

## missionaryMAC

News from Erin Mackenzie, [soon to be!] serving the Lord in the Dominican Republic (DR)

[missionaryMAC.blogspot.com](http://missionaryMAC.blogspot.com)

YOU get to tell them! Outlined below are each of the LCMS's short-term missionary service opportunities.

1. Congregational Team (1-2 wks.): exactly what it sounds like!
2. Assembled Team (1-2 wks.): individuals from various congregations serving together.
3. Mercy Medical Team (10 days-2 wks.): an Assembled Team of medical professionals, lay people, and a chaplain that sets up a temporary clinic in a remote area.
4. Short-Term Volunteer (1-2 weeks—a few months): an individual who chooses to shadow & serve alongside a Career Missionary.



One of THREE dinner parties I was treated to on a recent network building trip to Williamsburg, VA. Rev. Gordon Beck (striped shirt) is a former pastor at my home congregation—small world!

(If you received a hard copy of this and would like to help me be green and save on postage, please send an email to [erin.mackenzie@lcmsintl.org](mailto:erin.mackenzie@lcmsintl.org).)

### Surprise!?!

As I reflect on my support raising journey, I might say that God's providence continues to amaze me. But should it?

I rightly stand in awe in the presence of the Almighty. But the Bible is riddled with instances of divine provision that the mind of man could never dream up:

- Manna and quail in the desert (Exodus 16)
- Elijah fed by ravens (1 Kings 17)
- A never-ending jar of flour and jug of oil (1 Kings 17)
- Temple tax \$ from a fish's mouth (Matthew 17)

After all that, should I really be surprised at how God is using the body of Christ—from close family to people I've never met—to sustain me in prayer and with material gifts?

Dispelling any lingering doubts is God's most unheard-of gift of all: His Son. Who'd a thunk that the Savior of the world would spend His first night on planet earth in a humble infant's body, sleeping in a feed trough?

My network is vast by any metric. It took me barely over half of the minimum estimated time frame for Career Missionaries to be "green lighted." I stock up on stamps and thank-you notes like they're going out of style. But when I pause and consider, I'm not *surprised*. My Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer has quite the track record, after all. The theme verse from my first National Youth Gathering in 2004 ("Beyond Imagination") comes to mind:

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20)*





**Praises and Petitions**

1. Thanksgiving that I've been green lighted!
2. For the peace that passes all understanding as I begin to say farewell and *hasta luego* to people, places, and things that I love...and vice-versa.
3. For the speedy approval of my visa, under review at the Dominican Consulate in Chicago as of this writing.
4. That a recent hiccup in the process of relocating my cat would be resolved speedily and in everyone's best interests.

**The Other Half**

Or third, really—the DR's Hispaniolan neighbor, Haiti. If I had a nickel for every time Haiti came up during the Q&A portion of one of my presentations...

LCMS mission work in Haiti dates back to 1978. At present, there are two channels:

1. Fiscal support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (ELCH) for its seminary and other programming.
2. Humanitarian aid through Trinity HOPE, a TN-based Christian school sponsorship organization ([trinityhope.org](http://trinityhope.org)).



There are no Career or GEO missionaries in Haiti and therefore no short-term teams being sent there. So, despite the proximity, I will likely have limited involvement there. Nonetheless, I recently had a wonderfully enlightening conversation with the Executive Director of Trinity HOPE. I look forward to keeping our lines of communication open and doing likewise with similar organizations throughout the region. I'd invite you to pray for your ELCH brothers and sisters and read the entire history of the LCMS in Haiti at [lcms.org/haiti](http://lcms.org/haiti).



Mapping my network...one of those pins is YOU!

**Quote of the Month!**  
 Nothing is better than to walk in the Word and the work of God and so to fashion one's heart that it is quiet and satisfied...The true despisers of the world are the people who accept what God sends them, gratefully use all things when they have them, and gladly do without them if God takes them away. —Martin Luther

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- by **calling** a donor care representative: 1-888-843-5267; or
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  - ⇒ LCMS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861; or
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