

Dear All Lutheran Brethren in the Lord,

Greeting to you in the blessed name of our Lord and Savior Jesus,  
I would like to share with you from the very exciting and blessed moment on the LISA students graduation and ordination of Lutheran pastors in Cambodia.

In the record of church history, Lutheran teaching has a long tradition since its birth in the 16<sup>th</sup> century Reformation, but in Cambodia, Lutheran teaching is new. When Rev. Ted Natthalang first arrived in Cambodia to introduce the Lutheran teaching in Cambodia his plan was to produce Lutheran materials through translation and publications, There was a very small group of Christians who knew about Lutheran teaching. In 2003, the first edition of Luther's small catechism was translated into Khmer (Cambodian Language) under title: **Basic Teaching of Christian Doctrine**. Many Christians (most grounded in Reformed teaching) have started to use this book to help their church member to grow in their faith. I call this point the birth of the Lutheran spirit of teaching in the hearts of many Christian. But to see Lutheran churches and Bible institutes would require more training in Cambodia.

In 2007, LISA (Luther Institute of Southeast Asia) launched its training program to the local pastors in Cambodia. From that point, many pastors began to like Lutheran teaching, because it was sound, biblical with a focus on Christ as its center. With guidance from Rev. Ted Nathalang as instructor for LISA and Rev. Dr. Leonard V. Harms, LISA director, many local pastors who had been trained with LISA and who have been convicted to Lutheran Church showed their desire to start a Lutheran Church body. With help and prayer support from Lutheran brethren and gift from Garuna Foundation, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cambodia (ELCC) was born with permission from the Government on January 14, 2009 and registered with the Ministry of Interior as a local NGO and on July 7, 2009 with the Ministry of Religion as church body under the name of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cambodia (ELCC).

On May 14, 2010, after two and half years of training, LISA has completed her first mission, the certification of 33 church workers. At the same time, ELCC decided to elect and called Pastor Vanarith, who had completed LISA training, to be president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cambodia with the ordination officiated by Rev. Dr. Harms under the permission and blessing from Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee, President of LCC. Furthermore, sixteen Lutheran Pastors and 8 deaconesses, who graduated from LISA, received calls and will be commissioned to serve Lutheran congregations across Cambodia.

Finally, as the president of ELCC and on behalf of LISA students, I would like to extend my gratitude first our Lord Jesus Christ who died on the cross for our sin and secondly to brethren in the faith who have helped to support with much prayer and love for us and made it possible for us to grow in faith with you as Lutheran pastors and churches in Cambodia.

PS: Please see the attached pictures of more activities.

Blessing to you,  
Rev. Vanarith Chhim  
President of ECCC.

# Milestones for Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cambodia



The certification of 33 new church workers and the



ordination and installation of its first President, the Rev. Vanarith Chhin

*CLMS has supported instructors for the LISA program and also supports the work of the deaconesses which are pictured.*