

ENGLISH DISTRICT

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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April 22, 2014

*OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
AND PRESIDENT*

Dear Friends in Christ:

God's grace and peace be with you in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The English District is a managing partner in the **Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission (DRLM)**. It is truly a joy to work alongside the LCMS Office of International Mission, Bethesda Lutheran Ministries, the South Wisconsin District, the LWML, and others in supporting the work of Missionary Ted Krey and the DRLM Team.

Our prayers and financial support (**\$30,000 in 2013**) have been a real blessing to all those on the ground working to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Dominican Republic. And God is richly blessing their work. Listen to what Christel Neuendorf, the Business Manager for the DRLM, recently wrote:

"It has been stunning to see how many people are coming to hear the Gospel, as the family goes into the streets and invites their friends and neighbors, 'come and listen!' Lately we have had up to 10 unchurched people at the Bible studies! As a result of these studies, the mother of the two children in our Kid's Club has asked for them to be baptized, which we hope to see happen on Easter Sunday with God's will. Right now on Wednesday nights several people are gathering in the home of a woman who is close to being confirmed in the Lutheran Church. This group of people all meet together to study God's Word and hear about the Gospel. The exciting thing is that while I come to teach, it is our newest confirmand who is inviting her friends and neighbors to come and listen. The same continues on Thursday nights where we are spreading the word through a third Bible study in another home!" (February 2014)

The mission work in the Dominican Republic is expanding! As a result, more laborers are needed. And the Lord of the Church has provided. In early March, Bill Lohmeyer and his family (wife, Nicole and daughter Karissa and Kiersten) arrived. Bill will be working on self-sustaining projects for the churches while Nicole will be aiding in the two Lutheran Schools.

So how can you help? Your prayer support is needed. Please lift up Reverend Ted Krey and the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission in prayer each day and especially on Sunday morning. In addition, please consider making a pledge, gathering a "Fifth Sunday Offering" or sending a portion of your Vacation Bible School offerings to support this important mission work.

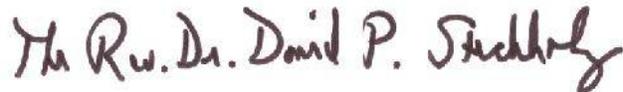
As a managing partner in the DRLM, the English District seeks to provide prayer support, volunteer mission groups ("sweat equity"), and financial resources. And while we cannot provide the financial resources from our District budget (which has had to shrink with financial realities facing all districts of Synod) **the congregations of the English District together have the opportunity of providing a financial gift, over and above their regular District mission pledge and contribution, to be partners in this ministry in the Dominican Republic.**

In addition, English District churches and schools are also encouraged **to consider organizing a group of members to go on a mission trip to the DR** and help out where needed or to

become a part of a group from several churches. Through MOST Ministries there are many trips being planned. Please go to the News and Events page of the district website for information regarding the trips: <http://www.englishdistrict.org/news-events/news/dominican-republic-short-term-mission-opportunities>.

Is the Lord of the Harvest calling your church and/or school or ministry to this unique DRLM opportunity? Please share this letter, upcoming English Channels articles, and information that will be provided electronically in the future with your church council and congregation members. Then complete the form below **by July 1** and return it to the English District office. Thank you for your time and your mission heart.

In Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Harvest,



The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz
Bishop and President
and
The English District Missions Council

Please contact the English District office of your willingness to partner together by July 1, 2014.

After prayerful consideration, it is the intention of our congregation to commit in the following way:

Our congregation will pray for this ministry in the Dominican Republic.

Yes, we are interested in sending a mission group to the Dominican Republic to provide “sweat equity.”

Yes, we gladly pledge an annual financial gift of \$ _____ toward this mission opportunity.

Yes, we gladly pledge a one-time special gift of \$ _____ toward this mission opportunity.

Congregation:

Pastor:

Address, City, State, Zip:

Contact person:

Phone number:

Email address:

Return form to: snaglich@englishdistrict.org OR **English District LCMS, 33100 Freedom Road, Farmington, MI 48336-4030**