



J U N E - 2 0 2 1

SERVING THE LORD IN

# Latin America

News from Rev Dr Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl Naumann



## Sharing Christ and Culture!

While your missionaries share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others in Latin America and the Caribbean, the people that we encounter also share their rich heritage with us. Above is a special meal cooked by Berkis, the wife of one of our Venezuelan seminary students: arepas, black beans and rice, caramelized bananas, shredded chicken, and fried plantains!

In the Dominican Republic we are enjoying an increase of activities in mission congregations as Covid restrictions begin to ease. Below are some "snapshots" of a Sunday morning in Pueblo Nuevo. 1) Deaconess student speaking to children after the service; 2) Seminarian Hector managing the "Live" broadcast of worship; 3) Pastor Jonathan preaching; 4) Two musicians playing the liturgy and hymns.



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## *"Bástenle a cada día sus propios problemas"*

*(Sufficient for today are the troubles thereof - Matt. 6:44)*

Sunday is my favorite day of the week. It is the 'day of rest and gladness,' even when I am leading Spanish church services and preaching at times, too. The challenge is to make every day – like Sundays – a day focussed on the Lord, our God, and the strength that He supplies from Heaven. Jesus once said, Sufficient for today are the troubles thereof, and we can thank God that His grace is sufficient for us **every** day (2 Cor. 12:9).

God's 'mercy is new every morning.' Great is His faithfulness (Lam. 3:23), so that we are able to live for Him 'one day at a time' by virtue of the work God is doing in each of us. We often fall short of who and where we want to be. During hard times, our faith often feels small and inadequate. Then once again we are grateful that God takes what little we have and turns it into more than enough. It is not our power or strength, but His within us that moves mountains. The joy of the Lord becomes our strength. It doesn't matter what we have or what we lack, as long as we have God and His heavenly support.

We pray that He helps us take one day at a time, even as there is joy in the journey. God is teaching us perseverance and endurance. As we marked five years in this mission field, we celebrated how far God has already brought us. Every step forward and every accomplishment, no matter how small it seems, is a reason to rejoice.

We are grateful in advance for all that is to come as we collaborate together in furthering the worship of Jesus in His precious and saving Name. **Thank you for supporting us with prayers and gifts of support for this journey.**

*Pastor Jonathan*



Dear friends in Christ,

Summer can be a time when activities wind down a bit, but that that hasn't been our experience this year. Possibly because as things open up, there are more opportunities to move forward on events that have been planned but not yet executed.

Thank you for your prayers for the Disaster Response education conference for the Lutheran church in Bolivia from June 8-10. As I sat in my office in the DR, where it was 91° Fahrenheit, I got a kick out of seeing some of the Bolivian pastors on screen wearing coats and even hats.

Since summer for us is winter time for them, they were experiencing temperatures around 27-35° F!



## 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's Disaster Response conference in Argentina on August 15; that all those affected by the fires in southern Argentina would be brought peace and comfort through God's Word and the loving assistance of our church there; + that the many LCMS missionaries on home service would be kept safe as they travel; + Thanksgiving that the blood clot in Pastor Carlos Schumann's heart is gone and that he has had successful surgery to implant a pacemaker; + Thanksgiving for the privilege that all Christians have, to share the good news of Jesus!

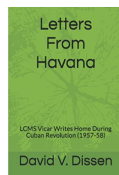


As everyone has become aware during the Covid pandemic, Zoom has made it possible for us to have family visits, reunions, regular meetings, etc., to keep in touch as much as possible. During the daytime of June 7-11 (the Bolivian conference didn't start until 8 p.m. at night due to different time zones!) I had the joy of being part of a "Hub" of individuals (photo on the left) who attended the annual Concordia Deaconess Conference gathering. We enjoyed the fellowship of other DR deaconesses and interns, while also participating online in Bible Study, worship, and stimulating presentations on "Christian Apologetics in the 21st Century."

Of course there is nothing like reuniting with friends after a period of isolation! Being able once again to share meals with Christian friends, worship together on Sundays, and also have more contact with those we hope to bring to church for the first time. At the bottom left are photos of a meal with Carlos and Giselle Rodriguez, and Pastor Jonathan reading to our Goddaughter, Ayla.

Near the end of July, we look forward to a family reunion, where we will see five of our six children and 17 of our 20 grandchildren, as well as attending a family wedding and ordination. We love to hear from you and how you are doing. We would love to pray for your needs, just as you do for ours and for the work that is going on here in God's Church.

Thank you for your support and encouragement! *love in Christ,*  
Deaconess Cheryl



If you're interested in the history of LCMS missions in the Caribbean, you will enjoy this new book by David V. Dissen, titled *Letters From Havana: LCMS Vicar Writes Home During Cuban Revolution (1957-58)*. This is a great read, and now available on Amazon.

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

- + Online at [www.lcms.org/jonathan.naumann](http://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