

## Mission Society embroiled in bitter battle with Synod *the true facts exposed!*

by Rev. Edwin Lehman

Okay, that headline caught your attention. Having read thus far, and demonstrating your curiosity about the first part of the headline, please read the rest of this article to find out what the subheading is all about.

### *The operating word for us is "partnership."*

The truth is, of course, there is no conflict, no battle, no argument whatever between Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS) and Lutheran Church-Canada or any of the Synod's other organizations. The operating word for us is "partnership" and we have been committed to that principle ever since we were organized over five years ago.

Let me explain how this works. Each year, CLMS solicits mission proposals from a variety of sources, chief among them being LCC's Board for Mission and Social Ministry Services (BMSMS). We also get a few project requests from partner churches overseas, and from district offices and other organizations within Canada. While the BMSMS does not tell us what projects we should adopt, it does help us determine which

projects would be most supportive of LCC's mission objectives. If we receive any proposals that we have reservations about, we ask for LCC's opinion so we do not undertake anything that would not meet with LCC's approval. The projects we receive from LCC usually represent work to which LCC is already committed, but for which it lacks funds. Thus, in the current year, we will seek to raise, and remit to LCC, just under \$25,000 which will directly benefit the synodical missions program.

Some of our projects are primarily funded by third

### *From our standpoint, it makes no difference which organization raises the funds.*

party sources. The best example of this is the seminary program in Ukraine for which we receive funding from the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation. This project, now in its fifth year, was undertaken when a request came from Ukraine to LCC, but LCC could not fund it. LCC asked CLMS, and we,



*Working with Synod, CLMS helps ensure children, like these in Thailand, hear the Good News of the Gospel.*

in turn, approached the foundation.

We also receive and disburse funds for what we call "Donor Initiated Projects." These are legitimate mission projects not on our regular list, but, if they are compatible with CLMS's objectives, not contrary to LCC's doctrine or practice, and comply with Canada's laws concerning charitable gifts, we will receive such funds, issue tax receipts for them, and send them directly to the intended recipient.

Occasionally a project we support is also supported by the LWML, LLL or others. This is currently the case with the educational program for

children in Nicaragua. When this happens, it is because the need is so great that several organizations seek contributions for it. From our standpoint, it makes no difference which organization raises the funds. In any case, the identical work is not paid for twice. It is just that more work gets done.

Sometimes, mission organizations which are ultimately to support the broader mission objectives of our Synod, end up seeking financial support for their work from other mission organizations. We believe this is somewhat self-defeating, and do not follow this approach. From a financial

*Continued on page 40*

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

➤ 2002 mission projects update

➤ New seminary class begins

visit our web site at <http://www.concordiamissions.org/>

# New seminary class begins in Odessa, Ukraine

by Rev. Norman Threinen



Seminary students are shown with their instructors and translator.

After graduating a class of seven men in July 2001, a new class of ten men has been assembled at Concordia Seminary, Odessa. Ranging in age from 18 to 50, the class is essentially from the Ukrainian communities of Nikolaiev, Sovran and Krasperperikopsk. There is also one student from Odessa. The seminary classes meet in the limited facilities of the congregation in Kamenka. Providing Russian translation services again this year is Olga Kosheleva of Lviv. Dr. Norman Threinen set the stage for the new students and taught the initial two courses. He also visited the three communities from which the students hail. Following him as faculty for the current year are Dr. John Wilch and Rev. Herb Heinemann. As classes could not begin until June, only three faculty members will go to Ukraine this year. Curriculum and faculty for the coming year is tentatively in place and graduation of this new class is expected in summer 2005.

One of the projects of CLMS in Ukraine is to purchase computers to enable better communication between the pastors and to provide

access to Russian theological material. Four computers were purchased for a total cost of US\$3,600. They are greatly appreciated.

Plans for a new seminary building are also under way. The village where Dr. Graefenstein (superintendent of ALEBCU) lives has donated land to the Tabettha organization which will be used as the site for the new seminary building. As well as being nearer the airport, the site is close enough to Odessa to provide better quality telephone and other utilities than in Kamenka. A survey of the property has been made and footings are expected to be poured this fall. They will be left to cure over winter and actual construction is anticipated to begin next year.

Outreach to the vast sea of Ukrainian unbelievers continues as the primary focus of our partners. Virtually 100 percent of them were not Christian themselves ten years ago and they continue to grow. We thank God for the privilege of assisting these new believers as they take on significant challenges for the Gospel in Ukraine.

—Dr. Norman J. Threinen  
Professor Emeritus

## REPORT

# 2002 mission projects update

At just about half way through the year, CLMS has received about 40% of the funds needed to support the projects it approved in February. So far the projects to provide evangelists for Thailand (\$860), and to provide computers for the Lutheran pastors in Ukraine (\$6059) are paid. The latter project was carried out because Dr. Threinen was going to Ukraine to teach and would be in a position to ensure the funds were spent wisely, but well. Other projects authorized for payment are Ukraine TV broadcasting (\$3,840),

Nicaragua, national missionaries (\$3,850), and Thailand, immersion for English teacher (\$2,600).

We are confident we will again meet all our obligations by the end of the year, contributing a total of \$52,565 for the twelve projects we are currently supporting.

Individuals wishing to support specific projects may do so by designating their funds accordingly. Later in the year, any projects not yet fully funded will be "topped up" from undesignated funds, so that the full amount is remitted.

—Rev. Ed Lehman

## Brochures and display board available

Individuals or congregations wishing to receive a copy (or copies) of CLMS's brochure, "Putting the Pieces Together," are asked to contact Anne Taylor, 4624 Cosmic Place, Ottawa, Ontario K1B 4R8 or by e-mail at ataylor001@sympatico.ca. Please advise number of copies needed.

Anyone wishing to borrow CLMS's display board is asked to contact Lillian Rusch, R. R. #1, S20 C7, Osoyoos, B.C., V0H 1V0 or by e-mail at lrusch@look.ca

## DON'T FORGET TO CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB

<http://www.ConcordiaMissions.org/> to receive updates as to where we are and what we are doing. You will also have the opportunity to link up to other mission sites.

## True Facts exposed,

Continued from page 39

perspective, our objective is to encourage contributions which are "over and above" regular mission giving, with the commitment to remit all such gifts in their entirety, without any deductions for administrative costs. From a more personal perspective, our objective is to provide opportunities for individuals to connect with, and directly support, particular mission projects that are especially dear to them.

CLMS remains committed to partnerships with the Synod, with other Auxiliaries, and with Listed Service Organizations. In fact, we are currently seeking to establish a forum through which representatives of various mission agencies in LCC, along with Synod and District offices can discover ways to work together more effectively.

"Mission society embroiled in bitter battle with Synod?" Absolutely NOT. The 'True Facts' are quite the opposite!

I was privileged to attend our Synod's convention in Kitchener as an advisory delegate. The response of delegates to CLMS's exhibit and in the convention proceedings was uplifting.

CLMS applied to Synod for Auxiliary status in 2001. The process had Synod's Board of Directors reviewing our application, and after ensuring all criteria were satisfied, sending an overture to the convention requesting the change in status from Listed Service

***Auxiliary status ties us more closely to the mission work of our Synod.***

Organization to Auxiliary. The resulting resolution brought to the convention was positively addressed and passed without dissent.

Auxiliary status ties us more closely to the mission work of our Synod. By definition auxiliaries exist as an arm of the Synod and

have as their primary function aiding the Synod, specifically in programs that extend the ministry and mission of the Synod. The membership of auxiliaries is also restricted to persons who are baptized members of congregations that are members of Synod. Concordia Lutheran Mission Society will also enjoy some privileges as an auxiliary of Lutheran Church-Canada. Fund-raising can be done more freely and we will have the opportunity to report to Synod in convention.

The mission society has always met the requirements for auxiliary status, so no constitutional changes will be required. The Board of Directors of CLMS thank the convention delegates and Synod for extending us this privilege.

Our next CLMS convention will be held in the East District. Tentative date is February 9, 2003. We are currently confirming a host congregation.

—Terry Goerz



At left, Rev. Dr. Leonard Harms, executive for the Board for Missions and Social Ministry Services of Lutheran Church-Canada and Rev. Sandor Arguello, Nicaragua and, at right, Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan, president of Lutheran Church-Canada and Rev. Dr. Roger Humann of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Catharines, flank a Nicaraguan seminary graduate and his family at the graduation exercises held April 28, 2002 in Chinandega, Nicaragua. Thirty-two men and women graduated as pastors, deacons and deaconesses.

**CLMS at Lutheran Church-Canada convention**

Those attending the recent LCC convention took the opportunity to visit our display and receive first-hand information about the various CLMS projects being undertaken for this year.

A PowerPoint presentation of the April 28 ordination and graduation of church workers in Nicaragua was featured. All

rejoiced that God has used the members of LCC to make a difference in Nicaragua! How awesome is our God!

Questions concerning CLMS were answered, brochures handed out, and new contacts made.

Our thanks to all who visited us at our display.



Anne Taylor (back to camera) welcomes Rodger Hebermehl, executive director of Lutheran Hour Ministries and his wife Cassandra to the CLMS exhibit at the LCC convention in June.

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**Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS)**

An Auxiliary of Lutheran Church-Canada

**REACHING OUT IN LOVE**

**J**arumon Thongbai is one of three abandoned girls who, for several years, have been sponsored and supported by the Sahatay Lutheran Church in Takuapa, Thailand and by congregations in Lutheran Church-Canada. Jarumon is now a 21-year-old young woman who is in her second year of college in Thailand, studying to become a school librarian. To help Jarumon serve her church, Concordia Lutheran Mission Society is working with Lutheran Church-Canada to fund a year-long visit to Canada. She arrived at the end of August. While here Jarumon is based in Winnipeg, staying with Pastor Jim and Nancy Fritsche. She works as a volunteer at Beautiful Savior Nursery School and is becoming more familiar with

the people and work of LCC. She will supplement her knowledge of English by taking ESL classes and by participating in teacher Carol Harms' Grade 1 class at Beautiful Savior Lutheran School.

Jarumon will be a helpful

resource for our church's work in Thailand as she becomes more acquainted with LCC and grows in her ability to use English. It is hoped that one day she will assist in translation services between our two church bodies. CLMS is also

assisting the Sahatay Lutheran Church in their support of the two other abandoned girls who remain in Takuapa.

Our experience in Nicaragua has also demonstrated that social ministry projects provide great opportunities for the proclamation of the Gospel to those who do not know about their Saviour. The windows and doors God opens for mission are often through the physical and emotional needs of those whom He has placed before us. As we respond in love and concern, we also present the reason for that love and concern: "We love because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19) May the great love of our Saviour move you to respond in love as you join us as "Partners in the Gospel."

*Jarumon Thongbai, one of three girls supported by the Sahatay Lutheran Church in Takuapa, Thailand and by congregations in Lutheran Church-Canada.*



**Response Form**

We invite you to prayerfully consider your support for one of the following CLMS projects for 2002.

Please indicate how we may direct your donation and return your cheque along with this form to

**Mrs. Frances Freund, 236 Pine Bay, Winkler, Manitoba R6W 1G1**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine – seminary facility                   | <input type="checkbox"/> India – computer for seminary     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine – television broadcasting             | <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine – computers               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine – Friends' Club                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua – national missionaries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua – children's education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Thailand – national evangelists   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thailand – English immersion for Thai teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua – sewing school         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thailand – abandoned girls                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Thailand – visiting instructors   |

Mr., Mrs., Ms. Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ First name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Congregation \_\_\_\_\_ Home Circuit \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*(the last four spaces are optional)*