

## My life in Canada

Over the past number of years members throughout Lutheran Church—Canada have helped the Sahathai Lutheran Church in Takuapa, Thailand with the sponsorship and support of three young ladies. This project was known as the “Abandoned Girls” project. In August, 2002,

one of these young ladies, 21-year-old Jarumon Thongbai, with the support of Concordia Lutheran Mission Society, was able to come to Winnipeg. This is her story.



Jarumon Thongbai tells about her home and church in Thailand.

I am from Takuapa, Thailand. Thailand is in Southeast Asia and Takuapa is a city in the province of Phang Nga, in the southern part of Thailand. There it is hot and humid. We don't have very cold weather like you have here.

Our church in Takuapa is called Sahathai Lutheran Church. Sahathai means concord or unity. We have about six branches of the Sahathai Lutheran Church. Recently a new pastor, Suchart Srihakarn has been ordained. He has led people in Takuapa

for a long time so this is very good news for us.

Our church is very small in numbers. There are about 20 members in Takuapa. Because many people believe in Buddhism, it's difficult to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them.

Our church is a medium-sized western style building. It was designed by Dr. Herbert Gernand. We pick up members by van because lots of members live far from church. They don't have cars, just motorcycles which are too

small to take the whole family to church.

The church has three service days per week. We have Bible class on Wednesday nights. The children study Sunday school on Saturday morning and we have worship on Sunday morning.

This year I celebrated Christmas in Winnipeg. You celebrate different from my home town. On Christmas Day all of the members from the other branches come to Takuapa. We worship together. After that we exchange presents, talk and have a snack. It is a great day for us. We don't

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have a Christmas party at home. We have the party in the church instead.

Another special day is Easter day. We have lots of people coming. We have

worship together. Then we go to the beach or the waterfall and have lunch. It is a great time that God gives to us. We enjoy worshipping and meeting each other.

In Takuapa I live with Dr. Herbert and Staporn Gernand.

***This year I celebrated Christmas in Winnipeg. You celebrate differently.***

They established Sahathai Lutheran Church. They began to invite people from Suttin Anusorn School where Staporn is the principal.

I began learning about God and eventually I believed in God when I lived with Staporn, after my father passed away. My friends also lived with her. Their names are Pitsmai and Orathai Sirinai. They have believed in God since living

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

## Mission projects for 2003

At its annual board meeting in February, the Concordia Lutheran Mission Society approved almost \$58,000 in projects for 2003. They include:

**0301:** Support for two national women evangelists in Thailand to work among women and children in this predominantly Buddhist country. The work will assist the outreach efforts of the new Sahathai Lutheran Church.  
**Cost: \$890.**

**0302:** Assistance to two Lutheran Churches in South Africa (both LCMS sister churches) to offer preventive education, compassionate care and spiritual counsel to those at risk from the HIV/AIDS virus.  
**Cost: \$4,500**

**0303:** Provide funds for the newly-emerged Lutheran church in Ukraine to erect a modest facility for its seminary, church offices and humanitarian centre near Odessa.  
**Cost: \$10,000**

**0304:** Further the mission of the new Evangelical Lutheran Church in Nicaragua by helping to build a mission centre to serve its congregations, pastors and deaconesses.  
**Cost: \$10,000**

**0305:** A new group of students are being trained as pastors for the church in Nicaragua. CLMS will provide funds for travel of two instructors this fall.  
**Cost: \$3,000**

**0306:** In previous years, LCC paid for the travel of instructors for the seminary program in Ukraine. CLMS has agreed to cover those costs this year.  
**Cost for four instructors, \$10,400**

**0307:** Support for the inner city outreach of "The

Rock," an agency of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Edmonton, will help reach adolescent children, mostly girls.

**Cost: \$3,500**

**0308:** Bible portions will be translated and distributed to aboriginal children and adults in Australia's outback, in cooperation with the Lutheran Church of Australia.  
**Cost: \$2,700**

**0309:** CLMS will assume responsibility for a year's salary for the new mission start in Matagalpa, Nicaragua.  
**Cost: \$5,750**

**0310:** Expanded mission outreach among the blind in Montreal, and with Lutheran Literature in Sherbrooke, will bring the Gospel to more people in Quebec, thus undergirding the mission efforts of Rev. David Somers. **Cost: \$1,500**

**0311:** Efforts to identify and encourage children and teenagers who have great promise for the work of the church in Ukraine will also support the outreach efforts of LCC missionary Rev. Roland Syens.  
**Cost: \$3,000**

**0312:** CLMS will provide funds to facilitate a "Welcome Wagon" outreach for the small congregations in southern Thailand, assisting with transportation for those who would otherwise have to walk many hours, often in the dark, to attend worship services.  
**Cost: \$2,500**

**0313:** Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Moncton, N.B. has requested a small amount to initiate a toll-free telephone outreach ministry in the Maritimes.

**The \$100 cost has already been covered.**

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with the Gernand family. They came from Bangkok, the capital of Thailand. Staporn took good care of us. She wasn't just our English teacher, she taught us about Jesus Christ.

Afterward we were supported by the LWML through Sahathai Lutheran Church in Takuapa. Now my friends live with another teacher who works at Staporn's school. Her name is Shuntiga Siritup. They are studying in a technical college and majoring in accounting.

I'm so glad to have met LWML ladies and Concordia Lutheran Mission Society Board of Directors who support us. I'm very grateful for their support. I'm also grateful for the CLMS who paid my way to Canada.

I came to Winnipeg last year in August. I will be living here until May when I will go back to Thailand. I'm delighted to be in Canada because I'd like to learn English as a second language and visit the Canadian Lutheran Church.

Now I'm living with Pastor James and Nancy Fritsche's family. They have a heart of gold. They have helped me to get to know the country, people and improve my English. Before I started the ESL classes, I learned English in Carol Harms' class at Beautiful Savior Lutheran School and I worked as a volunteer at Beautiful Savior Nursery School. I really enjoyed participating with them.

I have had many experiences that I couldn't find in my hometown such as experiencing Canadian lifestyle and culture, interesting church and school activities, winter season and winter sports.

I really like your country. A nice thing about Canada is how clean and peaceful it is. Another nice thing is people are very nice and friendly even though I can't speak English well. I thank God for giving such a great opportunity to me. I will absolutely remember my visit to Canada forever. God bless you.

### Board of Directors

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Edmonton, Alberta



## Notes from our annual board meeting

The Board of Directors of CLMS met in early February. We were pleased to hear that all projects for 2002 were funded. In light of the evidence of God's blessings on our modest efforts, a very ambitious projects goal of almost \$58,000 was set for 2003. New guidelines and criteria for the selection of projects were discussed and adopted. Our newly elected board member from Halifax, Rev. David Maffett was able to attend on short notice. (Anne Taylor and Terry Goerz had also been re-elected in the mail in election.) We also said good-bye to Rev. James Fritsche of Winnipeg, who has served faithfully on our board for the past four years.

## Appeal for volunteers

As we look at this ambitious projects goal, we realize we have to grow, and grow a lot, in two ways. All the work of the mission society is done by a small group of dedicated volunteers, many of whom are also busy in other areas of our church's work. The original concept of using a small group of volunteers that met in person annually to keep cost down is working well. However, being so small (about 15 volunteers) also makes us vulnerable. We would like to create another level of volunteers at the congregational level to help our society by distributing bulk mail in their congregation, by

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asking others if they would be willing to add their names to our mailing list, and becoming a resource and advocate in the mission life of their congregation. This group would then serve to broaden our volunteer base and create a platform for those who may be interested in serving on the board

of the society. A more complete job description of a **Congregational Mission Advocate** is available. Most duties could be carried out while at your Sunday service. Fund-raising is not involved. The congregational mission advocates would help us in the second area we need to grow—increasing the number of names in our database. Materials would be provided to assist in doing this.

If you have been reading this mission leaflet because you are one of the many mission-minded Lutherans in our Synod, and you would like to play a local role in our church's ministry outreach, I would urge you to contact our development chairman, David Schick at 604-274-9815, or 6540 Yeats Cr., Richmond, B.C., V7E 4C9, or be e-mail [dave\\_shick@telus.net](mailto:dave_shick@telus.net)

We would also be most interested in finding someone in the Winnipeg area who has an interest in writing news articles. We would like to find someone who could convert the mission reports given to Synod's boards and committees into news articles for our website. Call Terry collect at 780-523-3126 evenings if this is a challenge you would find appealing or e-mail [tgoerz@telusplanet.net](mailto:tgoerz@telusplanet.net)

*Blessings,  
Terry Goerz*

## Annual meeting of CLMS

This year's annual meeting of Concordia Lutheran Mission Society was hosted by Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Niagara Falls, Ontario. Forty-one enthusiastic people attended the meeting to hear the reports from board members and to rejoice in the good news that all 2002 projects had been funded. The approved projects for 2003 were announced.

Jarumon Thongbai, Takuapa, Thailand told the group about her church in Thailand and the joys she has encountered in her time here in Canada.

Rev. Dr. Norman Threinen brought the Ukraine seminary to our group as he told of disappointments, challenges and most of all God's blessings to the seminary and the young men who have been called into the ministry. One class has all ready completed its three-year program and a second class has begun. A full slate of



*Rev. Dr. Norman Threinen speaks about the seminary in Ukraine.*

professors, all from Canada, is also in place.

The Board of Directors extends a warm, heartfelt "thank you" to Rev. Duane Peters and the congregation at Our Saviour for their generous hospitality throughout the weekend, and to all those who travelled from near and far to attend the annual meeting. Your interest and enthusiasm was much appreciated by the board.



*Concordia Lutheran Mission Society board of directors in meeting (l-r) Rev. David Maffett, David Schick, Larry Mohr, Anne Taylor, Frances Freund, Lillian Rusch, Rev. Edwin Lehman and Rev. Dr. Norman Threinen.*

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For more information about any of the above projects, or for specific information that might appeal to Sunday Schools or Vacation Bible Schools, please contact Rev. E. Lehman at 780-462-9608 or [edwinlehman@shaw.ca](mailto:edwinlehman@shaw.ca) or

check out our website at [www.concordiamissions.org](http://www.concordiamissions.org).

Concordia Lutheran Mission Society will be at the Lutheran Church-Canada District Conventions and at the LWML-Canada convention this summer.

Please visit us.

**Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS)**

An Auxiliary of Lutheran Church—Canada

**BLESSINGS ABOUND**

I recently joined about 400 people for the dedication of new construction and renovations at my church. Everything is new except the sanctuary. There are new Sunday school rooms, offices, washrooms, kitchen, hall, chapel and storage. What a great day as guests from three provinces, sister churches in our circuit and the adjoining circuit, guests from other churches and the community attended. God has really blessed us as we go about doing His work in our city.

I began thinking about the cost of doing mission work at my church versus around the world. I came to a startling observation. It cost more to put the doors and windows in our new facility than the entire 2003 budget for the Concordia Lutheran Mission Society. Building

costs, rules, etc., meant we had to spend that kind of money to construct the building we needed to continue to do our Lord's work here at home.

What a privilege to live in

a country where we have all the modern conveniences and the ability to pay for them. We are truly blessed!

God has given us an opportunity to use the blessings we have to do mission work in

other countries where a few dollars spent, if spent wisely, go a lot further to do His work. In another part of this *Mission Advocate*, you will find a list of projects that the Concordia Mission Society is supporting this year. Please look at the list and pray for the projects you see listed there.

If you can support this important mission work, I urge you to choose one or more of the projects and send your financial support to the Concordia Lutheran Mission Society. You may even be the one who ends up funding the cost of doors and windows in a Mission Centre in Nicaragua or Ukraine!

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. May God bless the work you do in mission at your home congregation and around the world.

*David Schick*



*CLMS support has helped bring the Gospel to the people of Nicaragua.*

**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"/> Thailand – national evangelists                           | <input type="checkbox"/> South Africa – HIV/AIDS ministry      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine – mission centre and seminary                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua – mission centre            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua – seminary professors' travel                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine – seminary professors' travel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Edmonton – inner city ministry                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Australia – aboriginal outreach       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua – new mission start in Matagalpa and Sherbrooke | <input type="checkbox"/> Quebec – outreach in Montreal         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine – "Friends' Club"                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Thailand – "Welcome Wagon"            |

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)*