

A P R I L & M A Y - 2 0 2 1

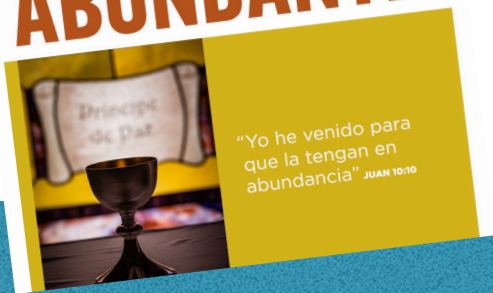


SERVING THE LORD IN

Latin America

News from Rev Dr Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl Naumann

Una Vida ABUNDANTE



An Abundant Life!

On May 28, the "virtual" Mercy Center conference, with guest speaker Dr. John Pless presenting on *Issues of Life in Luther's Small Catechism*, was attended by about 150 people in 19 different countries! We are delighted that missionary Jamielynn Tinkey Flores is now serving full time as the Life Coordinator for the Latin America Caribbean region.

Please pray:

+ That God will continue to bring many to faith here in the DR and other Latin American countries, as God's Word is preached and the Spirit works through that Word to create and grow faith in the hearts of the hearers;
+ that God will bless the Mercy Center conference on Disaster Response in Bolivia June 8-10; + that the many missionaries on home service would be given travel mercies; + Thanksgiving for the confirmation of three adults and two youth at Licey on Trinity Sunday;
+ Continued prayer for our colleague, Pastor Carlos Schumann, who survived a massive heart attack at his home here in the DR, and is out of the hospital but still receiving care; + Thanksgiving for the privilege that all Christians have, to share the good news of Jesus!

"he venido para que tengan vida, y para que la tengan en abundancia" (John 10:10)

It's hard to believe that this year is already half over! In our world that is riddled with disease, natural disaster, loss, and broken relationships, do we look back on the last six months and still believe that we have the "abundant life" promised to us by our Lord in John 10:10? I hope that our resounding answer is a yes!

We know much has happened that has not been good. But we also know that God has been with us through all the challenges we have faced. He has been the true source of hope, joy and peace for us in the midst of difficult days. He has protected our hearts and minds and reminded us of how we have been blessed with the gifts of forgiveness and life in the body of Christ, and that we have everlasting life through faith in Jesus Christ. We look to God to prompt us with His Spirit, so we get better about living with an attitude of gratitude; to help us rise above stressful situations and all the petty stuff that doesn't matter in the bigger scheme of things.

A week ago I finished teaching a course on Liturgics at the seminary and the exams are all graded. Around the same time I finished teaching an English confirmation class, and had the joy of witnessing the confirmations on Trinity Sunday. A particular joy was to see "Teacher Nelly," one of the teachers at our region's Language Institute, become a confirmed member at the mission in Licey. This week Cheryl and I will celebrate 44 years of Christian marriage!

Thank you for walking with us over the last six months and into the future! Your friendship is appreciated and your prayers on behalf of our work are powerful! God continue to bless you in His abundant life!

Pastor Jonathan



Deaconess Cheryl on screen introducing the Mercy Center Conference on Life; and Trinity Sunday confirmation in Licey (Pastor Jonathan standing on the far right)

Dear friends in Christ,

The celebration of Easter, together with the advent of spring, always brings thoughts of new life, hope, and even new possibilities. God is blessing the work of our missionary team here in the DR with the joy of having so many places where people are interested in Jesus, and salvation by faith alone, that it is difficult to keep pace with the opportunities.

In Santiago alone, with three established mission congregations, there are four "preaching stations" that have the potential to become active congregations. Please pray for the work in these mission starts - in Los Callejones, Cien Fuegos, Moca, and La Piedra.

Please also continue to remember the new preaching station in Ocoa, which is close to the capitol of Santo Domingo. In a meeting last week, we heard that at the mission congregation in Osama (also part of the capitol), our building is getting too small for the number of people who want to attend worship. Taking the service outside into the churchyard could add another 10 people, but that solution would not last long. So the Dominican mission team has the wonderful problem of needing to find a different and larger building in the same neighborhood!

How is the Bible taught, if there are so many people wanting to learn? Each mission congregation has its own strategy. Pastor Jonathan is currently teaching a class in English for Adults and teens for whom English is their first language, since the Pastor speaks primarily in Spanish and these people haven't lived in the DR long enough to feel comfortable taking the class in Spanish, but they want to attend worship and learn about their Lord!



Above: Sunday School at Pueblo Nuevo. Below: a few girls sitting in front of Concordia Lutheran School in Palmar Arriba.



In Pueblo Nuevo, where we normally attend, Bible class is held immediately after church. By that I mean, when the Divine Service is finished, **EVERYONE** stays right where they are in their plastic chairs (that serve as our "pews") and participates in the Bible Study. At the same time, all of the children go to a side table in the sanctuary, where the deaconesses have prepared a Sunday School lesson for them. Sunday School is also held on Saturdays (!) and other Bible classes take place at the church or in homes throughout the week, led by seminary students as well as their supervising pastors.

We are also rejoicing that our Concordia Lutheran Schools here in the Dominican Republic were given permission to re-open on Tuesday May 25, after being closed for 15 months! The government here has taken many precautions regarding Covid, including the need for an inspection of every school before it can be re-opened. So our schools had to wait for their "turn" to be inspected. We still have evening curfews, just revised to be 6 p.m. on week days and 3 p.m. on weekends, but this is a temporary restriction during a period of holidays.

In April I was unwell for two weeks with one of the typical stomach problems experienced in the tropics, but thanks be to God am feeling better now. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement, and of course, your financial gifts of love for God's mission.

With love in Christ, *Deaconess Cheryl*

Tax-deductible gifts to support our work can be given:

- + Online at www.lcms.org/jonathan.naumann
- + By mailing checks to MISSION CENTRAL, 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, Iowa 51034, with "J & C Naumann - Latin America" on check memo line
- + By mailing checks to The LCMS, PO Box 66861, Saint Louis, MO 63166 with "Jonathan Naumann - Latin America" on the check memo line