

## To Togo with love

by Rev. David Maffett

The highlight of the CLMS annual meeting on February 8, 2004 was a mission presentation by our guest speakers, Al and Eileen Turner. Now residing in Minnedosa, Manitoba, they lived and served LCMS missions in Ghana and Togo from 1996-2003.

With the help of projected photographs, they explained how they had both begun serving as volunteer missionaries in 1996. They had not yet met when Eileen was recruited as a volunteer teacher for some missionary children in Ghana and Al to oversee chapel construction in Togo. Besides teaching, Eileen provided extensive help at the local clinic doing some nursing and evacuations of serious medical cases. One of her most important contributions to the mission was teaching health and

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hygiene to the men training for the pastoral ministry.

But she didn't only give; she also received. Eileen



Al and Eileen Turner served as lay missionaries in Africa.

recalls one faith-building event. The daughter of a church leader named Jabong was dying. Eileen evacuated her to the hospital, but the girl died. She then went to visit the family but when she arrived found she was the only one crying. An elderly woman came and asked her why she was crying. They knew the girl was with Jesus; there was nothing to cry about!

In Togo, Al built chapels and then moved into agricultural work. He taught people in the churches about crop rotation, how to make and use compost and also how to use green manure crops, e.g. nitrogen-fixing crops like the macuna bean that are grown

and plowed under as compost.

The missions in Ghana and Togo occasionally cooperated on projects and had retreats together. Though they had met at orientation, it was while serving in Africa that they fell in love and were married! Since Al had been called to full time work in Togo, Ghana had to give up Eileen who moved to Togo with Al in the village of Mogou.

In Togo, Eileen continued

her medical work, especially the immunization of missionaries and evacuations. Al became involved with the operation of the mission's theological education centre in Dapaong where men from several Francophone African countries go to train for the pastoral ministry. He considers

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it one of his greatest contributions that he managed to get power and water hooked up to the centre. You can't imagine how hard that can be in Africa. He had to install the power poles and transformer!

Al and Eileen are a real inspiration. They show how God calls men and women to many different vocations to serve His church. Through their efforts, the Lutheran churches of Ghana and Togo are much stronger! Al and Eileen are stronger too. They can't wait to go somewhere else!

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

## New projects for 2004

At its recent meeting, the CLMS Board of Directors adopted nearly \$61,000 in projects—the highest amount ever. The board's confidence was bolstered by the manner in which God continues to open the hearts of many donors, large and small, to personalize their "extra" mission giving by supporting the society's projects.

Some projects continue from last year, either because their size dictates they be spread over several years, or because they were deemed essential to LCC's ongoing mission commitments.

Projects include:

**0401:** Mission resources for an emerging Lutheran church in Bolivia. This includes purchase of a used automobile and production of liturgies and hymns in several indigenous languages. Cost: **\$5,850**

**0402:** Mission centre and seminary facility in southern Ukraine. This project requires funding over several years. Construction is to begin this summer. Cost: **\$10,000**

**0403:** A mission centre for the new Lutheran church in Nicaragua. This should complete a project begun last year. Construction is to begin some time this year.

Cost: **\$10,000**

**0404:** Evangelistic training for missionaries in Thailand. Two ordained pastors educated through an LCC program need further training in evangelistic outreach as they face major obstacles in this predominantly Buddhist country. Cost: **\$2,600**

**0405:** Theological education of pastors in Ukraine. Nine students are at the mid-way point of their seminary education. Three instructors

from LCC are to travel there this year to continue the program. Cost: **\$8,000**

**0406:** Support for a new mission in Matagalpa, Nicaragua. The work continues to prosper, but needs financial support again this year. Cost: **\$5,500**

**0407:** Bibles for Nicaragua. Growing numbers are coming to faith and need to be supplied with Bibles. Purchasing 400 Bibles will cost **\$2,740**.

**0408:** Supplying food for some of the many children in Ukraine who are without parental support, and must rely on the meagre pensions of their grandparents will cost **\$3,240**.

**0409:** Some 1,400 children are expected to enrol in VBS programs in Nicaragua this year. Materials used are very basic but will come to **\$3,500**.

**0410:** Intentional efforts to reach international students at our universities and colleges are long overdue. To help launch such a ministry CLMS will provide **\$6,000**.

**0411:** The "Friends' Club" program in Ukraine, designed to provide basic needs and Christian encouragement for teens and adolescents continues this year. Cost: **\$3,240**

**Total of above projects:**  
**\$60,670**

For more information about any of these 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. Also check our website at [www.concordiamissions.org](http://www.concordiamissions.org).



Confirmation Day in Nicaragua.



A child is baptized at one of the congregations in Nicaragua.

## A big thank you

- + to Pastor Rod Buck and the members of St. James Lutheran Church, Winnipeg who graciously extended the hand of hospitality to the Concordia Lutheran Mission Society's Board of Directors for their meetings held at the church February 7 and 8. All our needs were more than amply supplied.
- + to the various members of the congregation who provided overnight accommodation for the board members. The board gratefully acknowledges your kindness.
- + to the many of you throughout Winnipeg who attended the annual meeting of CLMS on February 8—our thanks for your interest and participation.
- + to Rev. Dale Mohr for so graciously giving his time to chauffeur board members

from venue to venue.

- + and to Al and Eileen Turner who gave all in attendance an insight into the heartbreaks, the joys, and the challenges of serving God in the mission field.

*"(We) thank( our) God through Jesus Christ for all of you"*  
*Romans 1:8*



### BE SURE TO CHECK OUT

CLMS's newly upgraded website at [www.concordiamissions.org](http://www.concordiamissions.org) for information regarding CLMS and for up-to-date news regarding our mission projects.

## God challenges and blesses

When our Board held a telephone conference call in November, we wondered how we would deal with what seemed to be a large impending shortfall in our funding for 2003. We would require more than \$25,000 to fund all our

*Being excited about meeting financial goals may seem rather mundane...*

projects with only a month-and-a-half left in the year. The Lord touched the hearts of our partners, however, and we can again say all projects are funded and all expenses paid. This is most uplifting for us when we consider the challenge placed before our mission partners and ourselves when our project goal for 2003 was \$10,000 higher than 2002. We see God both challenging us, then blessing us as we take up His challenge.

Our project goal has risen each year since 2000 when it was \$25,052; then \$30,250 in 2001; \$47,365 in 2002; \$57,840 in 2003 and now \$60,670 for 2004.

Being excited about meeting financial goals may seem rather mundane compared to the tremendous blessings and growth being reported in our mission fields. I do not feel it is an accident that God has blessed the work of our missionaries and the work of the new emerging churches. Nor is it accidental that our mission society was born and has seen its efforts blessed as the mission activity resulted in financial needs that exceeded our Synod's mission budget. We serve an awesome God!

I again want to thank all our supporters who have contributed to our success. As I have said numerous times in the past, your generosity truly makes you **Partners in the Gospel**.

*Blessings, Terry Goertz*

## Board of Directors, 2004

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Rev. Konny Hahn  
Kitchener, Ontario  
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\* newly elected board members

## Please partner in prayer

We invite you to partner with us in thanksgiving to God that all our 2003 projects were funded and for...

...the emerging Lutheran

Church in Bolivia, that the Gospel be taught in its "truth and purity" and that many would come to know the love of Christ.

...the mission centres being

built in Ukraine and Nicaragua, that the buildings would meet all government standards; that the construction workers be kept in safety; that all would be according to schedule.

...safety for Rev. Sandor

Arguello as he travels to Takuapa, Thailand to assist in the evangelistic training for missionaries. Grant that

their time spent together will be of great value—and a blessing to all.

...the pastors who will be

travelling from Canada to Ukraine to teach at the seminary; for wisdom for the pastor/teachers as they teach and for the students as they prepare to serve in the office of the holy ministry.

...the work that is being done in

Nicaragua—vacation Bible school programs, new congregations, Bible distribution. May God richly bless the recipients of these outreach programs.

...the "Friends' Club" in

Ukraine, that this ministry may reach many young people for Christ, providing encouragement and hope.



*A ranchero escuelas, where children learn and families worship.*



*CLMS Board of Directors: (back, l-r) Rev. David Maffett, Larry Mohr, Dave Schick, Rev. Konny Hahn, Terry Goertz, (front, l-r) Rev. Irwin Pudrycki, Frances Freund, Anne Taylor, Rev. Edwin Lehman.*

## Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS)

An Auxiliary of Lutheran Church-Canada

### To this one it mattered

*“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.”*

Matthew 25:40

A blizzard strikes with fury covering your driveway in a metre of snow. You grab a shovel, work feverishly for a few minutes, then stop to reassess the situation. Your efforts to this point hardly made a dent in the snow bank. A futile exercise, you think to yourself.

While some things in life seem futile, others appear overwhelming. Have you heard of the boy on the beach who felt sorry for tens of thousands of star fish that became stranded on a sand bar when the tide went out? One by one the boy threw the fish back into deeper water where they could swim to safety. A stranger looking on commented, “For every fish you save there are hundreds that will die. What’s the use? It

really doesn’t matter.” The boy thought for a moment, threw another fish back in and said, “To that one it mattered.”

When we consider the task of bringing the Gospel to countless numbers in far away lands, and also to many locally and nationally, the job may appear monumental, even

overwhelming. Will our meagre effort make a difference? Will the little we have to offer matter?

To the one who hears the story of Jesus’ love in his or her own language for the first time, it matters. To struggling new congregations in Ukraine and Nicaragua who need

adequate facilities from which to work, it matters much. For national Thai workers, who require training and encouragement planting Lutheran congregations in southern Thailand, it matters a great deal. To the missionary in Bolivia who, as a result of a caring donor’s help, has a car to get around; to him and the people he visits it makes all the difference in the world.

In another section of this *Mission Advocate* you will find a list of projects the Concordia Lutheran Mission Society is supporting this year. Check the list. See which one you could help with. While most of us will never go to an overseas mission field, through our interest, prayers and financial support—as “Partners in Mission” we are there. Here’s something you can do that *will* make a difference. *This will matter!*

Rev. Irwin Pudrycki



Members of the “Friends Club” in Ukraine.

## 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 (\$5,850)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Thailand – missionary training (\$2,600)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua – mission centre (\$10,000)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua – new mission start (\$5,500)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine – seminary professors’ travel (\$8,000)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine – children’s “Food Bank” (\$3,240)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua – Bibles (\$2,740)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> LCC, international student ministry (\$6,000) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine – “Friends’ Club” (\$3,240)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua – vacation Bible school (\$3,500)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine – mission centre and seminary (\$10,000) |  |

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

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