

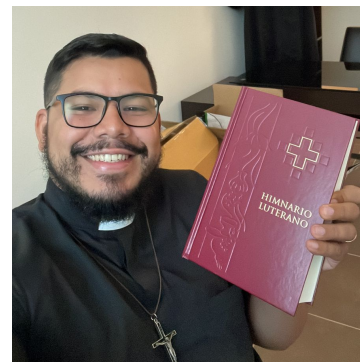


# lcms **MISSION**

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News from God's Mission field in the Dominican Republic  
Rafael & Jamielynn (Tinkey) Flores

April 2022



***Pictures, top right, going counterclockwise:***

- 1) The new Spanish hymnal arrived! Thousands of copies, with a second printing to come, have made their way to Latin American Lutherans! Thanks be to God for the final product – 15 years in the making. Rafa and the sem students will begin using the hymnal in daily chapel this week!
- 2) Rafael continues outreach in the community of Cienfuegos. Third year seminarian, Josue, has begun accompanying him on visits and doing devotions. Josue will take on the project in his fourth and final year of seminary starting in the fall. He is also a Venezuelan and will be joining us in the church of Chile after he finishes sem in 2023, God-willing!
- 3) I've enjoyed picking up the flute and playing along with some services these past few weeks! Pictured here with pastor's sons – Vic and Andrei, a seminarian's son - Diego, and a seminarian – Carlos!
- 4) Palm Sunday – we have no lack of palm branches!
- 5) Rafa has been helping Pastor Yban in Licey teach the students a Christian education curriculum in preparation for country wide "Bible Olympics"! Here, Rafa works with two students during the first test day to see who will advance to represent our school in the Olympics!





### *A Full Table*

This month, the deaconess students in the Dominican Republic participated in an intensive class on the Lutheran Confessions. One Friday night, three women from our mission congregation in Santo Domingo stayed over at our house so they would be able to get to the seminary early Saturday morning. We turned it into a dinner party and invited some others to join us. Thanks be to God for opportunities to show hospitality. There were SIX countries of origin represented at our table that evening. Fellowship moments like these are so key to our identity as Christians, sons and daughters of God and members of the body of Christ!

### *A translated excerpt from Rafael's Good Friday Sermon: April 15, 2022*

This is the most unjust suffering ever known, and yet God allows it to happen. In fact, it is even God's plan, yes, His plan, to let this pain and agony happen to the most righteous man who has ever lived. Brothers & Sisters: Truly, it is my sins and yours that Jesus suffers. I deserve and you deserve God's judgment of death, because we have transgressed and rebelled against our Creator.

When we look at our past, when we examine our consciences and see all the ungodly thoughts, when we remember all the offensive words, when we reflect on all the evil actions, and all our failures in life, both in doing, thinking, and speaking as we should... then we can see the disaster we have made with our lives. It is necessary to be honest today – because there are no excuses, no rationalizations. We do not deserve any fellowship with God or any blessing from Him. My sins and my whole sinful nature prevent this.

**That cross should be mine and yours, for the wages of sin is death.**

Today, Good Friday, we see this man on the cross! This is His purpose. This is why God became man. This is why the eternal second person of the Trinity has taken on human flesh. This is why. Behold the man on the cross, bleeding, suffering, agonizing, and dying.

**This was God's plan to bring us salvation.** Jesus' death instead of sinners sought forgiveness of sins for all mankind. Isaiah expresses it this way:

***"But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."***  
(Isaiah 53:5)



### ***Chile Corner:***

Plans continue to be discussed and made regarding our transition to Chile. We've spoken with the Chilean church leadership and an immigration lawyer. The type of visa we will apply for has been selected and we are collecting paperwork to submit for that. **Please pray for peace and patience in the paperwork process!**

### ***Did you know?***

The name "Chile" is thought to have come from the indigenous Aimara word which means "where the land ends." It is often joked to be located at the end of the world.

Population: 19.5 million

Length: 2,700 miles

***PRAY WITH US...*** our biggest "ask" as missionaries is for your prayers. Here a few things from this current season that we are praying for. Will you join us?

- ⇒ For the ongoing ministry in the community of Cienfuegos
- ⇒ For the church and her pastors in Chile
- ⇒ For patience for paperwork processes
- ⇒ For the seminary community in preparation for the end of the academic year and graduation preparations

Jamielynn continues her deaconess studies and her work on behalf of the sanctity of life and health education alongside the Latin America and Caribbean Region of LCMS International Mission.

*"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!" Job 19: 25-27*

It is difficult in the middle of suffering, whether physical or emotional, to see beyond our own pain. We focus inward – I'm hurting, I'm sad, I'm broken, I'm tired. The reading from Job invites us to look outside of our own trouble, look up, look forward, and know in the middle of pain that our living God will be triumphant on the last day. This Easter season, we rejoice in eternal life Christ won for us through His suffering, death, burial, and resurrection.

*"Thanks be to God, who give us the victory through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!" 1 Corinthians 15:57*



*In Christ,  
Rafael & Jamielynn  
(Tinkey) Flores*



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