



~Mission and Mercy~

The Preus Family in the Dominican Republic

January
2016

A Year of God's Grace

2015 was loaded with travel, visits, and preparations for our work in the DR. Here's a quick summary of our journey so far:

January: Received call to serve as a missionary in the DR.

February: Accepted call after much prayer and deliberation with my loving wife, Jenny.

March: Attended missionary orientation in St. Louis, sold our home, and prepared for move.



April: Said farewell to friends in Montana, and visited some very friendly folks in Wyoming and Nebraska. (I made a short visit to the DR.)

May: Visited congregations in Nebraska, Illinois, and Missouri; the family settled in St. Louis.

June-October: Travelled through Midwest—Missouri, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin—spreading word about our mission to God's faithful people.

November-December: Made our way to North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida visiting congregations and making new friends.

Today: We are preparing for our final move to the DR.

¡Feliz Año Nuevo!

Happy New Year, dear friends! We have very good news to share. We have received official word that we are to deploy to the Dominican Republic this February. I will let Jenny fill you in on the details (page 2). Meanwhile, we still need a few months of language training and orientation to the field. After one year, our journey has still just begun! Thank you for all of your prayers and financial support. God is using you to make this possible!

Christmas for the Gentiles

*"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:
God was manifested in the flesh,
Justified in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Preached among the Gentiles,
Believed on in the world,
Received up in glory"* (1 Tim. 3:16).



On Christmas we meditated on how the Son of God became one of us and joined our human family forever. He joined us where we are, where we failed, where we needed Him, and he remains with us. "Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus our Immanuel!" This month Christmas gives way to a new season—the Epiphany of our Lord. Epiphany means "appearing." Jesus appeared to His people on many occasions throughout his ministry in order to show that He was both God *with* us and God *for* us. Epiphany is sometimes called "Christmas for the Gentiles" because Jesus appeared not only to the Jewish race, but to every nation on earth.

On Christmas the Son of God joined our family. During the season of Epiphany Jesus invites the world to join *His family*. The baby Jesus invited the magi from the east to kneel down and worship Him in His home (Matt. 2:1-12). And Jesus' family kept growing with the addition of more Gentiles. The centurion with the paralyzed servant knew he was unworthy to have Jesus come under his roof, but Jesus commends the man's faith and invites him and many others "from east and west" to sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven (Luke 7:1-10). And this invitation goes out to the world today. Our Lord's Epiphany continues. His family keeps growing. He is still being "preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world." And that is why we are still about our missionary task in the Dominican Republic!



Above is the *Monumento a los Héroes de la Restauración*. It stands prominently at the center of Santiago and may be admired from nearly every part of the city.



Prayer Requests

Give thanks for the work that is already being done in the Dominican Republic by the grace of God.

Pray for the pastors, deaconesses, and the entire missionary team currently working in the Dominican Republic, along with their families.

Pray for the Preuses as they travel to raise support for their mission work in the Dominican Republic.

Pray for mission and mercy to abound in the Dominican Republic and throughout the world.

Support Our Work

Share this Newsletter with friends and family.



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and check out the Latin American facebook page at:
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Support our mission work financially. (See bottom right.)



Reflections from Home...by Jennifer

This past month we have been very busy. I'm sure this comes as no surprise! We finished up our support-raising trip through FL on December 16 and then, after returning to St. Louis for a week headed north to visit family and say final goodbyes to dearly loved ones. We spent Christmas with Jenny's family in Minnesota, and New Year's with David's family in North Dakota and Montana. We were able to spend quality time with both sets of parents, siblings and in-laws, nieces, nephews, and are thankful to God that we can savor these final precious memories before we soon deploy.



Speaking of our departure plans, things are coming into focus! We will be flying down to Santiago, Dominican Republic for mandatory field orientation January 10-18. Once we return to St. Louis from that, there will be a final whirlwind of doctor's appointments, packing and preparation, selling the car and other things, and most importantly acquiring our visas. We anticipate our official move to the DR for mid-February.

The kids have been weathering the changes very well. Schoolwork is still progressing (a bit more slowly but still steady). Conversation is always lively and excitement is high as the kids begin to pack their favorite toys and books and dream about their first international flight. Here are their highlights from this past month, in their own words:

Question: What was your favorite memory from last month?

Hans: "Going to our Grandma and Grandpa's houses for Christmas."

Rebekah: "Going to the St. Louis Science Center for Rolf's birthday."

Rolf: "Driving on a 3-hour bridge to Key West!"

Lena: "Losing my first tooth!"

Soren: "Seeing the alligators in FL."

Leif: "A bowah duh." *Still undecipherable baby talk.*

Thank you all for your support and prayers this past year and may you all enjoy a healthy, productive, and Christ-centered 2016.

¡Que vaya con Dios!

We wish you a Blessed Epiphany! We are very happy about this next step in our journey to the Dominican Republic. We thank you for all of your prayers, encouragement, and generosity through which our Lord makes this mission possible. We hope you will stay with us on our journey. Together, united in confession and faith, we go with God! In Christ's love,

Rev. David Preus

To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include "Preus-Dominican" in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/preus.