



MISSION GRANT STORY

Conference Center and Theological Education for Disaster Response Training Conference in Latin America/Communion Kits \$20,000

The Dominican Republic is The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod hub of missions along with pastoral and deaconess formation in the Latin American region. The Dominican Republic is hit on average every 4.5 years with a major hurricane, and the island is regularly affected by some of the world's largest and most deadly earthquakes. The Disaster Response Center will be used for emergency housing for the Dominican Republic and the Latin American region. It also will be a training center for Mercy Ministry, Human Care and Deaconess training. Since the Dominican Republic is the hub of missions for Latin America, this facility could be used to train students and pastors from our partner churches in the Latin American region for years or even decades to come.

Grant money from LWML will be used to offer seminarians from Argentina as well as leadership from partner churches in Latin America the opportunity to participate in training that will focus specifically on a theological approach to pastoral care after



(L-R) The Rev. Cristian E. Rautenberg, president of the Confessional Lutheran Church of Chile and the Rev. Michael Meyer, manager of LCMS Disaster Response, jump through debris as they visit victims from a devastating fire in Valparaíso, Chile, on Monday, April 21, 2014. The catastrophic fire that tore through the hillsides above the historic port city fire killed 15 people, destroyed about 3000 homes, and left approximately 15,000 people homeless. LCMS Communications/Erik M. Lunsford

times of tragedy and disaster. When the specialized education is completed, those attending will receive individual communion sets to be used during disasters.

Guests invited to attend the “Latin American Regional Mercy Conference” at a retreat center in Paraguay will include Central American pastors, South American pastors, missionaries, and seminarians from Concordia Seminary in Argentina.

Developing plans include the introduction of the new Spanish translation of the Disaster Response guides, Pastoral Care Companion in Spanish, and Pastoral visitation communion kits. All of the lectures will be covering congregational-based Disaster Response, how to use the Pastoral Care companion and communion kits for spiritual care of Lutheran members and how to offer spiritual care for the un-churched that are affected by tragedy.

While most Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod pastors in the United States have portable communion sets, it is rare for pastors in Latin America to have such a kit. There is a need for the quality of the kits to be such that they will last for years or decades.