

Tanney Newsletter

World Missions taking new steps to create an independent Lutheran Church in Puerto Rico

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Status of our Work

Many of you have been praying for us as World Missions in Latin America seeks new options for the work and outreach in Puerto Rico. A meeting of congregational members and World Mission leaders was held here in Mayaguez on January 13th and 14th, with the goal of reaching some decisions as to the future of the ministry. The final conclusion of the meeting was that World Missions will leave us here for one more year (until June 2008), with Michael taking on the role of mentor/facilitator. The members of the congregation will now be expected to assume much more of the responsibility for the ministry of the church. It has always been the plan to "work ourselves out of a job", but the difference now is that it must happen immediately, rather than over time as the church grows and leadership develops. So...we work with what we are given and within the time constraints that are now in place and pray that the Lord will raise up a strong, outreach minded church that will endure the test of time.

Pray for Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, that by the grace of God, they will meet the challenge placed before them with joy. Praise the Lord that we will have another year of service in Mayaguez to encourage, equip and help strengthen this small group of believers.



Jorge Groh, Edgardo Eleser, Robero González, Dale Talsma y Rey Martínez

Theological Education

Theological Education is an important aspect in church planting.



Jose, studying the Gospel of Matthew

In response to the urgent need for leadership, the congregation has called one of the members, William, to be their pastor in training. Pray as William seeks

God's direction. Jose, who has been a member for over two years, is also studying to become better equipped to serve the Church.

Wedding Celebration

On Thanksgiving Day we celebrated the first wedding in our church. It



William and Cindy

was exciting to see the sanctuary filled to overflowing for the service. We look forward to the day when we have a crowd that size for Sunday morning!!

William, the groom, has been a member for several years. His new wife, Cindy, is a beautiful Christian woman. She has started confirmation classes with Mike and has already been a blessing to the church by sharing her dramatic gifts. She performed a moving monologue as Mary for our Christmas Eve service and Friendship Sunday.

Praise the Lord for William and Cindy and their new life together.

Pray that they might always have Christ at the center of their marriage and family.

Confirmations

We celebrated the confirmations of William, Sr., Awilda and Jose in January. It has been a blessing to see them grow in their faith to the point of making their public proclamations. *We praise the Lord for the faith and commitment He has worked in William, Awilda and Jose.*

We pray that the hunger they have for the Word will continue to grow and bear fruit.

Pray also for Pedro, another student who is preparing for confirmation.



Pedro, studying the message of the cross

Friendship Sunday

One of the evangelism tools we use is to have special “Friendship Sundays” throughout the year, where each member is encouraged to invite friends and family members. During our January Friendship Sunday there were over sixty people in attendance. That is more than forty visitors. Now we visit these contacts and offer them the opportunity to study the Bible.

Praise the Lord for the wonderful attendance on Friendship Sunday.

Pray that these contacts would be reached with the message of salvation.

Pray that the congregation would be encouraged to share their faith with those around them.

Family



We were very blessed to have our two college boys home with us at Christmas. Lucas is in his junior year at Concordia, Seward, Nebraska and Nathan is a sophomore at Concordia, Mequon, Wisconsin. They both thoroughly enjoyed the warm weather and were a great help (along with Adam and Mark) with the puppet programs we put on over Christmas.

Praise the Lord that He made it possible for our family to celebrate the holidays together.

On a sadder note, Cathy’s mom, Carol Case, passed away in September. She had been diagnosed with lung cancer in June and had just completed her first round of chemo and radiation when the Lord took her home. Mom had a strong faith and confidence in her Savior, so we rejoice that she is enjoying eternal life. She is greatly missed by all of us, though.

Praise the Lord for the hope of eternal life and comfort He gives us.

Pray for Cathy’s family, especially her dad, as they all cope with the reality of the void that was left with Carol’s passing.



Recording voices for the puppet play.



Friendship Sunday

Pray for God’s protection and grace over Lucas and Nathan as they continue their studies.

All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth.
Col. 1: 6

Your Servants in Christ,
Michael and Cathy Tanney