

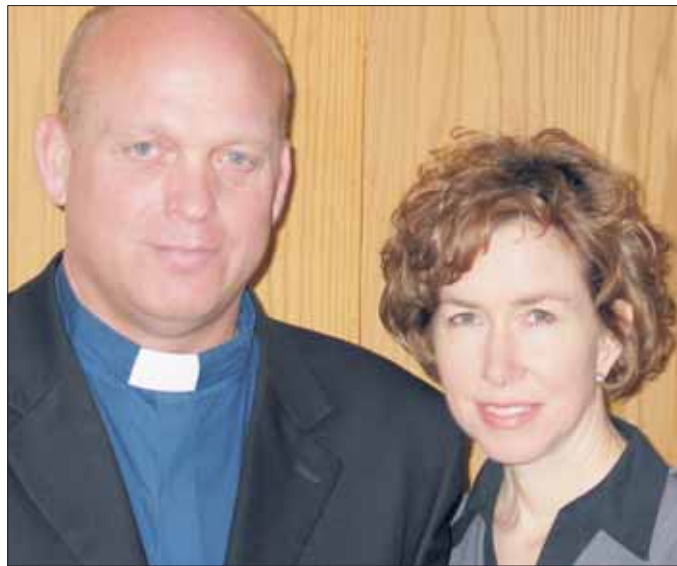
## No better place...

by Jodie Haberstock

More than seventy persons attended the annual meeting of CLMS hosted by Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kitchener, featuring former LCC missionary to Ukraine, Rev. Roland Syens and his wife Anita as guest mission speaker. Following is a summary of his presentation by Jodie Haberstock, newly-elected to the CLMS Board of Directors.

Giving up all the status and comforts of Canada, struggling with a new language, and suffering from loneliness and isolation, the young pastor, Rev. Roland Syens, could question his purpose in Dnepropetrovsk. He was confident of God's calling though, often being reminded that "there is no better place than where God wants you to be."

For twelve years Pastor Roland persevered in Ukraine, being strengthened and comforted by the Lord



Rev. Roland and Anita Syens, former LCC missionary to Ukraine

and uplifted by prayers. The last five years have been perhaps sweeter now that he's in partnership with his wife, Anita. She knew God's calling for her was to serve wherever her husband was, being an encouragement, support, and help. They have now been called to serve at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kitchener where Pastor Roland is assistant pastor. This is where God now wants them to be.

In Ukraine, ministry began with 25 students in a group called the Alpha and Omega Christian Education of Youth Association whose statement of purpose is "to know and make

known God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit," based on the Great Commission, and has grown to encompass many different aspects. Now more than 200 students use their gifts and talents to build relationships and share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. There are Bible study groups, Christian ministry groups, sports teams, orphanage outreaches, television ministry, an Internet café, concert, drama, and music ministries.

Today, the students continue fulfilling this purpose being led by Nikolai Slobodanuk and Sergei Nikolenko with help from Ukrainian pastor Rev. Aleksey Navrotskyi who has been called by LCC as a missionary in Dnepropetrovsk to replace Pastor Syens.

The sports teams play soccer and volleyball games against local recreational teams and share the Gospel at half time. There are eight different teams comprising 120 people.

Ministry in tuberculosis sanatoriums where orphans are housed has involved sharing Bible stories, Christmas trees, presents and chocolate. At an orphanage for disabled

***They always try to help in some practical way.***

children, the group was able to pay for a carpet and installation. They always try to help in some practical way when they are asked.

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

At its recent meeting, the ACLMS Board of Directors adopted nearly \$73,000 in projects—the highest amount ever. As in years past, these projects will be funded through the generous support of our *Mission Partners*—the men, women, congregations and Sunday schools of Lutheran Church—Canada—that is above and beyond regular offerings to congregations, district and synod missions and ministries.

Some projects continue from previous years, either because their size was beyond the capability of CLMS to support in one year, or because they were deemed essential to LCC's ongoing mission commitments.

Projects include:

**0601 – Ukraine Seminary and Mission Centre (\$10,000)**

A new seminary and mission centre is being built near Odessa, Ukraine to provide adequate instructional and

dormitory space for training future pastors for Ukraine. Funds will help to make this facility a reality.

**0602 – Nicaragua Seminary and Mission Centre (\$12,000)**

A new seminary and mission centre is being built in Chinandega, Nicaragua to provide adequate space for training future pastors for the mission in Nicaragua and other areas of Central America. Funds will be used for this building.

**0603 – Vacation Bible School Program, Nicaragua (\$4,125)**

Vacation Bible schools are an effective outreach tool in Nicaragua and are expected to draw 2,500 children in January 2007. Funds will cover the cost of materials.

**0604 – Support for the Work of Deaconesses in Nicaragua (\$4,800)**

Deaconesses in Nicaragua are active in Christian education, evangelism, social ministry and family ministry. Funding will pay

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The television ministry has grown. The program airs twice a week, usually on the third Sunday and then repeating again the following week. The TV program targets 15- to 35-year-olds who are not attending church. It's an innovative ministry and the members do all of it themselves, from scratch. One particular family has taken on the technical end and both father and son, along with two others, have had special training at the Conway Crossroads School of Broadcast and Communications in Burlington, Ontario.

Three music teams convey three different musical styles to reach a variety of groups. In addition to sharing God's Word through music, the young people are drawn in by the musical instruments. As

relationships are built, the Gospel is shared.

One special tandem project involves Canadian and Ukrainian participants. Canadian young adults from LCC have travelled to Ukraine to come together with the Alpha and Omega group members to plan and to share the Gospel at vacation Bible schools in southern Ukraine. James Triskle of Medicine Hat is currently planning an extended stay this spring and summer to coordinate this undertaking.

In any way possible, means are found to share the Gospel within a city and country tenderly loved by the Lord. Knowing their purpose and letting God work through them, each Alpha and Omega servant of the Lord in Ukraine knows there is no better place than where God wants *them* to be.

travel costs and other work-related expenses.

**0605 – Female Thailand Evangelists (\$3,000)**

The missionary in Thailand is assisted, part-time, by two women working in market places and who call on single women attracted to the Christian faith. Funding will provide for their transportation, food and some compensation.

**0606 – Lay Leaders Training for Outreach, Philippines (\$5000)**

With only 28 ordained pastors and seven evangelists, lay leaders serve some of the 90 congregations and mission stations and are part of the strategy for growth of the church. Funds will assist in their training for service.

**0607 – Children's Christian Education, Matagalpa and Jinotega, Nicaragua (\$5,400)**

Many baptisms and additions to the church are directly related to contacts made through this program. Funds will provide school equipment for 25 children in each of these two mission stations.

**0608 – Renovations and Equipment, Armansk, Ukraine (\$1,500)**

Healthy growth in this new mission in North Crimea has forced it to move to larger quarters. Funds will provide bathroom and kitchen equipment as well as cover transportation costs for chairs for the worship area.

**0609 – Washroom Facilities for Congregations in Nicaragua (\$5,760)**

Four churches in Nicaragua have permanent church buildings but no proper washroom facilities even though they are in urban communities. Funds will provide these facilities.

**0610 – Theological Education, Southeast Asia (\$6,000)**

A group of unaffiliated pastors

in Cambodia have become Lutherans through contact with a Lutheran Hour Ministries course on Luther's Small Catechism. Funds will be used to explore how they can become Lutheran pastors.

**0611 – Short Term Missionary, Ukraine (\$3,500)**

A young man from Alberta has exhibited good leadership skills in connection with Ukraine youth volunteers. He has been asked to spend several months in Ukraine in 2006. Funds will be used to provide transportation and supplies for him.

**0612 – Sewing School, Nicaragua (\$6,000)**

The mission in Nicaragua has developed a sewing school which is recognized by the government. Funds will provide a classroom, teacher and supplies.

**0613 – Member Transportation, Thailand (\$2,880)**

Older members, single mothers and children cannot afford transportation to and from church in Thailand. Funds will provide weekly transportation for members and prospective members to attend worship.

**0614 – Cross-Cultural Ministry Conference (\$3,000)**

Many English-speaking pastors and congregations across Canada are faced with the need to confess Christ cross-culturally. Funds will support the cost of a conference which will assist them to do so.

More details on these projects are available at [www.concordiamissions.org](http://www.concordiamissions.org). 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. Dr. Norman Threinen at 205-494-9459 or [threinen@shaw.ca](mailto:threinen@shaw.ca). You can also use the printed response form on page 32.

## PRESIDENT

### *We rejoice...*

As CLMS moves into its ninth year of service to our Synod and all the people within it, *we rejoice* in God's continued blessings.

At the annual February board meeting, *we rejoiced* that funding was remitted for all mission projects except for a few in which the work was not undertaken or not completed. In some cases, unspent funds were carried forward in hope that the projects will still be carried out; in others the funds were applied to new but similar projects for 2006.

*We rejoiced* that the people of God continue to trust CLMS to be good stewards of their over-and-above mission gifts. Such designated gifts are applied in their entirety to their chosen projects, without any deductions for operation. Most administrative costs are covered by directors themselves, or, in some cases, by undesignated funds.

*We rejoice* at the gift of new directors to provide additional energy and vision to the society: Jodie Haberstock and Lauren Bugbee were elected to their first term, while Stan Diehl, elected a year ago, attended his first meeting. The undersigned was returned to the Board after a one year absence.

*We rejoice* over the dedication of continuing board members, Rev. Konstantin Hahn, Rev. Irwin Pudrycki, Dave Schick, Rev. Dr. Norman Threinen, Frances Freund.

*We rejoiced* even as we had to bid farewell to three retiring directors: Rev. David Maffett (Dartmouth, N.S.), Anne Taylor (Ottawa) and Terry Goerz (High Prairie, Alta.). The last two were among the founding directors who met in February 1997 to organize CLMS.

*We rejoiced* as we adopted a record total for new projects, just under \$73,000. Two major, multi-year projects, to provide mission centre/ seminary facilities in Nicaragua and Ukraine are nearing completion.

Most of all, *we rejoice* that God continues to use us in the service of His Kingdom, and of our Synod. Our thanks to all who love the Lord, and partner together with us in carrying out His mission.

*Ed Lehman*



Rev. Dr. Edwin Lehman (left), newly elected CLMS president, Tim Reck (Christ Lutheran Church, St. Catharines), and Past-president Terry Goerz discuss the building project at the Matagalpa Mission, supported by both Christ Lutheran congregation and CLMS. Mr. Reck had recently returned from carrying out renovations and construction at the mission. Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines also partnered in this project by having seven assist in the renovations in January.

## BOARD FOR 2006



Back (l-r): Stan Diehl, David Schick, Rev. Dr. Norman Threinen, Rev. Konstantin Hahn. Front: Jodie Haberstock, Frances Freund, Rev. Dr. Edwin Lehman, Rev. Erwin Pudrycki, Lauren Bugbee.

### **President**

Rev. Dr. Edwin Lehman\*  
Edmonton, Alberta

### **Vice-president**

Rev. Irwin Pudrycki  
Regina, Saskatchewan

### **Secretary**

Lauren Bugbee\*  
Waterloo, Ontario

### **Treasurer**

Frances Freund  
Winkler, Manitoba

### **Director of Ministry & Projects**

Rev. Dr. Norman Threinen  
Summerland, B.C.,

### **Coming your way**

May 28 has been designated by LCC as CLMS Sunday. Watch for materials for congregational use.

### **Assistant Director of Ministry & Projects**

Jodie Haberstock\*  
Vernon, B.C.

### **Director of Mission Education**

Rev. Konstantin Hahn  
Waterloo, Ontario

### **Assistant Director of Mission Education**

Lauren Bugbee

### **Director of Mission Development**

Dave Schick  
Maple Ridge, B.C.

### **Assistant Directors of Mission Development**

Stan Diehl  
Innerkip, Ontario,  
Rev. Irwin Pudrycki

\*newly elected board members

### **Looking for Candidates**

It's not too soon to start thinking about candidates to serve on the CLMS Board of Directors. We will need one person on the board with accounting experience to serve as treasurer to replace our current treasurer whose term

expires February 2007. You may submit your nomination to Dr. Edwin Lehman, CLMS President, 686 Lee Ridge Road, NW, Edmonton, AB T6K 0P2. Phone: 780-462-9608; Fax: 780-468-2172; E-mail: edwinlehman@shaw.ca

Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS)

An Auxiliary of Lutheran Church—Canada

If God had a wish

Do you suppose God has a wish list? I asked the question in one of my confirmation classes. The answers were interesting. Yes, He wishes that all people would live in peace...that love would reign supreme...that *all* might be saved.” That’s it! In 1 Timothy 2:3–4 Paul writes: “God our Saviour desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Earlier this year we heard of 72 miners trapped in a Saskatchewan potash mine. Before that, eleven died in a West Virginia coal mine disaster. We are thankful to God the 72 made it out safely. It is hard, if not impossible, to capture the urgency and intensity of critical rescue by merely reading about such events in the newspaper. Until we are in that position, we can hardly imagine the anxiety, the deep longing and most intense prayers of on-lookers, hoping that their loved ones will make it out alive.



Members of a Nicaraguan congregation send greetings to their Canadian brothers and sisters in Christ. The photo was taken during a visit by Rev. Dr. David Somers (Ascension, Montreal) and Rev. Dr. Ed Lehman (LCC President Emeritus) who are in the back left of the group. They were in Nicaragua to conduct seminary classes.

Human rescue stories help us identify with God’s greatest wish, that all come to the knowledge of the truth. All people are His children. In our busy-ness, it is easy to lose sight of this truth. With natural disasters, tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes, mudslides, and a variety of other tragedies happening on a broad scale, we become desensitized to death,

especially when it doesn’t effect us directly. But in God’s heart, each individual is precious. His heart bleeds for one no less than for another. He would have everyone come to know Jesus as Saviour and become His forgiven child.

The vision of the Concordia Lutheran Mission Society is to further God’s mission. “God so loved the world...” (John 3:16),

not merely Canadian and American, but also Jewish, Hispanic, Palestinian, Aboriginal, Dene people, so that all might be saved. Dearest to us are our loved ones. God’s loved ones are all humans. He sent His Son to rescue all six-plus billion from sin and death.

This reality defines the work of CLMS. It sharpens the realization of what we are about and intensifies our resolve to do our best in sharing the Gospel of Jesus wherever God provides the opportunity. Please take the time to check the CLMS 2006 project list in this edition of the *Mission Advocate*. See where and how you might become more directly involved in supporting the spread of the saving Gospel. It is an awesome task. It is a great responsibility, a unique privilege, and a distinct honour to be partners in God’s great rescue mission.

Rev. Irwin Pudrycki, Assistant Director of Mission Development

Response Form

We invite you to prayerfully consider your support for one of the following 2006 CLMS projects.

Please indicate how we may direct your donation by returning this form along with your cheque to Concordia Lutheran Mission Society to

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ Ukraine, seminary and mission centre (\$10,000)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nicaragua, deaconess support (\$4800)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Philippines, lay leader training for outreach (\$5000)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nicaragua, washroom facilities for congregations (\$5760)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ukraine, short-term missionary (\$3500)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Thailand, member transportation (\$2880)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nicaragua, seminary and mission centre (\$12,000)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nicaragua, Children’s Christian Education in Matagalpa and Jinotega (\$5400)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nicaragua, vacation Bible school program (\$4,125)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Thailand, female evangelists (\$3000)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ukraine, renovations and equipment, Armansk (\$1500)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Southeast Asia, theological education (\$6000)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nicaragua, sewing school (\$6000)
- \_\_\_\_\_ LCC Districts, cross-cultural ministry conference (\$3000)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Where needed

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Home Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Recent legislation requires your authorization to collect this information. CLMS has a privacy policy in place to protect your personal information. Please sign below authorizing us to use this information in accordance with our privacy policy.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_