

Three years built on Christ's promises

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In all times and seasons we give thanks to the Lord, as Luther's small catechism reminds us for, "clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and land, spouse and children, fields, animals, and all I own... God does this because of his pure, fatherly, divine goodness and mercy without any merit or

worthiness in me." This is most certainly true. As I was meditating on my newsletter for the month of May, I received a phone call from Yanelia. Great news. She had received the VISA. Six months of waiting, of paperwork, of trips to the embassy were finally over. Praise the Lord!

With the VISA in our hands we will be traveling to Fort Wayne, Indiana where I will begin my seminary studies. Once again, praise the Lord. I feel so grateful to all of my supporters for their offerings and their prayers. Looking back we can only understand these last three exciting years when we see that they have been built on Christ and his promises.

After my deployment I began my missionary service in Santiago, Dominican Republic. Although I was frustrated that I was not in Mexico, I remembered the Psalmist, "the eyes of all look to you and you give them your fruit in due season." God's timing is best. I was able to work alongside seasoned missionaries and gain invaluable field experience. I also met my wife Yanelia. Christ and his promises.

After five months I was sent to Mexico City. I was the first missionary of the team to arrive and the only LCMS missionary they had received in 15 years. The Lutheran Church in Mexico City was in a precarious state. In the congregation of San Pedro I helped retire an 86 year old deaconess that had assumed the pastoral office. In the congregation of El Buen Pastor, I was a part of a Christian effort to remove three "Pastors". As I have stated in other newsletters, Pastors who were not Pastors, but thieves "to steal and kill and destroy". After the minority group who stayed faithful to the Gospel expelled those Pastors, I worked for 7 months to hold that traumatized congregation together with Christ and his promises, preparing the

terrain for their Good Pastor, Pastor Andrew Schlund. Please keep his work in your prayers. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." Christ and his promises.

The work in Mexico City continues forward. Due to at least 15 years of a lack of a route to ordination, the Lutheran Synod of Mexico has suffered from a chronic lack of Pastors. Today we have three men studying to become theological formation in Mexico City under Daniel Conrad, Pastor of San Pedro. Here in the Dominican Republic they are putting the last touches on a seminary that will serve Hispanic students across Latin America, including Mexico. Currently there are four young men, apart from the previous mentioned three, that are considering studies in the seminary in the Dominican Republic. Seven total. Christ and his promises

As I encouraged others I felt as though I was encouraging myself. The reasons I gave to others to study to become Pastors I felt echoing in my own ears. Moving back to the DR to continue the last few months of my service here, Yanelia and I began our US VISA application to begin my pastoral formation in Fort Wayne, Indiana. "All things work together for good for those who love God." Christ and his promises. Looking toward the future, we continue to set our eyes on our Lord and to meditate on his promises. God's richest blessings to you all.

