

M A R C H — A P R I L 2 0 2 2



SERVING THE LORD IN

# Latin America

News from Rev Dr Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl Naumann



## Cementing Christian Relationships

Greeting fellow worshipers with *la paz de Cristo* (the peace of the Lord) is an important part of post-worship time for those who attend LCMS missions in the Dominican Republic.

Above, Pastor Jonathan exchanges greetings after the Ash Wednesday worship in Pueblo Nuevo. Every person greets EVERY other person who was at the service, before anyone leaves to go to their homes! Yes, that means that all visitors are greeted personally and encouraged to return.

*‘...he aprendido a contentarme cualquiera que sea mi situación.’ (Philippians 4:11)*

Unlike the peddlers of a ‘prosperity gospel’, exploiting the poverty of people in the developing world, our Lutheran missionaries teach the truth that God does not surround Christians with physical abundance (or even guarantee happiness) in this dying world. God expects to find us in weakness, in need, and in guilt. Our Lord Jesus Christ is not surprised to find us in spiritual ruins, and He expects to have to save us and every person. That is why we call Him the Savior.

The Gospel of Jesus that we proclaim is not about this world, material success, or prosperity – it is about the world’s Savior, and about what it means to trust in Him for our salvation. Wonderfully, the true Gospel is relevant to, and welcomed by, the lower-income families that make up most of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean. As people struggle to make a living for themselves and their families, they learn what Christian contentment is. As St. Paul described regarding his life: *I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble (Phil. 4:11-14).*

As Christians we know that to be brought low or to abound are both godly states for the sake of Christ, for the life of loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves. And what comfort to know that as forgiven people who have the certain hope of eternal life through faith in Jesus, though both hunger and plenty can harm the body in different ways, neither of them can touch the soul kept safe in Christ.

**Thank you** for helping us bring this message to people who are hearing it for the first time, and to those who need to hear it again!

*Pastor Jonathan*



## Another New Mission Church!

This new LCMS church mission building, which is still being built, is located in Chapicuy, Uruguay. Even though construction is not complete, it is already being used for services. We praise God for the growth of His missions, which we work to support through our various personal responsibilities in the LAC region.



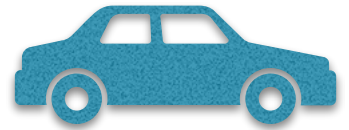


Dear friends in Christ,

Last Saturday, when I went to work at the Mercy Center, I had just arrived at the front door when a group of boys saw me and rushed to ask if they could help me carry my bags of books up the stairs. Close behind them came one of our seminary students (called *seminaristas*), who had been playing basketball with them on the newly installed court shared by the Seminary and Concordia Lutheran School.

Concordia Lutheran School is on the ground floor of the building of our mission center in Palmar Arriba. Concordia Lutheran Church (which also serves as the Seminary Chapel) and the Seminary Library are located on the second floor; and the third floor is the Seminary and Mercy Center.

As I settled into my work in this multi-purpose building, I could hear something that brought great joy to my heart. The boys that helped me with my bags were now in the chancel with two seminarians. They were practicing the singing of parts of the liturgy; answering questions as one of the seminarians taught a lesson; singing some songs, and then reciting the books of the Bible. (The practice in youth work is to have separate activities for boys and girls.) This type of intentional outreach activity for youth in the villages, where sports and study of the Bible and worship are combined, is making a big impact on the growth of the church. Not only do these activities bring youngsters and their families under the sound of the Gospel, but perhaps one or more of these young men will end up attending the seminary and serve as pastors in the future Dominican Republic Lutheran Church.



### **2022 Home Service is Coming Fast!**

We will be in the United States to share about God's work in the Dominican Republic mission field from May 30 - July 25, 2022.

Our itinerary will include a presentation at MISSION CENTRAL on Saturday July 23. Please contact us if you are interested in a presentation at your congregation, ladies' group, mission festival, or other activity!



Seminary, Mercy Center, Concordia Lutheran Church, Concordia Lutheran School, and new basketball court and playing area in Palmar Arriba, a rural area outside of Santiago.

Now that most churches are able to meet together again in Latin America and the Caribbean, I have had a big increase in the desire of individual congregations to make use of the Mercy Center course, "Every One His Witness." This is an exciting development, as if now that people can be together, they cannot wait to also invite their others to join them in faith and worship of Jesus Christ. As I'm writing, there are courses taking place in two congregations in Argentina, one in Chile, one in Venezuela, and two in the Dominican Republic. Praise God!

*Please pray: + For good health and safety for us and all missionaries, especially during travel in the field; + That God will bless our preparations for Home Service in June and July, when we make presentations about God's work through us here in the Dominican Republic; + Praise for the ordination of eight pastors in the Bolivian Lutheran Church in March, growing the spread of the Gospel in that country; + Thanksgiving for over 100 women who will graduate as deaconesses from Seminario Concordia el Reformador, to serve in Mexico, Guatemala, Venezuela, Panama, and the Dominican Republic; + Thanksgiving for the new church building in Chapicuy, Uruguay.*

As always, we are grateful for your love of missions for the sake of Christ, your prayers, your words of encouragement, and your loving gifts of support for our work.

God grant you a very blessed Holy Week and celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

love in Christ,  
Deaconess Cheryl

### **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