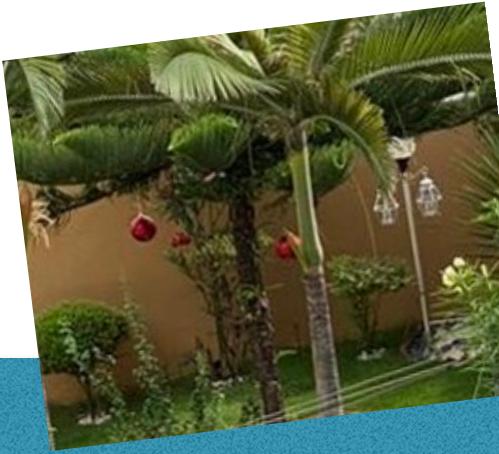




SERVING THE LORD IN

# Latin America

News from Rev Dr Jonathan &amp; Deaconess Cheryl Naumann



## Signs of Advent & Christmas!

Looking out our back window, we see that the neighbor has decorated a palm tree in his yard with large red Christmas ornaments! Yes, all around us people are preparing for Christmas - and during this season we hope to share, with as many as possible, the TRUE meaning of this holiday! **Thank you for your prayers and financial support that encourage us and make it possible for us to share the story of the Christ Child.**



Deaconess Cheryl explains the nativity scene to four-year-old Ayla Sofia.

*'...con salmos, himnos y cánticos espirituales...' (Efesios 5:19)*

In both Ephesian 5 and Colossians 3, St. Paul refers to 'Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs' that should be shared by Christians as a means to "teach and admonish one another with all wisdom."

Singing is very important to our mission work in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is a natural expression of the desire to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" (Mark 12.30). Singing is also a form of loving your neighbor as yourself, as you reach out in love to others on multiple levels through music, encouraging them to share the joy you have in the Lord.

In the Dominican Republic, singing is very popular, though it is often karaoke rather than psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs that teach and reinforce faith in what Jesus Christ has done for the world. This is where our Lutheran missions come in – providing more congregational singing than any other type of church on the island. And people take note and enjoy it, no matter how well they are personally able to sing.

The recent publication of the Spanish Lutheran Hymnal (*Himario Luterano*) has given us a wonderful tool for teaching the faith and has been received with open arms by the people.

Since many mission sites don't have reliable use of electricity, the guitar, along with other wind or string instruments, often serve as the main accompaniment for singing the liturgy and hymns.

We are thankful that there are places where keyboards can be used. Here in Santiago, Mrs. Rebecca Krey has been giving piano keyboard lessons to seminary students who are eager to learn to play for worship in their own countries. Keyboards were recently purchased for the student dorm and residences so that the men can practice. Mrs. Krey is also directing our first seminary choir, an added bonus for learning hymns!

God bless all of you as you hum and sing His praises in this Advent and Christmas seasons!

*Pastor Jonathan*

Dear friends in Christ,

Someone in your household, perhaps even yourself, has been interviewed by the Census Bureau. When this happened to me at our Pennsylvania home about a decade ago, the questions were pretty much what I expected them to be.

Last month a lady from the DR Census Bureau came to our house. But her questions were much different than we anticipated. She had three sets of questions. The first set went like this: Do you have a kitchen? Do you have a toilet? Do you have a stove? ...an air conditioner? ...a washing machine? ...a TV? ...a radio? ...a computer? ...a phone? ...a cistern?

The second set of questions was just as interesting: Do you need glasses to help you see or hearing aids to help you hear? Do you need help walking? ...help speaking? ...help cooking? ...help with your memory? As she asked me these questions I realized that she was looking at me and assessing not if I already had eye glasses or hearing aids, etc., but if I was in need of help in any of these areas.

The third set of questions dealt with names, ages, number of people in the household, etc., but also some more basic questions such as: Do you work? ... who pays the rent? ... who pays for your food?

This interview experience left me with two overwhelming thoughts. First, a reminder that the people we serve here do not have all of the luxuries that we take for granted - including kitchens or toilets. And second, that while documenting the needs of the population, not one question was asked about religion or church affiliation.

These thoughts reaffirmed for me the importance of being here in the DR: to carry out the mission of our Church, to

**Preach the Gospel; Plant Lutheran Churches; Show Mercy.**

As Pastor Jonathan prepares Advent and Christmas sermons, etc. and I help prepare Mercy Center courses that will start in January, there is still another side to our daily lives. We have a new neighbor, Jonny, living on



Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by missionaries, with seminary families and residents of Good Shepherd group home.



the property across the street from our front door. He works the soil during the day and sleeps in an open-air shelter (with no kitchen or toilet). We are building a relationship with him, smiling and little chitchat when he isn't working, and occasionally taking him a small gift of fruit. When we can arrange a longer time together, hopefully during this Advent season, we will also share the Gospel with him and invite him to visit a mission church with us. **Please do pray for Jonny** that he will receive all that he needs for both body and soul, for eternal salvation.

**Thank you** to all of you for your letters of encouragement, for lifting our work up in prayer, and for your financial support! **A very Blessed and Merry Christmas to all of you!** love in Christ, Deaconess Cheryl



Large sticker put on the front of our house by the census lady after finishing her interview!

**Please pray:** + Thanksgiving for the precious Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the opportunity for missionaries to bring this news of salvation to various parts of the world; + Thanksgiving for all of the mission-hearted individuals, ladies groups, and congregations that make it possible for us to serve in the Latin America region; + for our new neighbor, Jonny, that his heart will be open to the Gospel; + For continued increase in strength in Pastor Jonathan's leg; + For good health for all of the LCMS missionaries in the LAC region; + That God would bless the mission field with more workers to replace those who are retiring or have taken calls to US parishes.

**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