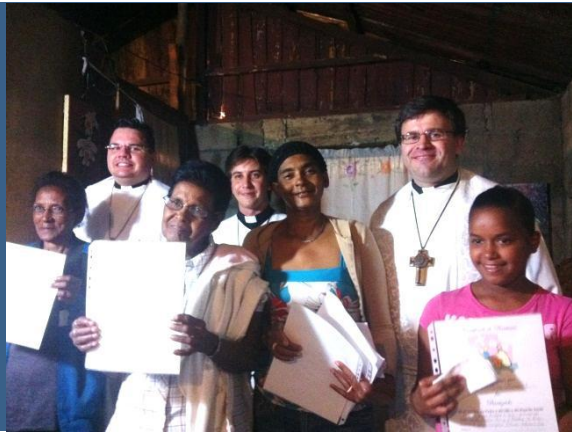


Licey Mission Welcomes New Members • Ruth Pollex

Newly confirmed members of the Mission in Licey, Dec. 22nd, 2011



A memorable Christmas service was conducted at a home in Licey. We arrived early to set up the altar, hook up the generator and lights, and to set up chairs to maximize the space. It was a very exciting service for the Licey congregation who doubled in membership from four to eight. Four new members were confirmed, and 1 of those was also baptized. The newly confirmed women were very happy and excited. Ivon, a seminary student, and his wife Marta prepared a feast for the congregation following the evening service. Pastor Walter, Pastor Ted and Vicar Adrian were there leading the service together. The congregation thanked Vicar Adrian for his support, love and dedication to the congregation and for teaching the confirmation classes.

Los Minas Mission Holds First Divine Service • Pastor Ted Krey



On December 18th, 20 people gathered in our house church in Los Minas to celebrate our first ever divine service! This is the home of Armando and Army Olivares. Both father and son are seminarians, studying to be future Pastors. Four adults were confirmed and an additional 16 members from different parts of the city came to receive the Word of Christ for the forgiveness

of sins, and of His body and blood to declare to a dying and sinful world of His death and resurrection. We rejoice that regular services are now taking place in 5 distinct communities in the Dominican Republic.

Special news from the mission field:

- First Volunteer Group of 2012 arrives February 10th
- School playground construction begins
- Confirmations celebrated at missions in Licey and Los Minas
- Two baptisms celebrated
- New vicar arrives from Argentina – Roberto Weber



Our New Vicar – Roberto Weber • Pastor Ted Krey

After Christmas we welcomed our new vicar from the Argentinian Lutheran Church. Roberto is from the north of Argentina and now in his 5th year of seminary studies as he does his internship in the Dominican Republic. Roberto plays piano, loves to read theology, and cooks as well. He and our former vicar, Adrian Solis, shared the same dormitory at school, and for a brief 10 days were together here in the Dominican Republic as Adrian was able to brief and orient his friend on the work before him. Roberto states "It is a privilege to preach to others of Jesus Christ and Him crucified." We are thankful for another co-worker in this Gospel work and give thanks for Vicar Solis' faithful service.



Vicar Roberto Weber and Vicar Adrian Solis

Christmas Celebrations Across the Country • Pastor Walter Ries Jr.



On December 7th, our school children, teachers, parents and church family, some 300 in all, gathered to celebrate Jesus born in the flesh. In flawless fashion, class after class rose to recite Bible verses and sing Christmas hymns, by memory. Six short sermons were preached on each Old Testament prophecy and fulfillment. Silent night was sung as a conclusion, by candlelight. Then the children rose

and faced the gathered assembly and recited the Christmas story, in unison, to the assembled church. What a witness to hear again and again and then reiterated yet once more, that God is found in the baby Jesus, born in Bethlehem.



On Christmas Day, Services were held, both at the mission in Santiago, and then also in the evening at Amigos de Cristo Lutheran Church in Las Americas. At the evening service, the children took part in a Christmas drama which was enjoyed by all. What a joy to celebrate the birth of Christ with our extended Christian family here in the Dominican!

Haiti – 2 years after the Earthquake • Pastor Walter Ries Jr.

Haiti still has 800 000 people living in tarps. Some 80% of its public buildings lie in ruins. As we passed by the Presidential Palace, just two years to the day of the earthquake, it remains in ruins and people living in tarps all around. We continued 30 minutes south of Port-au-Prince, to Leogane, which was the epicenter of the earthquake that killed 300 000 and left millions homeless. We gathered here now for a more joyous occasion, to dedicate buildings for the use of the Lutheran Church in Haiti. Eight months after the earthquake took place, project manager Pastor Willy Gaspar - supported by LCMS World Relief and Human Care, and his Dominican Lutheran Church – began construction work to establish three clinics, 30 homes, a church, and a seminary. At the dedication of the seminary, Director Rev. Benard stated, "We are deeply grateful to Reverend Doctor Willy Gaspar for his hard work on behalf of us Haitians and our Lutheran church." Thanks be to God for even these small acts of mercy that our Lord permits us to do on behalf of our neighbor.



Prayer Requests

- For Rev. Ed Auger (missionary, Cayman Island) and family on the death of his father.
- For our new vicar, Roberto Weber, as he settles into his new home and work responsibilities and for former Vicar Adrian Solis' return to his studies at seminary.
- Thanksgiving for a safe return of the Kellers.
- For the groups that will be coming to visit us this year.
- James Neuendorf and his travels to Peru for the making of an outreach film.
- Christel Neuendorf and her travels to Peru and Venezuela for administration work.
- Danelle Putnam as she returns to the DR this week.
- Health and safety for Pastor Willy Gaspar and his travels to Haiti in continued mercy projects such as the clinics and conclusion of the guest dormitory and church.
- Our seminarians - Jon, Armando, Army, Pedro, Ivon and Manuel.
- God's mercy for all our new people in confirmation classes that their faith would continue to grow.
- For health and safety for all of our missionaries throughout Latin America.