

Mission Mindedness: Taught and Caught

by Rev. Konny Hahn

Holy Cross congregation in Kitchener has a reputation for being mission minded. Doug Grischow, the congregation's Mission Board chairman, is quick to point out that this is not a recently adopted priority. Rather, it is a mindset developed over the forty-year ministry of its pastor emeritus, Rev. Lloyd Wentzlaff, whose preaching and teaching centred on Christ, the only Saviour from sin.

In past years the congregation manifested that mission mindedness by setting aside upwards of 50 per cent of its total offerings for district/synod missions as well as other special mission projects.

But mission mindedness has not been limited to financial

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support of the Lord's work. Over the years, this mission mindset has led individuals and families to become personally involved in various overseas



Members of last year's Holy Cross mission team: Jessica Sullivan, Lauren Bugbee and Curtis VanderGriendt.

mission endeavours. The first to respond by entering the mission field were Bob and Jean Schmitt, who with their three children served with Lutheran Bible Translators, supported through the generous gifts of Holy Cross members. More recently, the congregation made arrangements to have its current senior pastor, Rev. Robert Bugbee, spend a month in Ukraine under the auspices of Lutheran Church-Canada, assisting LCC missionary Rev. Roland Syens and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Brethren Congregations.

For the past five or six years the congregation has recruited and funded young adults from the congregation to be part of LCC's annual summer short term mission team which conducts children's Bible camps with Pastor Syens in Ukraine.

VanderGriend, a former member.

So how does Holy Cross recruit and raise the funds for these special mission endeavours?

Doug Grischow emphasizes that these projects are above and beyond the congregation's ongoing support for the mission and ministries carried out in partnership with

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the East District and Lutheran Church-Canada which it tries to increase annually.

Each month the Mission Board highlights one of the congregation's nine special missions. At least twice each year it tries to have someone from those missions either

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The congregation's Mission Board has been looking into encouraging sister congregations to become involved in sponsoring short term mission projects. While the original idea was to expand support for such mission endeavours, this year took a new twist. Due to a variety of circumstances, young adults willing to serve in missions were unable to do so this summer. Undeterred the congregation supported Claire Ansell from Faith, London who expressed a desire to go to Ukraine after a presentation at her congregation by Curtis

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

Holding up the prophet's hands

*If you cannot be a watchman,
Standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven,
Off'ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with
your bounties*

*You can do what God demands;
You can be like faithful Aaron,
Holding up the prophet's
hands.* LW 318, st. 3.

Like me, you have probably sung this stanza from *Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling* many times. Nine times out of ten we sing it as part of a mission Sunday or festival and so don't think of it outside that context. However, it really says a great deal about some major theological concepts of daily concern: the Body of Christ, spiritual gifts, and vocation.

God doesn't call many of us to be prophets. Only a few of us have a call from the Church to proclaim the Gospel or perform some other ministry in a foreign land. I had such a call in the past, but not now. Yet we are all part of the Body of Christ. Together, not separately, we carry on Jesus' mission to seek and to save the lost. So although I no longer have a call to a foreign mission field, and you may never have had such a call—or wanted one!—we are

nevertheless part of that Body of Christ that takes the Gospel to the world. And that's true every day!

The way we do that is often "with your prayers and with your bounties." For example, I now have the vocations of pastor, husband and father. God has entrusted me with time and financial resources. I can manage those resources to help a modern day "prophet" announce the Gospel or minister to others far away. You may even find the Holy Spirit has given you a gift of grace (spiritual gift) that enables you to pray and give financial support in extraordinary ways. God may not have called you to go somewhere, but he may be urging you, as a member of the Body of Christ and through your vocation, to serve by "Holding up the prophet's hands."

Please consider holding up the prophet's hands by praying for and supporting one of the many projects of our Synod (our walk together) and partner churches through the CLMS. "Prophets" in several countries need your help in holding up their hands!

Rev. David Maffett

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participate in the services or make a presentation to the Bible class or Sunday school.

On returning from their summer mission, members of the team report on their experiences to the congregation. What communicates to the members much more than what these young missionaries say, is the obvious change the Holy Spirit has worked in the lives of these

young disciples. This in turn inspires other young adults to respond to the Mission Board's recruitment efforts and motivates members to support these ventures with their generous gifts.

For information contact Doug Grischow. dgrischow@kw.igs.net
Telephone: 519-634-9852 or Doug Grischow c/o Holy Cross Luth. Church, 322 East Ave. Kitchener, Ontario N2H 1Z5

Ways to hold up the prophet's hands

Stay informed about missions:

Check the various websites.

Synod:

www.lutheranchurch.ca/missions

CLMS:

www.concordiamissions.org.

as well as your district web site. Read our church's

publications — *The*

Canadian Lutheran,

Tapestry; ask to be placed on

missionaries' newsletter lists.

Set up a "Mission Bulletin

Board" in a prominent place

in the church. Post a photo

and biographical sketch of

the missionary and his

family on the board along

with recent newsletters. Pin

a map of the world on the

bulletin board and highlight

the location of our LCC

missionaries.

Encourage Bible study groups,

Sunday school children,

youth groups, senior groups,

etc. to adopt a missionary

— send letters, small gifts.

Contact a missionary and ask

about his needs and for his

suggestions as to what you

might do to meet the need:

i.e. make banners; send

Bibles; VBS supplies, etc.

Pray for at least one

missionary, by name,

during Sunday worship.

Sponsor a mini Mission Fair; a

dinner; an entertainment

night, etc. either as a

congregation or with other

congregations in your area.

Charge admission or take a

free-will offering, with the

funds designated to a

specific mission endeavour.

Invite a missionary, home on

furlough, to visit your

congregation and share his/

her experiences.

Pray for the missionary and for

those to whom he is

ministering.

You can be like faithful Aaron, holding up the prophet's hands.



Children and their Bibles in Nicaragua.

Board of Directors, 2004

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“Behind-the-scenes” volunteers support work of CLMS

Paul, as an apostle to the Gentiles worked with many people in his ministry. Some played major roles like Timothy and Titus. Others maintained their secular careers and still played large roles, such as Priscilla and Aquila, the tentmakers. There was Tertius and a number of others who wrote down Paul’s letters. And there were those whose unknown ministry is described only as “useful.” All these people (and many others) served God by being a part of Paul’s ministry. And

CLMS could also use a number of other “behind the scenes” volunteers.

his gratitude for their help is expressed in how he describes them—from Timothy of whom Paul said “I have no one else like him” and “my son whom I love,” to Onesimus of whom Paul said “he is very dear to me.”

CLMS also has a number

of volunteers who are not on our board, but who help our ministry. I would like to introduce you to some of them.

Doreen Christenson (Grace) **Edmonton**. Doreen serves on the ministries and projects committee. She meets with the committee members to evaluate project requests against our project criteria, to ensure adequate information is available, and to prepare a list of project proposals for the CLMS Board of Directors to consider. Doreen also advocates for CLMS and other mission work in her congregation.

Elroy Mann (Holy Cross) **Kitchener**. Elroy was one of our first volunteers. He used his computer skills and experience to set up our donor data base. On an ongoing basis he adds new names and makes corrections to existing entries. He also provides printouts of data for our mailings.

Rev. David Milette (Good Shepherd) **Moncton**. Rev. Milette has served as our webmaster for many years. He

set up our original web site based on his experience in setting up his congregation’s web site. He has made numerous upgrades and continues updating the site as his busy schedule enables him.

In introducing these volunteers, I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for the behind-the-scenes work they do—all so beneficial and essential to the overall mission ministry of CLMS.

CLMS could also use a number of other “behind-the-scenes” volunteers in our work. † Rev. Milette could use help updating the website (computer skills and a willingness to learn).

† We could also use someone proficient in doing mail merges and with access to printing facilities to produce our mailings. (We use MS Word, and *Staples* often does our printing.)

† We would greatly appreciate a group of people who could assemble our mailings after

they are printed (seniors group, a Bible study group, a congregational LWML or LLL group, etc).

† And we are still interested in people willing to advocate for missions in their congregations (I have a full job description).

In writing to the church in Corinth, Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:27 “now you are the body of Christ, **and each one of you is a part of it.**” This quote is preceded by a listing of spiritual gifts God gives to the church, and he goes on to describe a number of ministries in the body of Christ. So each of us uses the gifts God has given to us and in this way “the whole body grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

If you or your group are capable of, or are willing to grow into one of the avenues of service mentioned, please call me at 780 523 7656 (cell), or e-mail tgoerz@telusplanet.net, or write Box 2187, High Prairie, AB T0G 1E0.

Blessings, Terry Goerz

REPORT

“Best Ever” results in “best ever”!

The recent LCC National Youth Gathering held in Brandon, Manitoba was described by both participants and organizers as one of the “best ever.” Attendance, program events, witness opportunities were all outstanding.

But this “best ever” gathering also raised an offering of some \$2500 which will support the CLMS mission project to purchase Bibles for new Christians in Nicaragua. As a result, many people will, for the first time, own a copy of the

“best ever” book God gave us. With other funds already received or pledged for this project, we will soon have enough to remit the promised \$2740. If we receive more than this amount, we will remit the surplus as well, because the need for Bibles is on-going.

We have also paid the full amount of \$10,000 for Project 0402 (Ukraine Seminary and Mission Centre). This was helped by one generous donor who contributed most of what was needed.

As of July 31, we had received total income of just over \$40,000. Deducting amounts designated for other purposes, that left just over \$33,000 available for projects.

Projects in greatest need of support (with amounts still needed) are:

- 0401 Bolivia, resources for mission (\$ 5700)
- 0403 Nicaragua, mission centre (\$ 7300)
- 0404 Thailand, missionary training (\$ 1100)

- 0405 Ukraine, seminary professor travel (\$ 5000)
- 0406 Nicaragua, Matagalpa mission (\$ 3700)
- 0410 LCC, International Student Ministry (\$ 6000)

Each year, God opens the hearts of many individuals, congregations and societies to make generous year-end contributions. We are trusting His love to motivate His people so the saving love of Christ may be made known to many.

*Ed Lehman,
Director of mission projects*

Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS)
 An Auxiliary of Lutheran Church-Canada

Connecting vacation Bible school and mission

I have a job that takes me to many small towns and villages in Western Canada. Everywhere I go, I see Christian churches serving the people. How blessed we are in this country to be able to worship our Saviour freely.

As I write, my congregation is running its vacation Bible school for children of our congregation and community. We are experiencing a heat wave and it reminds us of some areas in which our missionaries serve. Another reminder is in the faces of the students. More than half those attending our VBS are from an Asian background. With God's guidance, and volunteers teaching, helping, making cookies, etc., our vacation Bible school is successful.

It's not always this easy in the mission field. Our



Children enjoy a January VBS in Nicaragua.

missionaries have to travel great distances in adverse conditions to reach the people. Often the way to the family is

through the children. God is there guiding our missionaries, but resources are thin. There is not always a

base of teachers and volunteers from which to draw, not to mention the financial resources needed for supplies. The Concordia Lutheran Mission Society is supporting VBSs in Nicaragua and other children's activities in Nicaragua and Ukraine.

We can help, not by baking cookies or preparing craft supplies, but by sending a financial donation to the projects supported by the Concordia Lutheran Mission Society. If you would like to help one or more of the projects supported by the society, please use the form below to submit your donation.

I was thrilled to hear that children of our vacation Bible school have chosen to send their offerings to the children of Nicaragua for their VBS!

*David Schick
 Richmond, B.C.*

Response Form

We invite you to prayerfully consider your support for one of the following CLMS projects for 2004.

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

Frances Freund, 236 Pine Bay, Winkler, Manitoba R6W 1G1

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bolivia – mission resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Thailand – missionary training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua – mission centre | <input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua – new mission start |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine – seminary professors' travel | <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine – children's "Food Bank" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua – Bibles | <input type="checkbox"/> LCC, international student ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine – "Friends' Club" | <input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua – vacation Bible school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PAID Ukraine – mission centre & seminary | |

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