

The Fruits of His Word

Isaiah 55:9-11

Santo Domingo is the largest city in the Dominican and also the capital city. Even though we have served in Santo Domingo since 2005 when the mission started, we have never had a full time missionary presence there. Last fall, our missionary team made the decision for me to move me from Santiago to Santo Domingo in order to support our Dominican pastor, Rev. Willy Gaspar and to work with new missionaries, the Rev. Joel Fritsche family. The first three months of 2015 were filled with non-stop activity to prepare for the move, new work, and much more!

January

New House and New Home

We found and rented a large older house in Santo Domingo which serves as an office and more importantly, a new place to start a church! More on that in the coming months! We also found a home for the Fritsche family! Pastor Joel and Clarion have 3 boys, Slav, Sergei, and Andrei. Right now they are in language training and adapting to the culture. We are thankful to have them as part of the team! Learn more: www.lcms.org/fritsche.

Moving Out and....

The last week of January I moved out of my home in Santiago. Interestingly, Santiago was the longest place I have ever lived, for 9 years, and the longest home in which I lived, for 8 years.



Although I was sad to leave my little house, my home in Santiago is now a missionary training house for new missionaries heading to the field. For the month of February the Rev. Matthew Ruesch family was with our team in Santiago learning the missionary ropes, shadowing missionaries, and learning Spanish, before heading on to Puerto Rico. Get a sneak peek into the life of becoming a missionary! Check out the series of videos about the Rueschs. **Search YouTube: [La Via LCMS](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LaViaLCMS)**. They are great to share with your congregation, Sunday school, and in family devotions.

February

Building in Las Americas

The first week of February we received a short-term mission team from ...Lutheran Church, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. The team worked on putting the walls in *Amigos de Cristo* Lutheran Church in Las Americas, Santo Domingo! They mixed a lot of cement, laid many blocks, landscaped and gave our chairs a makeover! We appreciate their hard work, enthusiasm, and the encouragement they gave their brothers and sisters in Christ in the Dominican!



Land in Licey!

The Fruit of God's Word is faith and the faith of God's people moves and motivates them to build a house of worship, a place where we gather to receive His life-saving gifts. In February, we were also able to purchase land in Licey, east of Santiago. We had been searching for property for several years, made a couple of offers on different properties, but this was land the Lord wanted, and in His time, again, He provided the means! We will begin construction on a church and school in June with the help of four short-term mission teams from congregations in the States!



*Above, final negotiations!
Pastor Krey and Chaplain Yban have the Title in hand for our land!*

Missionary Boot Camp

We are thankful to the Lord of the Harvest, who continues to send laborers to His fields! The Last week of February we hosted and led new missionaries being deployed throughout Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in a week-long missionary training we came to call, "Boot Camp"! But, the name has nothing to do with the fact that we had a grueling schedule and our accommodations had no A/C, no internet, and no hot water! We took missionaries through the LAC *Witness, Mercy, Life Together* strategic plan. They got the nuts and bolts of the liturgy in Spanish, Spanish resources for teaching, mercy houses, safety, culture shock, missionary care, visitation, working in a team-setting, and much more. We had a wonderful time getting to know one another and preparing them for the unpreparable – their new life on the mission field! To learn more about these families going to Spain, Uruguay, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and to the Dominican, "Like" our Facebook page: ***LCMS Missions in Latin America & the Caribbean.***

March

My Commissioning

On March 1st, I was commissioned as a Deaconess! Pastor Ted Krey preached on Luke 6:36, "Be merciful as your Heavenly Father is merciful." In the same worship service, Deaconess Gail Ludvigson, Deaconess Rachel Powell, and Rev. Sergio Maita from the Lutheran Church of Venezuela were installed as new missionaries in the Dominican Republic (L to R in photo). Pastor Sergio and Dcs. Rachel will be serving in our three churches in Santiago, Licey, and Palmar Arriba. Dcs. Gail will be serving our region helping to write curriculum to train deaconesses in Latin America and the Caribbean.



It was fitting to have our mission partners present and members from each of our churches in the Dominican. The first years we started, we had our partners, Pastor Walter and myself, and a handful of contacts. The Lord has shown to be faithful to His promises and to work through His people. Today worship in 5 locations, have a couple hundred of members, and now have a mission team of over a dozen volunteer and career missionaries serving the DR and the LAC region. Praise the Lord for the fruits of His Word!

Fritsche Move!

On March 6th, I helped to move the Fritsches into their new home! The first couple of weeks we were busy buying beds, furniture, kitchen goods, setting up language training, and learning to take taxis, and introducing them to their new church family as well as to life in Santo Domingo!

Katie and Danelle Move!

A week later, Dcs. Katie Ziegler and I moved into our house in Santo Domingo. Dcs. Katie had served a two-year internship here in the DR which turned into a call. Katie will serve for a year here and then will be getting married to Rev. Roberto Weber from Argentina. Roberto served his vicarage in the Dominican in 2012. The two met here and the rest is history!

Installation of Santo Domingo Missionaries

On Sunday, March 15th, Pastor Joel Fritsche, Katie and I were all installed to serve in the Santo Domingo area. We had another beautiful worship service and celebration. And now to work!!! Pastor Joel will be supporting Pastor Willy Gaspar in his congregation and will be working toward starting new churches after completing language training. *Installation of Pastor Joel Fritsche, Pastor Joel and Pastor Willy, Dcs. Katie Ziegler.*



Dcs. Katie was instrumental in getting the deaconess program going in the Santiago area. Now she will be starting a deaconess program in the Santo Domingo area! I will assist the pastors in their church planting efforts, support the training of deaconesses, and continue to be involved in our developmental disability mercy ministry.

Prayer Requests

*Pray for the Fritsches, Katie and me that we can continue to settle in a new life and new work in Santo Domingo.
Pray for the new work that we will be beginning in Santo Domingo in the coming months.
Pray for the continued construction in Las Americas and new church and school construction in Licey.*

Short-term mission teams

We will have a building stint for phase 2 of our church and school in Licey in the winter and spring of 2016. WE NEED YOUR HELP! No construction experience is necessary, rather a willing heart and servant attitude! For more information, contact Debby Suchyta at MOST Ministries (dsuchyta@mostministries.org or tel. 734-994-7909).

Thank you for your continued support!

- *Financial support information (checks) or call 888-930-4438 to speak with someone:*

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- *On-line giving and Putnam Prayer Card: www.lcms.org/putnam*
- *Facebook: **Danelle Putnam** and **LCMS Missions in Latin America & the Caribbean***
- *Address for letters and cards: **Danelle Putnam/Apartado 1356/Santiago/Dominican Republic***