



# Ministries of the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission and Seminary

**Peace in the Valley Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, Benson, AZ.**

## Quarterly Newsletter



God is doing some GREAT THINGS in Latin America and the Caribbean as a result of the ministries of The Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission and Seminary. How incredibly blessed we are.

Isabel and I were able to be in Santiago Dominican Republic to attend the Spring FORO which is an assembly of various LCMS church leaders and folks that support the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission and Seminary to be able to go and see the ministries and hear the reports as to what has been happening in ministry there as well as what things are on the horizon. We are both very thankful to all of you for allowing us to be able to be in attendance at

this incredible piece of ministry. Some of the highlights of this ministry is that it currently has 12 students studying to be Pastors from 18 countries for which we serve. This ministry is also providing Deaconess Training in 5 countries those being the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Guatamala, Panama and Mexico. There will be 7 students graduating this May and then they will go to their respective countries for vicarage and/or being pastors. We were also advised that Mexico is having an explosion of new pastors for which the DRLM will be providing the training. This is a tremendous ministry to say the least. I am planning to go down in September for the Ordination Service of student Ybin Herrera along with Bishop Hardy and perhaps the Mission Council of the LCMS.

Pastor Ron York



[LCMS Missions in Latin America & the Caribbean](#) is in [Licey, Santiago, Dominican Republic](#) March 16, 2019

Regional missionary nurse Jamielynn Tinkey works with Dominican Vicar Yban Navarro and other members of the church Cordero De Dios Luterana Iglesia, in and around the community of Licey, DR. Following graduation, Vicar Navarro, will become Pastor in Licey. The group does weekly home visits which include things like Bible studies, spiritual and physical care and prayer.

This particular night Nurse Tinkey took measurements of physically challenged children and young adults to be fitted for wheelchairs provided through an application program with Joni & Friends. For most, this will be their first opportunity to have a wheelchair. By God's grace and mercy these individuals will no longer live in isolation and now have the capability to be more mobile outside of their homes.

“With the merciful you show yourself merciful” 2 Samuel 22:26

Photos: Missionary [Johanna Heidorn](#)

I am so excited to hopefully be able to attend and participate in Yben Navros ordination in September in Santiago Dominican Republic. God continues to do great things through this wonderful piece of ministry to the glory of God.



The Muriel District of Santiago Dominican Republic

This is why I count it a tremendous privilege and blessing to be active in the ministries of the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission and Seminary. We need more of our churches to get behind this ministry financially as well servanthood involvement.



Update from President Matthew C. Harrison on LCMS Mission Work in Central and South America. January 23, 2019

Nine years ago the LCMS had two ordained and three lay missionaries in its Central and South American work. Today we have 36 plus another 11 "alliance" missionaries (from other countries but funded by us and part of our work). That's 47. We have Deaconess intensive courses going on in 5 countries, involving 115 women. 15 more women to join soon. We are launching a second "Mercy Centre" in Puerto Rico. These focus on seniors, English language, food and housing. Both include church plants. We are putting 10 roofs a month on local homes damaged by the hurricane. WE've done a total of 200. The need is endless as 700,000 don't qualify for FEMA grants.

Mercy Seminars continue through the region teaching clergy and laity how to be merciful. The Dominican Church plant began with outreach and care for the disabled, which continues. Our work released disabled individuals from cages in dank, stinking institutions, provide vastly improved conditions and the love of Christ (Thanks Bethesda!) I've seen it with my own eyes.

Every One His Witness has been translated into Spanish is being used extensively to teach outreach/evangelism. There have been 60 conferences on theology, evangelism, mercy, church planting, etc in 5 years. A new Luther Academy Spanish hymnal will be available in the not too distant future, with 15 countries on board, ready to receive it. A digital version will also be available.

A seminary has been created in the Dominican. It's fully functional and is the hub of much of this work. An online virtual library of many great Lutheran books and texts has been created. Translation work has been constant and ongoing. 195 Spanish speaking pastors and pastors in training are participating in this resource. Translations include academic articles, resources for Bible study and Journals.

In Mexico four years ago our partner synod, long struggling, had 3 pastors. Now we have 6, and 20 more in training! We have some 15 or more LCMS districts partnering in various "foros" to support missions in the various countries. We had only one pastor in Spain a few years ago, now 2, and 4 more in formation. We had no congregations, now there are 4, and people coming from 20 different cities. (Spain is included in the Spanish speaking work). Five years ago Chile had 5 congregations, and now has 10. It's a small church, but it's doubled in size.

We have been able to facilitate the organisation of a Lutheran University in Uruguay. It is scheduled to open in 2020. This is remarkable as Uruguay is one of the most secular nations in the world.

We are supporting 40 church plants throughout the region currently. Pastors and people from liberal church bodies are joining us because a we teach, and teach Lutheran substance. And we act in the Name of Christ.

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Our Brazilian partner church is now fully engaged in mission in Africa. This is the FIRST daughter church for the LCMS to engage in overseas missions. They started with building a seminary. The mission is going gangbusters.

Venezuela is a tragedy. We are providing assistance for our partner church, and with our partners also getting life-saving medicines into the country. 25% of Venezuelans have left the country and are living in other South and Central American Countries. Our Lutheran people are joining our congregations in other countries. Some of our Lutheran people in country are eating leaves and bark to stay alive because they have no money. We will continue to assist via LCMS International Missions and LCMS World Relief and Human Care.

All in all, the past 8 years have been an amazing and leadership, mercy, good theology, evangelism, and church planting, schools, are blessings producing remarkable blessings. Thank You Ted Krey and all our wonderful missionaries. And thanks be to God in Christ.

Matt Harrison



Thanks Pastor [Ron York](#) and your wife for share great time with my family here. We will miss both of you. Thank you so much for this awesome week! Hope you arrive safe to Arizona and to see you again soon!



Our wonderful Peruvian family who we had the tremendous privilege of spending a week with them while being at the SPRING FORO of the Dominican Republic Lutheran Seminary in Santiago Dominican Republic. The blessings of God in bringing us together is another chapter in His GRACE and Mercies in my life. We will certainly miss them however we are anxiously hoping to be able to attend Elvis Carrera ordination in Lima Peru as he will be ordained as a Confessional Lutheran Pastor in Lima Peru. So incredibly blessed. Gods blessings to this family in abundance.