

AUGUST 2021

## A note from LCMS Missionaries, James & Christel Neuendorf

### Sent out together!

Luke 10 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. 2 And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. 3 Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

There is a certain thrill of excitement and a corresponding sense of dread that comes along with this text isn't there? Christ sends out the disciples on their world changing mission, and then immediately adds that they will not be going out into the world unopposed. In fact, the opposite is true, they will be under constant fire, overwhelmed by enemies on every side, and they will do all of this without any defenses of their own other than the Lord's promises and someone beside them to remind them of those promises.

When Jesus sent out His disciples, He didn't send them alone, but rather in pairs. Furthermore, He didn't send them anywhere that He Himself was not going, (notice it says "where he himself was about to go.") God knows what we need and does His work through us in teams, groups, and congregations, just as lambs are not sent out alone but in flocks where they can close ranks.

### Prayers:

- CARD Ponce construction
- Transition for the Lehmans
- Thanksgiving for the return of the Maitas

Because of various scheduling complications caused by the times we live in, our summer as a mission team was spent with many periods of extremely low staffing, and this was especially difficult.

We eagerly were awaiting the return of Ashley and the Maitas and the arrival of the Lehman family, our newest Puerto Rico team members. Now, as of this week for the first time in almost a year, we are back to our full strength as a missionary team. What a gift!

Working on a missionary team is a tremendous blessing that is hard to describe to anyone who hasn't experienced it, and we are incredibly blessed to have such an incredibly dedicated and talented team on which to serve. Jesus is at the center of the sending, and He is the one who is ultimately going to every place in which He sends His representatives, but He doesn't ask us to do this alone.

He doesn't even ask us to be satisfied only with His spiritual presence or the company of the Holy Spirit, but rather sends us together in a community of the baptized to support one another, remind each other of the promises He gave us, and to be Christ to one another when the challenges come.

This month we are giving thanks to God for our missionary team in Puerto Rico, but we are also giving thanks to God for you our faithful supporters who have been with us every step of the way. Very soon we will be coming to the United States for a visit and we hope to spend some time together with our supporting community as well!

Praise God for sending workers to the harvest fields, and pray earnestly for Him to send even more!



On August 29, Pastor Adam Lehman was installed as Missionary Pastor to Puerto Rico! We are blessed to serve alongside the Lehmans here in Ponce! Thursdays have become our visit days to check in on members as well as those who we have met through various church activities.

Fellowship nights on a roll! Wednesdays and Fridays have become our fellowship nights in Mayaguez and Ponce. We praise God they continue to be an opportunity to share together as the body of Christ. As we are able to go on more visits, there are some situations in which it is difficult to contact or go to someone's house. Having these fellowship nights give members and friends the opportunity to come and visit, have a meal with "family", and be apart of the community of believers.

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