

If you could meet... *these future church leaders*

by Larry Ritter



For two weeks every three months, about forty men and women in Nicaragua come together for classes at the “Seminario Teologico Reforma Luterana.” These men and women are being trained as the future leaders of the Lutheran mission in Nicaragua, the men as pastors and the women as deaconesses and teachers.

If you could meet these future church leaders, one of the first things you would notice would be their age. Most of them are in their twenties and a few are still in their teens! Of course, it is not the first time our Lord has chosen young leaders for a young mission. Consider 1 Timothy 4:12, “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”

If you could meet these future church leaders, you would also notice their dedication to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. They have spent most of their lives believing in the legalism and works-righteousness promoted by the Roman Catholic and Pentecostal churches in

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Nicaragua. Only in the past few years, through the ministry of Pastor Sandor Arguello, have they come to highly prize that which we as a Gospel-centered Lutheran Church believe, teach, and confess.

And now, knowing the glorious freedom of the Gospel, they make the study of God’s Word a high priority in their lives, and they take the Lutheran Confessions seriously.

If you could meet these future church leaders, you would also notice they reflect the love of Christ as they care for and show concern for those around them. One way they reflect the love of Christ is by providing

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needy children with an education. Pastor Arguello reports that many children, especially the oldest ones, are expected to begin working at an early age, and, as a result, they do not get even a basic education. And so the Lutheran mission there has started a number of schools. At present, over 200 children are taught basic courses—reading, writing, arithmetic, along with Christian doctrine.

If you could meet these future church leaders, you would know without a doubt how grateful they are for all the guidance and resources which have been provided by Lutheran Church–Canada. They truly appreciate all LCC has done to give birth to their young mission.

If you could meet these future church leaders, you would be humbled by all they have to give to and to teach you. Every LCC pastor who goes to Nicaragua to teach a course at the Seminary comes back realizing that he has learned more from these young leaders than he has taught them. By God’s grace, these young men and women are truly an example “in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity” to their brothers and sisters not only in Nicaragua but also here in Canada. ...And while this wonderful work is being done, realize that God has blessed us here in Canada to be a very real part of the mission in Nicaragua. Through our prayers, and our financial support we can...and we are.

Pastor Larry Ritter, Kenora, Ont., taught a course at the Seminary last September on the Lutheran Confessions.

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

Communion ware for Ukraine

Four new pastors, four new chalices

by Rev. Norman Threinen

As we gather for worship in our congregations in Canada, most of us take two things for granted: one, that we will be able to receive the Lord's Supper from an ordained pastor periodically; and, two, that the congregation will have communion ware to use. The congregations in Ukraine have had neither of these. Until this past July, the church had one ordained pastor, Dr. Viktor Graefenstein. Regular Sunday services were conducted by lay preachers from within the congregation. Only when Dr. Graefenstein came to visit a congregation did they celebrate Holy Communion. The congregation did not own communion vessels; Dr. Graefenstein brought with him a carrying kit with all the items, which we customarily have on the altar when we celebrate communion. The communion vessels were set up before the communion service and put back into his carrying kit again after the service.

Thus, it was with great joy that those who gathered together from the various congregations on July 15, 2001 in Kagarlyk, fifty miles northwest of Odessa, Ukraine not only witnessed the ordination of four young men to the holy ministry but also witnessed the dedication and use of four communion chalices, three of them purchased by the Concordia Lutheran Mission Society. What was also a great thrill on July 15 was to have a large communion service in which the new pastors

distributed communion for the first time and in which the new chalices were used for the first time.

The chalices are considerably more ornate than those with which we are accustomed as they were ordered from Moscow and carry many of the symbols which we associate with the Russian Orthodox Church. I



was at first not happy to see the Orthodox cross on the chalices. However, the important thing is that our new pastors will now have this communion ware to use in the congregations and the people can through them receive the blessings of the Sacrament. Each congregation now has their own pastor. As each of these new pastors reach out to neighbouring communities where new congregations come into being, they will bring the communion vessels along with them to impart the blessings of the sacrament also to these folks. May this communion ware be a source of encouragement and a cause to praise our gracious God.

GREAT NEWS!!



CLMS now has its own website. Check us out at <http://www.ConcordiaMissions.org/>

CLMS adopts mission projects for 2002

The year 2001 was a year of unprecedented blessings as all projects were paid in full. Through the gifts of God's people the Gospel was proclaimed in many parts of the world. For 2002 the CLMS Board of Directors adopted a project budget of \$52,565 for 2002. The following were approved.

◆ **Ukraine, Matching Grant for Seminary Building:** A seminary building would enable the Ukrainian church to expand its educational activities. There is some serviced land just outside of Odessa which can be obtained at likely no cost. A mission society in Sweden has offered US \$5,000 toward a seminary building if matching funds can be found. CLMS will provide the sum of **\$8,000**.

◆ **Ukraine, Children of Promise:** A layman of the Lutheran Church in Dnepropetrovsk has identified about 25 neglected children and teenagers who have great promise. He rents an apartment and brings them together each week for religious instruction and fellowship, helping them with basic needs so that they can stay off the streets. To provide for apartment rental and other costs for one year, CLMS will provide the sum of **\$2,880**.

◆ **India, Computer for Seminary:** Concordia Seminary in Nagercoil, India needs a computer for librarian and student use. This is the main seminary for training pastors in the India Evangelical Lutheran Church. To purchase a computer, a laser printer and specialized library software, CLMS will provide the sum of **\$6,000**.

◆ **Ukraine, Television Broadcasting:** The monthly half hour television broadcast featuring LCC missionary Roland Syens costs \$640 for each episode. This has proven to be a valuable outreach for the missionary, reaching many who would otherwise not come to his services or Bible studies. CLMS will provide the sum of **\$3,840** to cover broadcasting for six months.

◆ **Ukraine, AELBCU Computers:** The graduates of the seminary program at Kamenka need better ways of communicating with each other. They have requested computers with Internet capability to make this possible. CLMS will provide the sum of **\$6,000** to purchase and equip four computers for these Ukrainian pastors.

◆ **Nicaragua, National Missionaries:** Some of the young men currently being trained in Nicaragua will be well qualified to plant new mission stations in Nicaragua. Without established congregations to support them, and with limited national resources, they will have to receive special funding for a time. CLMS will provide the sum of **\$3,850** to fund one such new missionary for one year.

◆ **Nicaragua, Children's Education:** Many children of poor families cannot take advantage of public education and end up illiterate. For \$120 one child can be educated for one year. Currently nearly 500 children are enrolled in the program, but the potential for more is virtually unlimited. To provide education for 20 children, CLMS will provide **\$2,400**.

It is with pleasure that I report that all of the projects CLMS undertook for last year have been funded. The Nagercoil seminary project is still in the book gathering stage, but funding for shipping is in the bank.

It is not with pleasure that I report that our Synodical Board of Directors had to make cuts to both the missions and higher

It underscores the importance of our work ...

education budgets. Congregational giving to districts is not growing but is declining, and consequently the portion available for districts to send on to Synod is being reduced.

It underscores the importance of our work as a mission society. As you can see from our projects list CLMS has raised its goal considerably.

Our mission society is presently a Listed Service Organization of LCC. We have applied to become an Auxiliary of LCC. The Synodical Board of Directors at it's March meeting moved to approve our application, and will be sending an overture to the Synodical convention in June to establish Concordia Lutheran Mission Society as an Auxiliary of Lutheran Church-Canada.

At the recent board meeting of CLMS we celebrated our fifth anniversary. It was five years ago that eight volunteers met at the request of Rev. Dr. Edwin Lehman, and undertook the formation of a mission society for our synod.

I want to thank all our supporters who have contributed to our success. You generosity truly makes you **Partners in Mission.**

Blessings, Terry Goerz, President.

◆ **Thailand, Evangelists:** Two Thai Christian women are prepared to undertake evangelistic work among women and children in southern Thailand, where less than 2 per cent of the population is Christian. With low salaries in that country, a very modest investment can yield significant results. To provide a basic income for two Thai evangelists for one year, CLMS will provide the sum of **\$860.**

◆ **Thailand, English Immersion for Thai Teacher:** A young woman named Jaruman is developing proficiency in English as she prepares to be a teacher. Her knowledge of English would be greatly enhanced if she spent a year in Canada, living with a Canadian family and volunteering in one of our schools. CLMS will provide **\$2,600** for transportation.

◆ **Nicaragua, Sewing School:** Boys and girls of junior high age will receive theoretical and practical instruction in sewing clothing. Nicaragua has a significant garment industry, and these skills will help them to get good jobs. To purchase 18 sewing machines, plus various accessories, CLMS will provide the sum of **\$8,000.**

◆ **Thailand, Abandoned Girls:** Although abandoned boys are usually cared for by Buddhist monks, girls are often left to fend for themselves, frequently resorting to crime and prostitution. The Lutheran churches in southern Thailand provide food, clothing, shelter and adult supervision for such girls. Three girls are currently under such care, with a cost to the church of \$2,935 for each one. CLMS will provide the sum of **\$2,935** to care for one abandoned girl.

◆ **Thailand, Visiting Instructors:** While the formal training of pastors was completed this past January, there is need for much spiritual growth on the part of the congregations, especially in the area of stewardship, so that local congregations can support their own pastors. LCC plans to conduct four two-week courses in Thailand, for both pastors and congregations. To cover half of the travel costs, CLMS will provide the sum of **\$5,200.**

◆ **Theological books being gathered for India Seminary:** A CLMS project of gathering and shipping theological books to Concordia Seminary in Nagercoil, India, is being carried forward into the current

year. The library of our sister church's seminary needs major upgrading, and an increasing number of students can work in English. A complete set of Luther's Works has already been pledged and we have adequate supplies of theological journals. There is a special need for commentaries and exegetical works. CLMS is asking that donated books be taken to district/national offices from whence they will be gathered for shipment. CLMS will pay for shipping costs to India. Those wishing to supply books should do so by the time of this summer's LCC convention, at the latest. Address any questions about suitability of books to E. Lehman at 780-462-9608 or edwinlehman@shaw.ca

New faces for CLMS

Larry Mohr and David Schick are newly-elected board members, Rev. Edwin Lehman was re-elected.

Larry Mohr, is a grain farmer. He has served his congregation at Peace Lutheran, Grenfell, Sask. in various capacities. He has had a life-long interest in missions, having worked as a volunteer construction worker in

Guatemala in 1995. David Schick, is a retired Senior Marketing Officer with Canadian National Railways. He is now a self employed tour guide. He has served on both synod and district mission boards and presently serves as an elder at Trinity, Richmond, B.C. Joining the Ministries and Projects Committee is Doreen Christensen, Edmonton, Alta.



The Board of Directors of Concordia Lutheran Mission Society met February 15-17, 2002 at Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, Alta. Back row (l-r): David Schick, Terry Goerz, Rev. Dr. Norman Threinen, Larry Mohr. Front row (l-r): Lillian Rusch, Doreen Haberstock, Anne Taylor and Frances Freund. Missing: Rev. Edwin Lehman, Rev. James Fritsche (the photographer).

Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS)

A Listed Service Organization of Lutheran Church-Canada

AN OPPORTUNITY

I recently witnessed the baptism of a man born and raised as a Buddhist. What joy he exhibited as he joined the family of God! He spoke loudly and firmly as he responded to the pastor's questions.

It must be the same when someone in Nicaragua, Thailand, Ukraine or one of the other countries where Christian missionaries are at work. When the Holy Spirit moves a person in a country far away (or here in Canada) to be baptized and join the Christian community it is a life altering experience leading to eternal life with our Lord.

But what now? Our missionaries are in the field fulfilling the command of Jesus, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." Mark 16:15,16. Lutheran Church-Canada has sent the missionaries out using the offerings we have given to them via the Districts. Our

missionaries do a wonderful job with what they have to work with, but so much is taken up with the costs of travel, food and housing for the missionary and his family there sometimes is little left for the projects that make a Christian community a place where people want to be and others want to come and see. In other words a place just like our home congregations where we are always doing things to help our fellow

Christians, our neighbours and our community at large.

On other pages of this Concordia Mission Advocate, you have seen listed the projects Concordia Mission Society will support this year; projects identified by our missionaries as ways we can help them help the people they are working with to become more familiar with the love of Jesus for them and everyone else.

If these projects were

happening in our home town, we would offer our support by giving of our time, treasures, and goods. But they are not, and we can't just jump in the car and take a box of Sunday School supplies to the church in Ukraine, or supply a meal to an abandoned young girl on the streets of Thailand.

However, through the Concordia Lutheran Mission Society, we can support these projects far away from our door. I urge you to pray about the projects listed in this newsletter and if you are able, send your financial support. Mark the specific project you would like to support, or tell us to use the funds where they are most needed.

Continue to read the Concordia Mission Advocate as it appears in *The Canadian Lutheran* and see the pictures of joy in the faces of people as they hear the Gospel proclaimed in word and deed.

David Schick



Response Form

Please make cheques payable to "Concordia Lutheran Mission Society" and mail to: Frances Freund, 236 Pine Bay, Winkler, MB R6W 1G1

Please indicate your preference:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine – matching grant for seminary building | <input type="checkbox"/> India – computer for seminary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine – television broadcasting | <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine – AELBCU computers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine – Children of Promise | <input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua – national missionaries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua – children's education | <input type="checkbox"/> Thailand – 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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wherever needed most | |

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Rev. Dr. Other (e.g. Rev. & Mrs.) _____ First name(s) _____

Last name _____ Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____ Country _____ Postal Code _____

Home Congregation _____ Phone _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____ Work Phone _____

(the last four spaces are optional)