

Easter 2023

Dear family and friends,

Cristo ha resucitado! Christ is risen!

For 14 years now, as of January 19th, 2023, the Dominican Republic has been our home. We are blessed to see many good initiatives continue and thrive. This past year, one of the highlights was rejoicing with the graduation of 99 deaconesses from 5 countries (Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Venezuela, and the Dominican Republic) through our first seminary cohort. A second cohort of deaconesses enrolled in our three-year program began their studies in January 2023 with over 80 new students in 9 countries. This May, 10 men will graduate from our seminary: 5 from our residential program, and 5 from our online pastoral program. The residential students will return to serve in their home countries of Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, and Venezuela. Thanks be to God!

In the missions, Ted began his first regular round of visitations to the fields after the pandemic, visiting 11 countries between September and December. A few of the highlights are that Uruguay, which had 1 congregation, now has 5 missions, and Belize, which is less than 10 years old, has 4 regular field sites and is looking to open a 5th this year in Belmopan. Brazil continues to feed us new missionaries with 5 men now serving in our fields and, Lord-willing, another 4 will be joining us this year.

Rebecca has become our Bach, teaching piano to our five children and additionally to another fifteen from a couple of our missions. She was asked to teach music theory to our seminarians, as well as choir every week too. Currently, she has them singing sacred music such as Dona Nobis Pacem, and they are exploring the vast collection of hymns in our new Spanish hymnal. She is homeschooling Esther and Matthias as well as holding all of our schedules together.

Esther is 14 and in grade 8. She continues to play her violin every Sunday in church, as well as the cuatro and piano occasionally, and recently participated in her first mini-orchestra for a Christmas recital. Both she and Matthias enjoy playing volleyball in a league with friends of ours from church. They also work hard together on the family garden, growing a number of tomatoes, spinach, squash, as well as tending to our mangoes, guanabana, platanos, and Jamaican apples.

Matthias is 12 and was confirmed in November when the stars finally aligned for his pastor, his father, and, as a special bonus, his Oma to be all present together. It was a special day for all of us. He sang "Take Thou My Hand and Lead Me" in a solo that day, maybe the last time before his voice changes. He loves taking care of his freshwater fish, including swordtails, guppies, zebrafish, gouramis, and angelfish. Some of his latest skills include learning how to change a bike tire and build a bike ramp.

Natalia is 10 and in grade 5 at our local Spanish-speaking school. She is taking voice lessons and sang her first solo in a concert recently. On the piano, she plays Tarantella nonstop and a bunch of us want her to move on to her next piece! She is excited about learning French this year at school and is always looking to use it. In February she was awarded the 1st prize at her school for the Spanish Literature Olympics. We definitely have a communicator on our hands!

Evangeline is 8 and in grade 3 at the same school as Natalia. She has a toothy grin since she lost her front teeth. She is busy keeping up with her older sisters, reading chapter books, on a 68-day streak for learning French on Duolingo, studying piano, and borrowing her mom's phone to chat with friends at school. She likes writing long stories in English and Spanish. She has a contagious giggle and loves to play together building forts with her little brother.

Azariah is 5 years old and has decided that he is going to be an artist when he grows up. He recently had a painting spree where he was putting out a "masterpiece" a day. This year he began special tutoring in Spanish with a dear friend and seminary wife, Yudaimy, from Cuba. His favourite past-time is constructing buildings and landscapes from a collection of blocks, Lego, mega-blocks, Duplo, beach rocks/shells, modeling clay, and figurines. And his least favourite pastime? = Cleaning up these mega creations!

Other big events in 2022 included Mom and Dad Pollex celebrating 57 years of marriage in July. Esther and Becca traveled back to Ottawa for a wedding in August and enjoyed themselves immensely. Mom Krey visited us in October and a part of November. While here, Ted and Rebecca went to Lima, Peru to celebrate an ordination and enjoy a quick getaway together.

And now we are already a quarter of the way through 2023(!), and our traditional family Christmas letter has now become officially an Easter letter! We wish you and yours a very blessed Easter.

With much love,
The Kreys

Dear friends in Christ at the English District -

*Thank you for your continued support
of our family! God's richest blessings -*

Rebecca & Ted