

# Global Mission Updates

## **YAGMs X 3!**

The Florida-Bahamas Synod is the home synod for **3 new** Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers who will be starting their year of service this month. Here's how you, your congregation, or conference can get involved!

- Checkout the Synod website YAGM page to learn more about Courtney Noya (Mexico), Sean Bryant (Southern Africa), and his brother Stephen Bryant (Rwanda).
- Plan to follow their blogs or newsletter posts to learn more about what they are doing and their reflections on their faith journey.
- Pray for all YAGM participants and their host families and communities
- Donate to the YAGM program or to an individual YAGM to defray expenses of a year abroad
- Consider who in your family, church or conference might want to be a YAGM and have them apply by February 2019!

### **Synod Assembly Offering raises over \$5000!!**

**The Global Mission Committee is extremely grateful to everyone who gave at the Synod Assembly closing worship offering which was designated for Global Mission and work in Guyana. The Guyana-Suriname Mission Team is working with the leaders of the ELCG in preparing a project proposal that will outline how the money is to be used and how it will be accounted for. Stay tuned for more information and a progress report!!**

### **International Companion from Suriname attends Youth Gathering in Houston**



Pictured left – Donato Grep – International Companion Program participant from Suriname, taking a selfie while feeding lorikeets at the Brevard Zoo.

Donato was nominated by his church, Martin Luther Kerk, because of his involvement in worship services and work with youth. With the help of a \$2500 grant from the ELCA, the FB Synod Global Mission Committee sponsored Donato and arranged for his airfare from Suriname to Chicago (for Orientation), to Orlando – where he spent a week with hosts Pr. Tom and Anita Unrath, visited the zoo and the Kennedy Space Center and swam in the ocean. Donato also volunteered at Hundred Acres Nature Preserve. He then flew on to Houston, TX for the ELCA Youth Gathering.

## +CUBA update+

Plans are underway for Pr. Russell Meyer, Chair of the Cuba Mission Team, and Pr. Khader El-Yateem, Assistant to the Bishop of the FB Synod, to join a follow-up Global Mission visit to Cuba in November. Pr. Jaime Dubon of ELCA Global Mission, and a representative from Lutheran Disaster Response, will be leading the trip and focusing on deepening the relationship with the newest member of Lutheran World Federation – the United Evangelical Church – Lutheran Synod (IEU-SL), headquartered in Santiago, Cuba and with 15 congregations on the mainland of Cuba. Please keep our brothers and sisters in the Lutheran Church in Cuba in your prayers, especially for the day when normal diplomatic relations allow for unrestricted interaction between our two nations.



### *Journey to Jamaica in January!*

The FB Synod Global Mission Committee is pleased to share this opportunity to travel on an **Immersion Journey to Jamaica**. At the invitation of our Companion Seminary in Kingston, Jamaica, the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI) - we will stay on the seminary grounds and have most meals in the campus cafeteria. There will be morning lectures on culture and religion in Jamaica, an opportunity to worship in local churches & meet with ELCA Missionary Rev. Dr. Eliseo Perez, and in the afternoons experience local cultural and tourist sites like the National Gallery of Jamaica, Devon House, Bob Marley Museum, Marcus Garvey Museum and an optional trip to Dunns River Falls.

**Dates of trip** – Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Thursday, Jan 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019. (Optional Extension to Dunns River Falls returns Friday, Jan 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019.)

**Estimated cost of trip** (Including airfare) (Depending on departure city in Florida and accommodations chosen) \$1000 - \$1300pp. **Find more information and Mission Trip Application form on FB Synod website – Global Mission or contact PJ May, GMC Chair (239-738-6943)**

***Application deadline is September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018***

## “Seeds For Haiti” Vacation Bible School Challenge



*Thank you to all of the Florida Bahamas Synod individuals and congregations who participated in this special appeal to raise money for plants and seeds for Haiti. Donations collected in church this summer and during the week of Bible school are still being tabulated. With \$2500 in matching funds from the Special Projects fund of the Global Mission Committee, a check to purchase seeds will be sent to the ELH in time for fall planting.*

**Say – did you hear? October 7th is Global Mission Sunday in the Florida Bahamas Synod! Please consider a special program/presentation, worship service and offering for our Global Mission partners and the work of the Global Mission Committee! Thank you!**

**ELCA Missionary visits cancelled**

Last newsletter issue we reported that Rev. Dr. Eliseo Perez – ELCA Missionary at our companion seminary in Jamaica – would be visiting supporting congregations All Saints, Port Royal; Emmanuel, Venice; and Christus Victor, Naples in August. Unfortunately, Dr. Perez has a medical condition requiring surgery and he had to cancel his plans. We ask for your prayers for his speedy recovery and return to teaching at the seminary.

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