



A note from LCMS Missionaries James and Christel, April - May 2016

# Gaining Steam

## Prayers:

- \* The Warren Family
- \* Santo Domingo team and ministry opportunities for this upcoming month.
- \* The Hosch, Meissner, and Schlund families and Levi Karth as they transition to their countries of service.
- \* Daniel Fickenscher and Justin Massey as they adapt to life in the United States again.
- \* Thanksgiving for the upcoming baptisms in Ozama.



This month has been full of lots of great new progress in Santo Domingo! Our children's outreach in the park in Ozama has been a great source of new relationships as we have begun to have some regular repeat kids in our weekly activities. Hopefully the end of the school year in a few weeks will not cause a loss of momentum, but we hope soon to have good enough relationships of trust with the kids and families in the park to begin making follow up home visits. We've been working on bolstering the work in Ozama with additional activities and the decision was made as a team for Christel and I to focus on the work in Ozama on Friday's and Saturdays; meaning that we are no longer responsible for the youth group in Las Americas, even though we remain connected in Las Americas on Thursdays and Sundays.

I finished up my part of the curriculum with the youth with a special activity in which they performed for the congregation the entire book of Genesis from memory, as part of a larger project to memorize the narrative of the entire scriptures! It went really well! Our Saturdays are now focused on various outreach activities in the area around

Ozama, with a new women's Bible study in the morning, and two evangelistic outreach studies in the evenings, one of which is to a family which will be baptized in a few weeks!

Meanwhile back in Santiago, Christel has been busy with various activities of missionary care throughout the region. The families that came through orientation in January have now or will soon depart to their country of service. I've been busy moving the VDMA project to its next phase, as we are very close to finalizing our delivery of theological libraries to all pastors in the region. We have already delivered over 100 libraries!

Daniel Fickenscher, my faithful sidekick in communications for the last 3 years, also returned home to the United States this month in order to attend seminary; so your prayers are appreciated for him as he studies, and for us as we try to make up for the amazing work that Daniel did in communications towards the United States.

## SEEKING PARTNERS

The VDMA Digital books project is moving into a new phase this summer, and an important part of making the project sustainable for the long term is gathering partners from other organizations that also seek to provide quality resources for Spanish speaking pastors.

If you know anyone who might be interested in joining up with the VDMA project with either financial or written resources, please let us know!

## Back in the Editing Room!

This month Daniel and I worked together on a major editing project for some upcoming videos which may be shown at the LCMS Synodical convention, highlighting our work throughout the entire region. The project required a whole lot of man hours and was sort of a capstone project for Daniel as it was his final project before leaving for seminary.

We turned in a final edit mere hours before Daniels departure, after a several day blitz of heavy editing! It was lots of fun and sort of exhausting and really highlighted for me how much I'm going to miss working together with Daniel. The final project is looking pretty good, and if you end up at the Synodical Convention, hopefully you'll have a chance to see them on the big screen.

Adopt us as your missionaries!

You can download an adoption agreement form from Mission Central at

[www.missioncentral.us](http://www.missioncentral.us)  
and look for our name.

You can also support us at

[www.lcms.org/neuendorf](http://www.lcms.org/neuendorf)

## Regional Deaconess Conference



The first weekend in May marked our first set of classes that will be offered to deaconesses and deaconess students in the region. It was held in Santiago, Dominican Republic. The class was taught by Deaconess Ginna Mendoza from Venezuela and written by Deaconess Gail Ludvigson. It was a wonderful time to be with deaconesses and deaconess students from Panama, Venezuela, Mexico, Guatemala and the DR! The women had a wonderful time together learning and studying God's Word. It was also a special blessing to see our dear friends from Panama after five years from moving to the DR!



The course contained various times during the day to breakout into small groups to discuss real-life challenges in the church. Each group was assigned in order to have a representation of all the countries present. It was one of the highlights of course in which the ladies were able to share from their experiences as well as hear from their fellow sisters and how their ministry and church activities function.



# Despedidas (Goodbyes):

These last two months our team has said goodbye more than once, in fact twice to two DR/Regional Missionaries serving over two and a half years here, and four times to missionaries who went through on-field orientation here in the DR. I always say the one thing they never told me at missionary orientation is how much you will have to say good bye. You realize quickly to appreciate all the days given to you with the people that serve alongside you in God's Kingdom. Please keep all of these families and individuals in your prayers as they continue in their service in the church whether it is in Latin America or in the United States.



Goodbye party for Vicar Justin Massey



Goodbye party for Daniel Fickenscher



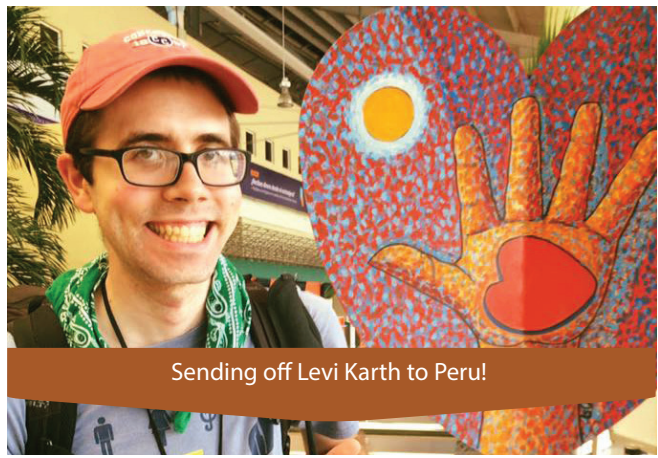
Sending off the Hosch Family to Peru!



Meissner kiddos getting to know Santiago before they head off to Belize with their mom and dad!



Sending off the Schlund Family to Mexico!



Sending off Levi Karth to Peru!