the local and international community surrounding us—missionaries, teachers, church leaders, and supporters—who encourage, pray for, and walk with us on this journey.

# Family Update



**Esther:** “Insane. Because the traffic is crazy, people drive on the wrong side of the road.”

Que lo que, because it is fun to say, and short and easy.”

**Martha:** “Humid. Because it is humid...”

Todopoderoso, because it means Almighty and is fun to say.”

**Joanna:** “Beautiful, cause there are mountains and pretty plants everywhere.”

Como tu dormiste, cause it is how I ask my family how they slept last night.

**Questions for the Kids:**  
**“If you could describe the Dominican Republic in one word, what would it be?”**

and

**“What’s your favorite Spanish word or phrase so far?”**

**Gideon:** “Quiet. Because it is not. Hablaba, because it sounds funny.”

Gracious Father, thank You for walking with us in every season. As we learn, grow, and serve, fill us with Your peace and patience. Strengthen our family, keep our team united, and open doors for the Gospel. May all we do reflect the love of Jesus Christ; in whose name we pray. Amen.

Padre misericordioso, gracias por acompañarnos en cada temporada. Mientras aprendemos, crecemos y servimos, lléanos de Tu paz y paciencia. Fortalece a nuestra familia, mantén unido a nuestro equipo y abre puertas para el Evangelio. Que todo lo que hagamos refleje el amor de Jesúcristo, en cuyo nombre oramos. Amén

— Rev. Jason Groth



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