



~Mission and Mercy~

The Preus Family in the Dominican Republic

April
2016

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Spring Foro in the DR

This past week, April 15-19, I had the pleasure of attending the Spring foro in Santiago, Dominican Republic. It was very encouraging to hear reports from missionaries, local pastors, teachers, and deaconesses about the evangelism being done in Santo Domingo and Pueblo Nuevo, the building projects underway in Licey and Palmar, and the opportunities that await me to preach the gospel there.

What is a foro, you might be asking? The Spanish word for "forum," it is a system of support for LCMS missions in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Lutherans are invited from around the world to sit down and have a conversation with missionaries, learn what is going on in the field, what challenges await, and how everybody can plug in. Those who know the mission field best, of course, are the missionaries themselves. But they depend on a network of people for their expertise in various areas. Regular conversation between missionaries and interested supporters is the objective. We are thankful for Lutherans standing behind missionaries to accomplish Christ's mission.



¡Feliz Pascua!

Dear friends in Christ and fellow partners in His mission: Feliz Pascua! Happy Easter! It is, after all, still Easter time according to the church year. And as the trees shed their leaves and flowers bloom we are reminded of the new life that God has given us for the sake of Christ who lives. Our risen Christ is the first fruits of those who slept (1 Cor. 15:20). Meanwhile, as we wake and live with the One who loves us, we ask for your continual prayers and generous support of God's work in the Dominican Republic!

The Crucified One Is Risen!

When the women arrived at the tomb on Easter morning, all they wanted was the comfort they would receive from honoring that innocent life that had been swallowed up by death. What they found was death swallowed up by the innocent man, their God and brother. Had the women found what they were looking for they would have remained trapped in death, and we with them. What they found was an empty tomb and the words of a heavenly preacher wearing a white robe. **"Do not be alarmed,"** he said. **"You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen. He is not here. See the place where they laid Him"** (Mark 16:6).



The angel knew what the women were seeking: the crucified One. They were seeking the One who suffered our guilt, faced our condemnation, and experienced the deep sorrow that our sins brought Him. Have you ever felt remorse? Jesus felt it more. Have you ever experienced guilt? It pierced Jesus more deeply. Jesus was the sin-bearer, and He bore all the sin of all sinners. His innocence confronted our guilt. His righteousness waged war against our sins. His spiritual perfection overwhelmed our spiritual infirmity. It was a life and death struggle, and life won. Martin Luther captures the Easter facts in the following verse:

It was a strange and dreadful strife
When Life and Death contended;
The victory remained with Life,
The reign of Death was ended;
Holy Scripture plainly saith
That Death is swallowed up by Death,
His sting is lost forever.
Hallelujah!

Though death may threaten us daily, we do not concede its victory. Its power is undone. When God raised Jesus from the dead, He declared the whole world to be righteous and innocent in His sight. The promise of Easter is the forgiveness of sins. What joy! We now have a life to live! I can't wait to get to the Dominican Republic where by God's grace I will preach this good news with confidence: Jesus, who was crucified, is risen! He is risen indeed!





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 await their departure to the Dominican Republic, and for health to Jenny and the new baby.

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

Support Our Work

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Mission and Mercy

Our supporters may be interested in various aspects of our mission ranging from our work with people with developmental disabilities to school building projects, to theological education, to supporting church plants. We welcome all of these interests because as one team we always go together. We are united, one missionary to another, by one mission under Christ—planting churches, feeding Christ's lambs with the imperishable food from heaven, and extending His mercy to those in need, "and especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10).



Reflections from Home...by Rebekah

This month we did a lot of things. We finished ice skating lessons. All of us passed into the next level, and I passed two levels! We did lots of indoor things (on account of the colder weather). We are planning a trip to visit my mom's family before she gets too far along to travel with the pregnancy. I LOVE vacation! Now let's zoom in on what my brothers and sister and mom think about vacation, starting with mom:

Me: "What do you like most about vacation?"



Mom: "I like getting to drive through the Midwest again and see family before we move to the DR."

Hans: "I like seeing and playing with my cousins."

Rolf: "I like that we get to go to Grandma and Grandpa Reagles house and play with their Star Wars toys."

Lena: "I like that we get to see my godparents and god-cousins this trip."

Søren: "I like getting to play the iPad in the car."

Leif: "Like hahas." Translation: "I like apples" (To be honest, we have been eating a lot of granny smith apples lately.)

In case you're wondering, we had to leave dad at home this trip so he could keep working. We miss him and he calls us and texts mom a lot, but he says he's getting a lot done with how quiet it is. Oh, and MY favorite thing about vacation is spending more time with my family and getting to play with my siblings. See you next month! God's blessings, Rebekah

¡Hasta Luego!

Thank you, dear Christians, for your prayers and support. We hope you will stay with us and follow our journey to the Dominican Republic! Until next month, farewell!

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
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