

J A N U A R Y - 2 0 2 0



SERVING THE LORD IN

Latin America

News from Rev Dr Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl Naumann



Flat Tire and Evangelism!

The infrequently maintained pot-holed roads of the Dominican Republic mean that flat tires are a common experience, so we normally "patch" the flats about seven times before buying a new tire! One of Cheryl's colleagues snapped the above photo of her witnessing to Ricardo while they both waited for tires to be patched.

Every day we ask ourselves, "Who will God bring into our lives today - that we might have the opportunity to share Jesus Christ with them?" And so as we go about our normal day with open eyes and expectant attitudes, God makes it obvious that many around us need to know of Him, and engaging in that joyful task is as simple as starting a conversation.

LAC regional team members listen to a presentation in preparation for the planning for the work in the coming year. (Belize)



*"La paz os deajo, mi paz os doy.
Yo no os la doy como el munco la da..."*

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you (John 14:27a).

At the beginning of January Cheryl and I participated in a meeting of all LAC Regional Team leaders in Belize. We discussed mission strategy for the coming year and had the privilege of seeing property that is being donated to LCMS missions for a future church and school, as well as a camp site that has potential for retreats, various types of mercy work, and a place to house short term teams that visit Belize. What a joy it was to see that the school is already functioning as a Lutheran preschool! The icing on the cake is that the church and school buildings are located in a part of Belize called Valley of Peace.



Left: Inside of the Lutheran Preschool; Above: Pastor Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl stand in front of a used church that we hope will house a new Lutheran mission congregation. Both photos taken in Valley of Peace, Belize

The life of Jesus - God incarnate - and "peace" are closely connected in Scripture. At Jesus' birth the angels sang "...and on earth peace..." (Luke 2:14); when He appeared to His disciples eight days after His resurrection Jesus said, "Peace be with you." (John 20:26) There are many more examples, but the bottom line is that it is only through Jesus that we have true "peace that passes all understanding." **Supported by your prayers and offerings, we are able to share this message of peace - the message of a loving Savior - with people in the DR and other areas of Latin America!**

Thank you!

Pastor Jonathan

Dear friends in Christ,

While we were in Belize there were two large-scale earthquakes in Puerto Rico (PR), with aftershocks and smaller earthquakes that still continue. Our mission church in the city of Ponce sustained structural damage, as did our mercy house next door.

The GOOD news that I want to share is that YOU, who support us with prayer and gifts, have made a difference to the earthquake victims in Puerto Rico! You see, the LCMS has been training people in our LAC region – lately, in conferences that I organize as coordinator of all regional Mercy Center activities – to know how to prepare for and go into action when disasters strike. You may remember that in April 2019 the Mercy Center sponsored the training of a Disaster Response expert for each of the three areas of South America, Central America, and the Caribbean. Pastor Gustavo Maita, the trainee and now Disaster Response Leader for the Caribbean, is based in PR. Because of this long-term training, our missionaries in PR were able to be on the ground assisting people within a few hours of the earthquakes, even before any official aid agencies or government help arrived.

This mercy work has brought about an abundance of opportunities to minister to both body and soul. Our missionaries pray with people; our Pastors read and expound on Scripture and pray with large groups of people sleeping in temporary quarters. New Bible classes are springing up. In all of this, we are also keenly aware of the need to care for our workers in PR. Hence missionaries in our LAC region have been “rotating” in to help with things like food preparation and packing and distributing basic need packets to communities, as well as providing spiritual care.

We have been thankful for an unusually cool winter, with the temperatures often being in the high 70s instead of high 80s. This has been especially helpful as Pastor Jonathan works in the new seminary library space to get all of the books catalogued and on the shelves. **If any of you are interested in spending a week or two here between now and March 22, simply to assist (as a volunteer) with cataloguing and preparing books to be shelved, please let us know!**

In a recent visit to the Centro Leon cultural center, I was once again reminded of the pagan gods worshipped here on the island of Hispaniola. Though Christianity came with Christopher Columbus, many here are still very superstitious, or have a "hybrid" sort of

Please include in your prayers

+ That God would protect and encourage all missionaries working in the field, and also those who support their work, that the Gospel may be spread throughout the world, according to the will of God; + In particular, that God would bless our LCMS disaster response effort in Puerto Rico as our workers bring relief and comfort for physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the people + That God will raise up more men from the LAC region to serve as pastors in our Lutheran missions and partner church bodies; + Praise and thanksgiving that Pastor Jonathan's annual cardiac check-up showed that he is doing very well! + Request for continued good health for both of us.

"faith" that mixes Christian and pagan beliefs into one world view. Thinking about this gives us renewed energy in our witness to Jesus Christ - the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Thank you for accompanying us on this journey!

love in Christ,
Deaconess Cheryl



Above: January 6 - known as the "Day of the Three Kings Day" - is a big holiday in the DR. We got a kick out of the above Christmas decorations that include Wise Men on motorcycles! Below: Young DR boys play dominoes at back of the church before a Sunday evening service in Pueblo Nuevo



Below: Idols of false gods on display in the Santiago cultural center.



Tax-deductible gifts to support the work of Jonathan & Cheryl Naumann can be given:

- + **Online at www.lcms.org/jonathan.naumann**
- + **By phoning the LCMS donor care line: 888-930-4438**
- + **By mailing checks to The LCMS, PO Box 66861, Saint Louis, MO 63166-6861 with "Jonathan Naumann - Latin America" on the check memo line**