

VBS popular in Nicaragua

by Rev. Sandor Arguello

There were 2160 children participating in eighteen of our Lutheran congregations around Chinandega, Leon and Matagalpa. Forty-five teachers, 85 volunteer parents, eight pastors, two missionaries, and 17 deaconesses took care of all the children for the four-week school.

According to the teachers' reports this was the most successful VBS ever due to the number of children who finished the whole week with a lot of enthusiasm and the strong desire to go back next year.

The children received five hours everyday of Christian education. The teachers used one different lesson every day according to St. Luke's Gospel. It was so wonderful to see the children doing dramas, singing beautiful songs, even dancing—and everything according to the Bible lessons.

Teachers, parents, children and church workers of our Lutheran Church Nicaragua are so thankful to our Lord Jesus for such opportunity to serve the little ones. No doubt that

God's Holy Spirit is already at work in each of those little hearts that heard the Gospel of our Saviour. We thank also Concordia Lutheran Mission Society for their generosity and willingness to support our VBS 2005. We ask our gracious God to bless you and continue giving you the strength and love to serve for the sake of the Gospel and God's children around the world.

*Sandor Arguello, missionary
Christian Mission in Nicaragua
Lutheran Church-Canada*



VBS student entertains fellow students with a traditional Nicaraguan dance.

Mission opportunity

Do you like playing with HTML code and web pages? Do you want to do something to witness to the Gospel? We have an opportunity for you! CLMS needs a volunteer web master. If you know how to create and

maintain a web page and can spare just a few hours every other month or so (more if you feel really creative!), we would like to talk to you! Please contact Rev. David Maffett, faith.lutheran@ns.sympatico.ca.



A VBS class in Nicaragua

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Mission builders invited

The Concordia Lutheran Mission Society is planning to take a work party to Ukraine to help finish the seminary and mission centre being built near Odessa, Ukraine during the summer of 2006. Carpentry skills would be useful but not

essential. Please indicate your interest and availability to Dr. Norman J. Threinen, Director of Ministries and Projects, 11321 66 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5W 1H5 or e-mail threinen@shaw.ca



Dr. Threinen inspects the foundation work for the seminary in Ukraine

Memorial and Recognition cards

Each congregation within LCC received a limited supply of Memorial and Recognition Cards. All donations received will be used towards current CLMS projects.

(You may select the project to which you wish your gift designated.) Additional cards can be obtained by contacting the LCC Synodical office, 1-800-588-4226 or by e-mail: lcc@mts.net



THANK YOU to all at Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton for the use of their facilities while the CLMS Board of Directors met February 4-5, 2005. Thanks as well to Rev. William Ney and the congregation at St. Matthew, Stony Plain, Alberta for their gracious hospitality extended as they hosted the Annual Meeting of Concordia Lutheran Mission Society.



Completed: a Bolivian hymnal

...See, I have placed before you an open door...

Rev. 3: 8

These words spoken by Jesus to the angel of the church in Philadelphia are also words to be heard by all Christians. All members of Lutheran Church-Canada have witnessed this open door in the past decade. Our outreach to the world has seen blessings and growth that leave no doubt about who has opened the door.

As CLMS passed the ripe old age of eight, we have seen this open door in our ministry also. In 2004 we were privileged to disburse just over \$68,000 in project-related funding. All 2004 regular projects were fully funded except the project for international students, which was carried forward to 2005 (implementation of this project was delayed, so no funding was required for 2004). We expended \$55,844 for regular projects, \$2,901 for donor-initiated projects, and about \$9,375 (\$7,500US) for the Kamenka seminary project.

Our board of directors met in Edmonton February 4-5 to celebrate our blessings, to hear reports, to choose new projects for 2005, to elect officers and appoint directors, to plan the year, (since we meet only once a year in person), and to make decisions related to the business of operating the society.

This year Larry Mohr and Rev. Dr. Edwin Lehman retired from our board. In the mail election for three board members, David Schick (Richmond, B.C.) was re-elected and then appointed director of development at the board meeting; Rev. Dr. Norman Threinen (Edmonton, Alta.) was elected then appointed director of ministries and projects, and

Stan Diehl (Innerkip, Ont.) was elected and appointed assistant director of development.

Elected and appointed board members continuing their terms are as follows: Terry Goerz (High Prairie, Alta.) president; Frances Freund (Winkler, Man.) treasurer; Anne Taylor (Ottawa, Ont.) secretary and appointed assistant director of mission education; Rev. Irwin Pudrycki (Regina, Sask.) elected vice president and appointed assistant director of development; Rev. David Maffett (Dartmouth, N.S.) appointed director of mission education and Rev. Konny Hahn (Kitchener, Ont.) appointed assistant director of ministries and projects.

A second printing of the memorial and recognition cards was completed. A new brochure will be available shortly.

St Matthew's Lutheran Church in Stony Plain, Alta hosted our annual meeting February 6. Reports were shared and Bruce and Marilyn Harrison of Calgary told of their experiences teaching for a year in Thailand. Rev. Dr. Edwin Lehman brought an update of the effect of the tsunami on Lutheran churches around the Indian Ocean.

The board of directors continues to recognize this open door of opportunity as a challenge with which our Lord has blessed us. We continue to thank our mission partners for their generosity in helping our missionaries take advantage of this open door. We ask for your continued prayers as we take on a challenging projects goal once again.

Blessings,
Terry Goerz

New projects adopted

Since its founding eight years ago CLMS has funded more than ninety projects around the world—Australia, Bolivia, Thailand, Ukraine, Nicaragua, India, Africa, Honduras and here at home. Eight years of projects have involved people—people supporting the needs of CLMS with their financial gifts and prayers; people sharing the Good News of the Gospel in word and in action; people hearing and responding to the Good News of the Gospel.

Many of our “Partners in Mission” have designated their gifts “wherever needed.” This gives us opportunity to support priority projects as soon as funds are available and to allocate monies to other projects that might not receive the required funding.

CLMS has also received specially designated funds for a number of “Donor Initiated Projects.” These funds have been remitted according to donor instructions. All money donated to projects goes directly to projects—nothing is withheld for administration.

The following projects were adopted by the board of directors of CLMS at its recent board meeting:

0501 Mission in Honduras Start-up costs and initial ongoing expenses for new mission work in Olanchito, Honduras. The first missionary will come from among pastors trained in Nicaragua. \$6,000

0502 Water System, Nigeria To provide portable water to the Lutheran High School, Ikot Udo Mbang, Ukanafun in Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria. \$5,000

0503 Thailand, church rent Rent of buildings in the Thai

Muang and Kasom, Thailand used to carry out the work of mission and the church. \$1,950

0504 Seminary professors for Ukraine Transportation costs for two professors scheduled to teach in Concordia Seminary, Odessa. \$5,500

0505 New Mission in Ukraine Start-up costs and initial expenses for new mission in Dnepropetrovsk. The first missionary will come from among pastors trained in Ukraine. \$4,500

0506 Educational resources, Ukraine Reprinting of the Russian-language translation of Luther’s *Small Catechism* as well as printing of baptismal, confirmation and marriage certificates. \$5,000

0507 Seminary and mission centre, Ukraine Continued funding for the building of a seminary and mission centre near Odessa, Ukraine. 2004 completion scheduled. \$10,000

0508 Matagalpa office rent, Nicaragua Rent of office space in Matagalpa, a centre for higher education in Northern Nicaragua. \$6,000

0509 Continuing education seminars, Thailand Transportation, lodging and food for two seminar lecturers travelling to Thailand to provide continuing education. \$6,000

0510 Generator, Thailand Purchase and installation of a portable gasoline generator for a Lutheran church building outside of Khok Kloi, Thailand \$1,000

0511 Matagalpa, children’s education Cost for reaching out with tutoring and religious instruction to 25 children and their families in Matagalpa, Nicaragua. \$3,125

0512 Worship material, Thailand Purchase of 42 hymnals, 24 Bibles and six children’s Bibles for use in the congregations of Takuapa Sahatay Lutheran Church. \$750

0513 Children’s camp, Ukraine Food, transportation and shelter for children not otherwise able to attend the camp. \$1,250

0514 Music lessons and keyboard, Thailand Professional training for two young members of Takuapa Sahatay Lutheran Church, Thailand and for a keyboard. \$1,000

0515 Motorcycle repairs, Thailand Repairs for the motorcycle used by the pastor in Khok Kloi, Thailand. \$250

0516 Friends Club, Ukraine Rental of an apartment in Dnepropetrovsk where a small group of orphaned and abandoned children meet under direction of Cladimir Koilov, making their first contact with the Lutheran Church. \$2,300

0517 International students’ Ministry A task force meeting of persons with expertise in this area to develop a coherent and effective strategy for reaching international students in Canada. \$3,000



Pastor Suchat Chujit, LCC missionary and his motorbike transportation at Kasom, Thailand.



Kok Kloi church needs a portable gasoline generator.

Following Jesus' lead

Since you're reading this I assume you are concerned with mission work, Jesus' commission to take His Gospel to the world. You no doubt ask yourself how to go about that commission. Is there a model which we can follow?

We really don't have to look any farther than the Gospel of Matthew for a model of ministry. Jesus had a way of doing mission that He passed on to His disciples. Twice Matthew summarizes Jesus' ministry in almost identical words. *Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.* (Mt 4:23; cf. 9:35.)

Jesus did three things.

First, He spoke to people in markets, at weddings, at funerals, wherever, and told them the good news that the Kingdom of

Heaven is near! Some of those people were very devout Jews; others were prostitutes and tax collectors—the "sinners." Yet He told them all the good news that God was no longer angry and distant. He wasn't just the distant subject of ancient Scriptures. Rather He was present in Jesus and was setting up His kingdom. Jesus invited people into that kingdom through repentance.

Jesus also taught in their synagogues, their churches if you will. That was the opportunity to explain the Gospel in more detail, from the scriptures, just like we do every Sunday.

Finally, Jesus healed every



Nicaraguan children wait for class to begin.

kind of disease and sickness. Disease and death are part of God's judgment on our sin. Healings were therefore signs that Jesus' message was true. The time of judgment was almost over; the Kingdom of God was becoming visible.

That was Jesus' model, the way he did mission. And that's the model He passed on to His disciples. He sent them out on His mission saying, "As you go,

preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons"(Mt 10:7-8).

There is a model we can follow today: proclaim, teach and care for human needs. That's what our CLMS mission projects are all about. Each project approved for 2005 in some way enables LCC missionaries and partner churches to proclaim the Gospel, teach it in detail and care for human need as a witness that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is true. As you and I support these projects, we don't just do good deeds. We enter into Jesus' mission! We continue what He did and what He sent the first disciples to do. Won't you join in Jesus' mission and follow His lead by supporting one of the projects for this year?

Rev. David Maffett

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

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| <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Mission, Honduras (\$6,000)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Thailand church rent (\$5,000)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Mission, Ukraine (\$4,500)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine, seminary & mission centre (\$10,000)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Thailand, continuing education seminars (\$6,000)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua, Matagalpa, children's education (\$3,125)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine, children's camp (\$1,250)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Thailand, motorcycle repairs (\$250)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> International students' ministry (\$3,000)</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Water system, Nigeria (\$5,000)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Seminary professors, Ukraine (\$5,500)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Educational resources, Ukraine (\$5,000)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua, Matagalpa office rent (\$6,000)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Thailand, generator (\$1,000)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Thailand, worship material (\$750)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Thailand, music lessons & keyboard (\$1,000)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ukraine, Friends Club (\$2,300)</p> |
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Mr., Mrs., Ms. Rev. _____ First name(s) _____ Last name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____ Country _____ Postal Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Home Congregation _____

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Signature _____