



A P R I L - 2 0 1 9

SERVING THE LORD IN

Latin America

News from Rev Dr Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl Naumann



Pueblo Nuevo dedication

Over 100 people joined together on the evening of Sunday May 5, 2019, from the three mission congregations in Santiago, DR, to dedicate a larger worship space for "New People" Lutheran Church.

Pastor Jonathan is shown above, assisting in the distribution of the cup during Holy Communion. Can you see the joy that radiates from the face of the woman in the foreground? All praise, honor, and glory to God, Who does all things well - even when it comes to providing His people with places of worship!

“Él que está sentado en el trono dijo: Yo hago nuevas todas las cosas.” (Revelation 21:5)

‘Behold, I make all things new’ is one of the great sayings of the glorified Christ in the New Testament book of Revelation!

Here in the Dominican Republic it has been a great pleasure to see the Lord work through the efforts of pastors, vicars and mission staff to establish a new worship space for the ‘Pueblo Nuevo’ (New People) mission congregation.

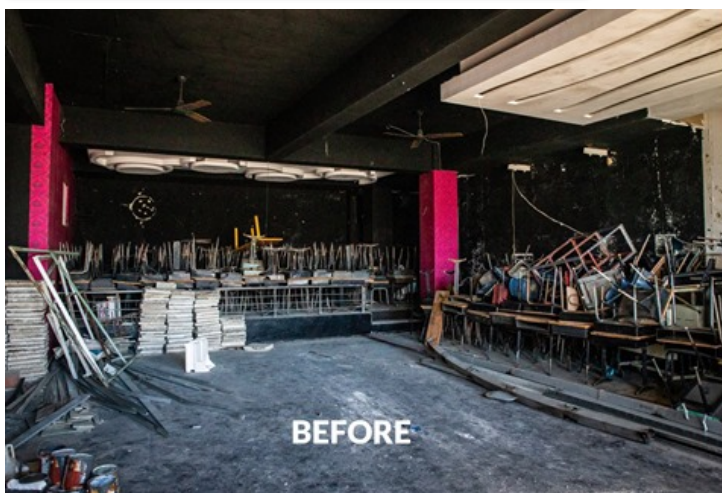
In mission work, especially in places where we don't yet have a piece of property with a church building on it, there are challenges to transform humble spaces into sacred ones for worship, Sunday School, Bible class, and other congregational needs.

The *before* and *after* pictures below show how God does work to achieve what might seem like impossible to us. In this case, what was once a disco club (!) has been transformed into a bright and welcoming worship space.

It is a source of joy in our personal lives, too, when God gives us a new beginning, a new Easter season, a new week, a new day, a 'new lease on life.' New beginnings are part of the rhythm of the Christian life by the forgiveness of sins that takes place in the Divine Service and whenever we go to God with repentant hearts.

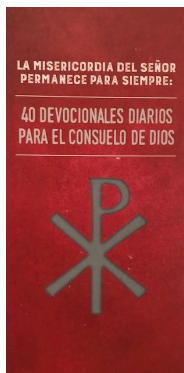
Yes, HE makes all things new! Death has lost its sting. The grave has no victory, for **CHRIST IS RISEN!** **Thank you** for partnering with us in the proclamation of this message!

Pastor Jonathan



Dear friends in Christ,

Thank you for your prayers for a smooth transition to the new worship space in Pueblo Nuevo (requested in our last newsletter). We deliberately waited to send you the April newsletter in order to include the photos. Our move was delayed a couple of weeks by the need to secure electricity for the building, which would not only provide light and amplification for keyboard and microphones, but would also run the new ceiling fans. What a blessing the fans are, when the temperature is in the 80s or 90s during a service!



In April, Dr Ross Johnson, Director of LCMS Disaster Response, met with me and representatives from Chile, Panama, and Puerto Rico, for leadership training to establish disaster response volunteer coordinators and educators for the three different areas of our region (South and Central America and the Caribbean). It can only be helpful to have plans in place for when disaster might strike - whether that be from drought, political turmoil, earthquake, hurricane, or flooding.

There is also a wonderful resource, published by LCMS World Relief and Human Care, that we can distribute in times of crisis. It is a small book called "La Misericordia del Señor Permanece para Siempre: 40 Devocionales Diarios para el Consuelo de Dios" (The Mercy of the Lord Remains forever: 40 Daily Devotionals for Comfort from God). This booklet serves to help people through difficult real-life situations, while at the same time opening the door to discussion about the fact that God loves people, no matter what has happened to them, and that there is even more to the story of what God has done for us, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

For several days next week 14 Lutheran pastors from Venezuela will be staying at the Mercy Center. (The Center has two bedrooms, one with three bunkbeds and the other with four bunkbeds). This gathering will give the men time to rest together in God's Word and prayer. They will also spend time discussing how they can best care for their church



Please include in your prayers

- + That God would bless and keep in good health, missionary wives Ruth Maita and Amanda Gauthier, who are expecting babies;
- + Thanksgiving for one adult baptism and three confirmations in the Pueblo Nuevo mission on Easter Day, and that God has blessed this young congregation with a new place to worship
- + That the Holy Spirit would bring Odalis to faith in Jesus; that his faith would grow as he attends worship;
- + That God will bless the Mercy Center conference in the DR in May and in Mexico in June.
- + That God will raise up more men from the LAC region to serve as pastors in our Lutheran missions and partner church bodies;
- + That God would bless us and all of the other missionaries with good health, courage, and the ability to remember that the joy

members and advance God's work in their country, which has endured a 1.7 million percent inflation rate. These pastors are brave soldiers of the cross, who work hard and suffer much in the current situation. Here in the DR we see an increasing number of refugees from Venezuela. Please pray that God would guide us in showing mercy to them, whether physical or emotional, as well as spiritual. **Thank you** for your prayer support, as well as your donations and words of encouragement.

In Christ, *Deaconess*



Easter Day baptism and confirmations in "old" Pueblo Nuevo church!

Tax-deductible gifts to support the work of Jonathan & Cheryl Naumann can be given:

- + **Online at www.lcms.org/jonathan.naumann**
- + **By phoning the LCMS donor care line: 888-930-4438**
- + **By mailing checks to The LCMS, PO Box 66861, Saint Louis, MO 63166-6861 with "Jonathan Naumann - Latin America" on the check memo line**