

S E P T E M B E R & O C T O B E R
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SERVING THE LORD IN

Latin America

News from Rev Dr Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl Naumann



Thanking God for Schools

This sign next to the front door of Concordia Lutheran School in Palmar Arriba announces:

WELCOME
The Return of Joy

Yes! We give thanks to God that our DR Lutheran Schools are able to have in-person classes again! Education is a privilege that is not enjoyed by all children in developing countries, which is sad, particularly due to the low levels of literacy. We pray that our mission schools will graduate students who will know how to read and apply other life skills, and who will have faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Alabad a Jehová, porque él es bueno; Porque para siempre es su misericordia. (Salmo 107:1)

One of the realities of living abroad is the absence of North American holidays like 'Thanksgiving'. When we were in the UK, Cheryl and I participated in British harvest celebrations instead. The same is true in the Dominican Republic, except here there isn't a specific harvest season - only 'temporadas' (seasons) when various fruits ripen. For example, the mango season or the avocado season!

Here in the mission field we have local people, as well as colleagues from other countries, for whom the North American Thanksgiving is not important. But what we as Christians agree upon is that worshipping God for His gracious provision for us – spiritually, and physically deserves special emphasis.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we Your unworthy servants give You humble thanks for all Your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom You have made. We bless You for our creation and preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for Your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of Your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth Your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to Your service, and by walking before You in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory now and forevermore. Amen.

May we - all of us - never tire of giving thanks to God and sharing His precious Gospel with others! **Pastor Jonathan**



Pastor Idjon leads morning devotions with young students at Concordia Lutheran School, Palmar.



Above: Pastor Jonathan speaking at orientation for the new Seminary year. Right: Deaconess Cheryl assists with Sunday School in Pueblo Nuevo.



Dear friends in Christ,

One of the many joys of working in the DR is meeting the seminary students that arrive from various countries. Our house is split into three residences, two of them for LCMS missionary families and the third for a seminarian and his family. The student (from Brazil) who formerly lived in our house is now ordained and serving in a church planting mission in Uruguay. Now Demetrio and Nuria Perez (photo at right), both from the Kuna Indian tribe in Panama, have moved into the student quarters. Nuria is very talented in making decorated hand-sewn clothing, and has already assisted in repairing some of the mission's altar paraments. We can learn so much from one another in this cross-cultural setting.



While curfews have been lifted in the DR, it is now necessary to carry proof of a double Covid vaccination to enter grocery stores, schools, and other public places. In Belize, where Covid is again on the rise in our mission neighborhoods, pastors are required to see that everyone in worship has a double vaccination card with them. If someone comes to church without a vaccination card and is discovered by a government agent, the pastor will receive a fine. If there is a second "offence" by the same pastor, the church will be closed. This is indeed a difficult situation for LCMS workers in Belize. We pray for them, and that God would have mercy and bring an end to this pandemic.

One of the most exciting things that has begun over the last two months is a new mission plant in the borough of Cienfuegos in Santiago. Many of you will remember Carlos and Giselle from previous newsletters. Cienfuegos is the where they and another family at the Pueblo Nuevo mission live. **The time is ripe** to do some



Two photos above: Outreach event at school in Cienfuegos. How wonderful that the doors to a public school have been opened for hearing the Gospel and the giving of Mercy.

groundwork there - led by the Pueblo Nuevo mission's Vicar Rafael Flores (from the Lutheran Church of Chile) - including weekly home visits, weekly Bible studies, and last week, even a community health education initiative held at a public school. Over 70 children with additional adults, teachers, parents and coaches were present for the health event, and 60 families received First Aid kits with Bible materials (provided by our Mercy Center). Please pray that God will continue to bless this community as the seed of His Word is planted and watered.

As always, **we are thankful for you** who work along side us through your encouraging notes, your prayers, and financial support. Please **GIVE THANKS WITH US** for all that God is doing through your partnership, and through the preaching and teaching of the Gospel in this mission!

with love in Christ, *Deaconess Cheryl*

Please pray:

- + *That God will bless this academic year at the seminary, especially as we prepare for the graduation of over 100 deaconesses in four countries; and hope to have an in-person graduation of the pastoral candidates which wasn't possible for the last two years.*
- + *That God will continue to bring many to faith as His Word is preached and the Spirit works through that Word to create and grow faith in the hearts of the hearers; and that God would bless the field with sufficient workers to keep up with the growing numbers of missions.*

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