



N O V E M B E R - 2 0 2 0

SERVING THE LORD IN


# Latin America

News from Rev Dr Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl Naumann



## A Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas

Thank you for making it possible for us to bring the news of the Christ Child to Latin America in 2020!

 Dominican people are very resourceful. This nativity scene was constructed with plastic bottles and other common everyday materials.

*“El cielo y la tierra pasarán, pero mis palabras no pasarán.” (Luke 21:33)*

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away, Jesus said. And what comfort there is in knowing this fact in the midst of so much ‘passing away’ that we witness during our earthly lives!

All over the world we see faith, ideas, virtues, occupations, beautiful things, and people that we have loved, disappearing from our lives. In the developing world, this has long been the case, where life-expectancies are shorter and people live on the edge, often hand to mouth much of the time. It is our privilege as missionaries to proclaim a Redeemer and Savior in Jesus Christ, true God and true man, whose Person and promises will never pass away.

This is the bottom line. We are not here in Latin America to tell people that belief in Jesus will give them a good job or money in the bank, or that trusting in Jesus will ensure that they will always have a car or a nice place to live. We are here to share the Truth - that while much in life brings disappointment and death, the Word of God brings Life and will never pass away. All threats to the Lordship of Jesus Christ have failed to dim the brightness of the message of the Gospel. This indeed is the message of Christmas! This baby Jesus was born for us - ALL OF US - and died and rose again for ALL OF US.

One of the more popular hymns sung in our mission congregations in the DR includes the chorus, "No! No! No pasarán!" [No! No! They (Jesus' words) will not pass away!] I am always touched by how enthusiastically this chorus is sung. God is certainly working through His eternal Word to reconcile the world to Himself, one person at a time, in His perfect time, in this mission field. **Thank you for making this possible with your gifts and prayers!**

*Pastor Jonathan*

Dear friends in Christ,

2020 has been defined by a world pandemic, economic crises, shaky governments, and extraordinary natural disasters. At the same time, we rejoice that God continues to bless us and His work here in the DR and Latin America. Please give thanks to God with us for these many blessings:

♥ **January:** 140 women in Latin America are training to be deaconesses ♥ **February:** Opportunity to assist the Lutheran Church in Haiti through LCMS Disaster Response ♥ **March:** Technology and internet allows work and meetings from home; as well as participation in Bible Class and worship with Covid restrictions in place; The ability to hold FORO meetings on-line for planning and administration of mission work in each LAC country ♥ **April:** Opportunity for members of mission congregations to distribute food to needy families in their neighborhoods ♥ **May:** Six week on-line Mercy Center Workshop for all LCMS missionaries in LAC, on "Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated Voices for Life." Another MC course, "Mercy in Time of Disaster" taught online by Regional Director, Pastor Ted Krey, for all Spanish speaking church workers in LAC and beyond. A Spanish copy of the "Pastoral Care Companion" was provided to all LAC pastors through the VDMA Project ♥ **June:** New and growing outreach to Venezuelan refugees in the DR capitol of Santo Domingo. ♥ **July:** Two Mercy Center Disaster Response training workshops for Lutheran Churches and missions in Guatemala and Honduras ♥ **August:** Mercy Center workshop "Every One His Witness" in the Dominican Republic for all indigenous deaconess students and seminarians. ♥ **September:** Concordia the Reformer Seminary began its fourth academic year. Three LCMS deaconess students are spending their internships in the DR, Puerto Rico, and Montreal ♥ **October:** Arrival of new missionary families in DR for Spanish acquisition. and field orientation. *Virtual* home service presentations ♥ **November:** Public schools in the DR begin instruction with teaching taking place on TV and radio. The healthy birth and rebirth in the waters of Baptism, of our granddaughter, Theresa Araliya, born in Sri Lanka to Pastor Edward and Monica, who are LCMS missionaries there ♥ **December:** A new mission start in Ocoa, with 6 baptisms scheduled for next week! ♥

**Last, but certainly not least - That many in LAC have come to faith in Jesus Christ over the last twelve months!**

**The Gospel is Never Quarantined!**



With love in Christ,  
*Deaconess Cheryl*



Members of Lamb of God Lutheran Mission in Licey, DR, preparing food supplies for families experiencing hardship during the pandemic.



Pastor Jonathan leading worship & preaching for the seminary chapel on December 3



Outdoor Sunday School at new mission site in Ocoa where 6 baptisms will take place next week!



