

The Next Chapter...

by Kari (and Justin) Eller

Global Mission Personnel - ELCA



November, 2014 - January, 2015



What lies before us and what lies behind us are small matters compared to what lies within us. And when we bring what is within out into the world, miracles happen.

-Henry David Thoreau

Every time I begin working on a newsletter, I find that I get lost in the photos. I really enjoy this part and sometimes, spend hours remembering our journey over the past few months, mentally scribbling out the details of stories to share with you. They remind me just how fast (and sometimes slow) time goes by. With this newsletter spanning both 2014 and 2015, I thought a lot about what lies behind and before us. It's easy to see through photos a sampling of what you've done in the past and looking at a calendar, put dates on activities for the current year. In fact, our jobs require that. To make our Home Assignment possible, we start sending out emails in mid-January. So that Justin can be at important church functions in southern South America and so that CPD gatherings and activities can come to fruition, we plan. Of course, even though we do our best, it's not possible to plan for everything. Only God knows what the year will bring.

When we lived in Bolivia, Justin and I once met with a newly engaged couple whose families were geographically spread around the globe. Not only that, but their families' history was one of moving around a lot. Over supper, we talked at large about the inevitable stressful question most missionary families struggle with constantly, where is home? and in their case where would they make their home? After quite a while, the conclusion came when one of them said "I've worried about this for quite some time now, but in my prayer to God I realized that I shouldn't be so worried about where home is or will be, but rather in serving because my home is in God."

I don't think that we are supposed to sit by idly waiting on God. God lives inside us and works through us. We have to do our part, but in the end, when we let God's light shine through our plans, when we bring what is within out into the world, miracles happen. God lies within us all and that is way more than any small matter weighing down our lives. Whatever this year brings for you, remember to take note of the miracles, mentally scribbling them down for when you need to be reminded just how much you are loved.

God's blessings,
Kari

November, 2014

Everette began soccer classes

Visit from Mary Marete

Workshop with the ILEP

Sustainability Institute theological summit

LAC regional Skype meetings

CPD Gathering follow-up

Portuguese class

IELU children's workshop

Sao Leopoldo, Brazil

On November 13 and 14, Justin participated in the "Theological Reflection from the Sustainability of the Churches"

seminar with the LWF Sustainability Institute. The event called together theologians from the LWF member churches that



work in the themes related to organizational sustainability, planning, new models of being church, developing gifts and ministries, spirituality: all with the purpose of deepening concepts and practical follow-up tasks for the administration of the churches.

Lima, Peru

In November, Justin was also invited to Lima to co-facilitate a workshop with the member congregations of the ILEP (Peruvian Evangelical Lutheran Church) on being church together. He co-led the workshop with Gustavo Driau from the LWF Sustainability



Institute. This was a follow-up workshop building upon a workshop Justin led October 2013. Some of the themes they reflected on were: memory of pain in the history of the Christian church and the Peruvian Lutheran

Church, steps toward healing, an in-depth Bible study based on Ephesians chapter 4 (the whole thing) and reflecting on what Paul's writing to the community of faith when it came to mutual relationships.

Buenos Aires, Argentina

In November, we had a visit from Dr. Mary Marete, who works with Sustainable Development for ELCA World Hunger.



Dr. Marete came to Buenos Aires for an international conference on development and was available to go to church with us. Pictured from left to right: us (ELCA), Mrs. Katarina von

Hefty (IELU), Dr. Mary Marete (ELCA), and the Rev. Dr. Alan Eldrid (IELU).

Everette has "enganchado" - he loves being a part of the soccer group now and even runs around hugging everyone, arms raised in the air yelling Gooooo!!!! when a goal is made!





December, 2014

LAC Regional meeting

CPD project proposal
writing and end-of-year
reporting

Día del campo at
Everette's school

Everette's Christmas
school play

Parillada (Grill-out)

IELU Christmas
workshop

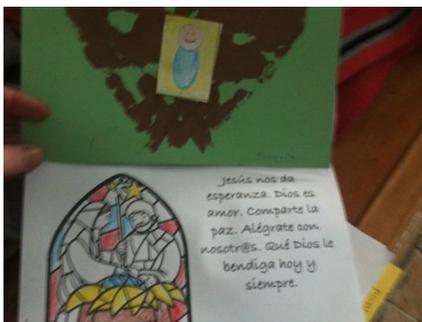
Portuguese final exam

Vacation with family

Caseros-Buenos Aires, Argentina

This year, around 30 students ages 5-10 years old from the Instituto Evangélico Americano of the IELU attended the Christmas workshop December 15-19th. Justin and I had the privilege of working with some absolutely fabulous people to help make this workshop a reality.

Pastora Daniela Cainzos and Jena Putz "ran with the children" guiding them through Advent themed and traditional games in the recreational post while Krystle Moraska and Pastora Wilma Rommel reflected with the children on the four themes of Advent- peace, love, hope and joy in the Bible-theater post and Justin and I created celebration decorations, Christmas cards, and crafts with the children reinforcing each day's theme in the art post.



Of course, in the morning to kick off our time together, there was lots of singing and dancing, a cookie

snack break in the middle of the day and to end our time together, reflection and prayer. Putting lots of energy in our time together, by the time we arrived back at our house, we all crashed. This picture of Everette is proof!!



On the last day of the workshop, parents and family friends gathered at the school to watch the students'



performance. Excited and a little nervous, the students showed off their new skills leaving with a paper gift bag decorated for them and full of crafts made for them by fellow students. The take-away gummy kabobs sweetened the experience!



Everette's end of the year school activities



Grilling out on a summer day in December



January, 2015

Skype conference IELB-Montana Synod

CPD nominees attend EPES International School

CPD project writing

CPD-IELCO Skype conference

2015 Home Assignment planning

Regional Representative yearly trip planning

“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

- Luke 8:39



Roberto Chávez Gutiérrez



Leticia Castro Martínez (second from left)



CPD Update

-The Christian education project I work with (CPD) is very excited to share that Roberto Chávez Gutiérrez from Mexico and Leticia

Castro Martínez from Bolivia were the 2015 CPD nominees to attend EPES' 6th International School. Both educators are now drafting project proposals to put their new skills and tools into action promoting Popular Education in Christian education in their countries. Both of their projects will be shared through the CPD website.



Everette made the school paper...he was the weather boy (under the umbrella)!



We are coming your way!!

May, June, and July 2015 we will spend visiting with many of you, family, and other global mission personnel. Check with your congregation to find out the specific date we will be with you or at a congregation nearby.

#EllerHA2015



-January 28th, CPD held its first Skype conference with the IELCO (Iglesia Evangélica Luterana de Colombia) and ELT (Escuela Luterana de Teología) marking the beginning of a year in collaboration.

Prayer requests



We pray for the two Christian educators (from Mexico and Bolivia) from the Equipping God's People project who participated in EPES' 6th International School - that God works in a liberating way through their experiences of the school and their respective projects.



We pray for peace throughout the world knowing that the answer to our prayer may require that we transform to be active peacemakers not only in words, but also in deed. In being agents of peace wherever we are, may we understand the power of forgiveness and reconciliation.



We cry out "how long oh Lord" as we watch and experience the tensions of race relations in the U.S.

We pray for the students, staff, and educators at the Instituto Evangélico Americano in José C. Paz (IELU), that your Spirit of learning and wisdom accompanies them throughout this new school year.

We pray for those who have been abducted or have family members who have been abducted. May we collectively hope and pray for their safe and speedy return.

We pray for the ELCA's companion churches in our region who will hold national election assemblies in the coming months (Bolivia, Chile, Peru), that God's presence among them will be made known.

We pray for missionaries around the world (See the next page for links to fellow missionary websites/blogs)



Thank you for your support and prayers!! If you know of another congregation or individual interested in supporting us as well, please feel free to share with them the following information...

Congregations may include their gift in their remittance to the synod office, clearly marked with our name and 7-digit code [\[Kari and Justin Eller \(MSG0682\)\]](#) OR congregations and individuals may write their checks directly to "ELCA Global Church Sponsorship" and write our name and 7-digit code in the memo line.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

In addition, sponsors may also arrange for gifts by credit card, or for automatic monthly withdrawals from their bank account, by contacting 800-638-3522. Please let us know if you have any questions!

The Next Chapter..

Kari Eller



Marcos Sastre 2891
C1417FYE Buenos Aires
República Argentina

<http://karieller.weebly.com>
<http://capacitandoalpueblodedios.org>
kari.eller@elca.org
justin.eller@elca.org



Also, check out the ELCA's *Hand-in-Hand* newsletter and the *Global Links* newsletter <http://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-Global-Church-Sponsorship>

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

-Matthew 5:16

Also, be sure to check out fellow global personnel websites/blogs:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Cameroon | Elisabeth Johnson | http://camerooniangrace.wordpress.com/ |
| Central African Republic | Susan Smith | http://susan-car.blogspot.com/ |
| Colombia | Curtis and Katie Kline | http://8000feetandcounting.blogspot.com/ |
| Egypt | Kirsten Fryer | http://kirstenincairo.com/ |
| India | Megan Ross | http://megsthewanderer.wordpress.com/ |
| Japan | Laura Fentress | http://30monthsinjapan.blogspot.com.ar/ |
| Japan | Caroline Keenan | http://carolinekeenan.blogspot.com.ar/ |
| Japan | Tauna Roth | http://etinjapan.blogspot.com.ar/p/elca-global-missions.html |
| Jerusalem | Carrie Smith | http://knightpurlpraypreach.blogspot.co.il/ |
| Jerusalem | Danae Hudson | http://hummusnotwalls.com/ |
| Jerusalem | Angela and Martin Zimmann | https://www.facebook.com/ZimmannsInTheHolyLand?notif_t=fbpage_fan_invite |
| Liberia | Brian Palmer | http://tryingsmall.wordpress.com/ |
| Madagascar, West/Central Africa | Morsal Collier | http://westafricabound.org/ |
| Malaysia | Wendolyn Trozzo | http://flungforthanew.wordpress.com/ |
| Mexico | David Brondos | https://sites.google.com/site/dbrondos/home |
| Nigeria | Mary Beth Oyebade | http://www.marybetho.blogspot.com.ar/ |
| Papua New Guinea | Ann Klavano | http://newguineacall.blogspot.com.ar/ |
| Russia | Bradn Buerkle | http://www.russiancorrespondent.blogspot.com.ar/ |
| Tanzania | Randy and Carol Stubbs | http://s421181158.onlinehome.us/ |
| Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda | Joe and Deborah Troester | http://africanwaterlog.blogspot.com.ar/ |