

Misericordia Activa

An Active Mercy

The love of Christ at work in the streets of Latin America

News from the **Ramirez Family** serving the Lord in the **Dominican Republic**.



Safe at our new home in the Dominican Republic

The Ramirez Family Returns to Latin America!

Abraham's Visa for the Dominican Republic finally arrived at the end of January. A call from the Embassy advised us that the visa had been granted and was on the way. In excitement we booked the tickets and began packing our bags to return to Latin America. However as the day got closer and closer the physical visa had still not arrived in the mail. Worry began to creep in. Should we cancel the flights? What if the passport and visa got lost in the mail? Will we ever be able to return to the mission field? So we prayed. Abraham's visa and passport arrived the day before our flights. Praise the Lord. We were able to travel back to the Dominican Republic January 28. We have spent the last few weeks getting settled back into our house and developing a routine in our new life. Even as excited as we are to be back in Latin America and back to serving the Lord in his church, changes this big are full of uncertainty, worry and stress. What will our new house be like? What kinds of foods can we find in the stores? Will we be able to buy the kind of diapers the baby has been using? How will we get around the new city? But as always the Lord is so good to us. Not only does he calm all of these anxieties and answer all of these questions in their time. But even more he has given us a church and a family here to receive us and help us settle into our new life. We returned to find our fridge full, diapers in the baby's room and the house opened and ready for us. We are so thankful for the supportive mission community which the Lord has given us here in the Dominican Republic.



The missionary ladies decorated and got the nursery ready for our return.

The guys had a welcome back party



Abraham got his Dominican Visa!

For more news updates, stories and photos follow me on Facebook, search for Caitlin Ramirez.

Please contact me at caitlin.worden@lcms.org or by mail at 2272 Ramblin Dr. Battle Creek, MI 49014

Prayer Requests
Praises &
Thanksgiving

Join us in giving thanks that Abraham's visa was granted and we had safe travel to the Dominican.

Please pray for the upcoming Foros in both the Dominican Republic and Lima.

Please pray for Jeancarlos' seminary studies. A new semester of classes starts this week.

Please continue to pray for our adjustment as a family. We are experiencing a lot of transition, a move, a baby, new jobs and a new country to adjust to.

Please pray for the women and children in Pueblo Nuevo, whom Deaconess Caitlin has begun to work with.

Sending a Short-Term Mission Team

If your church is interested in sending a short term team to help with the work of the mission please contact me. We have open teams in Latin American during 2019.

Jeancarlos & Pastor Streng at Redemption LCMS



Practical learning for Seminary Student Jeancarlos

While in Michigan during January, Jeancarlos kept up with his classroom studies and he also had to make up for the practical learning which he was missing out on. Jeancarlos helped serve communion, did shut-in visits and participated in the life of the congregation at Redemption in Battle Creek, MI. Now that we are back in the Dominican Republic, field work and practical learning is happening every day. Jeancarlos does sick visits, as well as evangelistic visits. He helps teach bible stories at a local public school and Sunday school with the neighborhood kids. Getting so much practical experience each week really helps him to digest what he is learning in the classroom and see Jesus' words apply to each of our lives.

Deaconess Caitlin at Pueblo Nuevo

On February 10, I was installed as a Deaconess at the congregation in Pueblo Nuevo. Here I will work with children and women's ministries as well as begin teaching deaconess classes.



Pueblo Nuevo Ministry Team: 3 seminary students, Pastor and Deaconess

Cultural Learning



There are many norms for behavior, and it is a Society in which respect and social etiquette are very important. The DR is a Caribbean country with a relaxed, tolerant, low culture society. In other words Dominicans seem to be laid back people with much fewer social rules. In order to be effective missionaries we have to take the time to stop and learn the culture. To this end we are taking Dominican culture classes!

Moving to a new country means new people and a new culture! While Peru and the Dominican Republic (DR) are both Latino countries they are very different. Peru is a Andean country with a high culture, or a lot of cultural subtext.



To support my work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:
Mission Central

40718 Highway E16, Mapleton, IA 50134

On the memo line mark all checks "Support of Caitlin Ramirez."

This will then be forwarded on the LCMS. You can also give directly
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
PO Box 790089 St. Louis, MO 63179.

Or securely online at the LCMS website www.lcms.org/worden.