

Overseas missions: up close and personal

Cameron, age 16, and Mitchell Simpson, 15, recently travelled to Honduras as part of a mission team consisting of ten students along with two teachers from Christ Lutheran School in Kitchener. Also accompanying them was a representative from Missionary Ventures, an interdenominational organization that, for more than 25 years, has assisted youth from schools and churches in being involved in foreign missions.

This was the second tour for Cameron and Mitchell. The ten-day mission was arranged to coincide with the end of their school year. Along with bringing with them suitcases loaded with shoes, school supplies, clothes and medications, their tasks on-site involved making repairs to a basketball court at one school and building a playground at

Things that seemed very important are no longer.

another and in the course of it all being ambassadors of the love of Christ to the children and adults they met.

Both Cameron and Mitchell felt that these mission experiences were life changing for them. For Cameron, being exposed to unfamiliar situations helped him realize, as never before,



Cameron and Mitchell Simpson experienced overseas missions first-hand

the Lord's closeness as well as gaining a new appreciation for the things at home he had previously taken for granted. For Mitchell the experience has resulted in a change of priorities. Things that at one time seemed very important are important no longer and things he had previously not even thought about have become priorities.

The changes in Cameron and Mitchell have not been lost on their parents, Jim and Ruth Ann. They have observed a kinship among the members of the mission team that developed not only while on the mission, but throughout the school year as they regularly met to pray and prepare for their mission.

Bottom line, missionaries come in all shapes, sizes, ages and from all walks of life! Read on. ✚

Servants for Christ in Ukraine

Summertime often brings **S**words such as rest and relaxation to our minds. However, for many hard-working short term missionaries, their summers will be spent doing just the opposite. For Roy Sullivan (Kitchener, Ont.), Chris Priestler (Kitchener, Ont), Rev. Irwin Pudrycki (Regina, Sask.), and Fred Luciw (Winnipeg, Man.) this is definitely the case as they head to Ukraine to assist in building the Lutheran Seminary.

Many people support missions financially, but

motivates someone to give of themselves physically? For these men there was a need, and after much prayer they knew God had given them talents and abilities that would support the training of pastors at this seminary. The team arrived in Ukraine August 8, 2006 and continued their work for just under three weeks.

CLMS adopts many projects to support, and this year one of them was the completion of the seminary in Ukraine. We were pleased to have an opportunity to speak to these gentlemen before they headed on this exciting endeavour to get an idea about the work they would be doing.

...God had given them talents and abilities...

The workers received an update on how far along the building was, and what still needing to be done. The main structure is complete; however plumbing and electrical work would be the focus of their time

Continued on page 36

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ☞ Congregation builds ties
- ☞ Mission work not just for highly trained

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

God's Grace for Trying Times

As this is being written, the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah is some two weeks old. By the time these words are read—sometime in September—that conflict may be a thing of the past. Or, it may have spiralled out of control with consequences we could never have imagined.

“Wars and rumours of war” are nothing new for this sin-riddled world. Our Lord said it would be that way. But He has also promised that “the Gospel of the Kingdom” will continue to be preached to the end of the world, and to the end of time.

Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS) is privileged to play a small role in the way God fulfills His promises. We are instruments in God's hands, but also instruments of His church and of His people. That's what it means to be “Partners in Mission.”

God continues to bless that partnership. Earlier this year, we were represented at three district

conventions and the national convention of LWML—Canada. In addition, having a special Sunday designated as CLMS Sunday provided greatly increased exposure at the congregational level. With more people becoming aware of CLMS as a reliable partner in mission, financial support has also increased. To complete the Nicaragua mission centre and seminary in the face of runaway inflation, we used temporary funding for that project and have now paid most of it off. We have also been able to pay out the cost of renovations for a congregation at Armansk, Ukraine, short term missionary costs for Ukraine, and member transportation in Thailand. By God's grace, and with the faithful support of our mission partners, we expect to pay for all the projects chosen for this year, some \$73,000.

We give thanks to God for His undeserved goodness!

Ed Lehman

Ordinations in Ukraine

April 15, 2006 was a day of great rejoicing for the congregation in Krasnoperekopsk, Ukraine as two of their lay pastors, Viktor Gorst and Alexander Brodt, were ordained into the Holy Ministry. Dr. Norman Threinen, who had spend two-and-a-half months supervising their vicarage following their graduation in 2005, was present and participated with Bishop Viktor Graefenstein in their ordination.

As their names betray, both men have a German background, although their mother tongue is Russian and they have Russian wives. Both men were successful businessmen before becoming Christians about five years ago; in fact Pastor Brodt was the manager

of a farming operation where he had 150 men over whom he had responsibility.

Pastor Gorst has been assigned to be pastor of the mother congregation in Krasnoperekopsk which moved into its new church building this spring. As recently as four years ago, the congregation did not have a confirmed member but now, with as many as 100 people attending worship, its former worship space had become too small. Pastor Brodt has been assigned to continue developing the new mission in Armansk, 35 km north of Krasnoperekopsk, which now regularly has about 45 people attending. He has also begun worship in his home in a village several kilometres

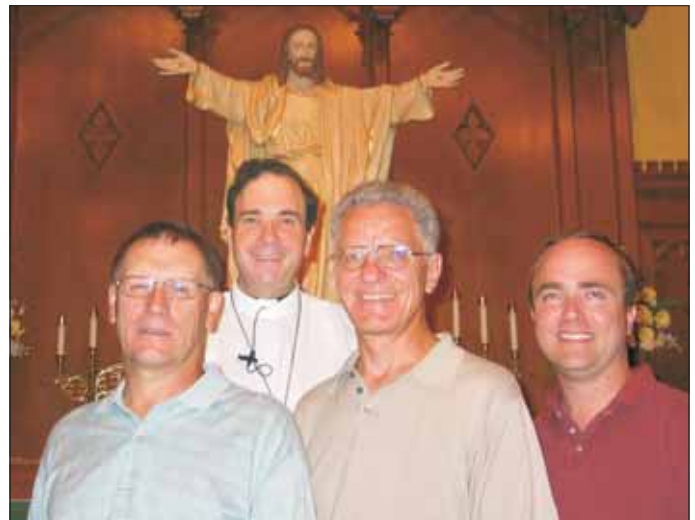
Continued from page 35
in Ukraine. While the men were quite willing and eager to take their favourite power tools, they worked with a different voltage there and most would not be compatible.

With a different country comes a different culture, and so we asked if there were any hesitations regarding the trip. Canadians live in a society that puts a great deal of importance on planning and organization. Circumstances in Ukraine often call for much flexibility, as plans can change moment by moment. Communication is also something that can make anyone travelling to another country nervous. The area in Ukraine where these men were headed is mainly Russian-speaking, however many Ukrainians have a good handle on English, and are always ready and willing to assist in translation.

While the men would be giving of themselves physically, as with most mission journeys, participants often receive more than they give. We asked them how they hoped to benefit spiritually from this experience. We as Canadians are so blessed physically, that when confronted with a society with less, it can be very humbling. The commitment and sacrifices people make in other countries to be a Christian helps us to re-evaluate our own priorities. Making a habit of Bible study and prayer together while on the trip also helps the Canadians to grow in their walk with God both in Ukraine, and when they bring the lessons they've learned home with them.

We thank these gentleman for the fine example they are of what it means to be a servant for Christ.

Lauren Bugbee



A commissioning service took place August 6 at Holy Cross, Kitchener conducted by Pastor Robert Bugbee. Commissioned were (l-r): Roy Sullivan, Pastor Irwin Pudryki, Chris Priester and Fred Luciow in absentia.

southeast of Krasnoperekopsk, which does not have a Christian church of any kind.

The ordination of these two men not only provides pastoral leadership to the congregations involved, but also fulfils an important role in the strategy of the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Congregations in Ukraine which

previously did not have an ordained pastor in the northern part of Crimea. The mission in Armansk is a daughter congregation of the Krasnoperekopsk congregation and people in the congregation are already talking about planting additional congregations in two nearby communities in the next five to ten years.

Faith Lutheran, Kitchener builds ties in Nicaragua



Pastor Warren Hamp and Martin Bender at work in Rancheria, Nicaragua

From January 16 through 27, 2006, Pastor Warren Hamp and Martin Bender, of Faith Lutheran, Kitchener were privileged to be with our church in Nicaragua. The pair worked for most days with a construction crew at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in the village of Rancheria. They helped with the construction and were entertained by the many children in the poor village. Faith congregation, along with Peace Lutheran Church, Grenfell, Saskatchewan, has raised the funds needed to complete the Rancheria church building, and hopes to maintain an ongoing partnership in the Gospel with the congregation.

This opportunity has stirred interest in and care for our

Nicaraguan Lutheran brothers and sisters in Faith congregation. Already the congregation has committed Lenten offerings over the next three years to support Holy Trinity in Rancheria through Lutheran Church—Canada, and this fall, the Sunday school will work toward sponsoring children from the Rancheria congregation so they can attend school. As well, several members of Faith congregation have expressed interest in making a trip to Nicaragua in support of our church there next winter.

We thank the Holy Spirit for blessing us with a new partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Pastor Warren Hamp

Mission work isn't just for highly trained missionaries

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah.' John 1:41

In our time, great distances have become small. People who once waited weeks, even months to receive a letter from a loved one abroad can now pick up the telephone and talk with them immediately, at reasonable prices. Pictures of far away gatherings that used to be taken, then developed, and then sent to us, now come through the Internet right after the event happened.

One of the happiest things now possible for members of our churches is that some of them actually have the chance to go to a foreign mission field to build, teach, and pray alongside believers whom previous generations could only picture in their mind's eye.

You'll find a few of those kinds of stories included in this issue of the Mission Advocate.

In a real way, personal involvement in spreading the Gospel is nothing new. Long before organized church structures or mission offerings ever came to be, Andrew responded to Jesus' call by going right away to tell someone else about the Messiah.

Our Concordia Lutheran Mission Society thanks God for every way we are able to help this happen. We are glad some of the projects we support have enabled pastors, seminary professors, and members of Lutheran Church—Canada congregations go to faraway mission fields so that the people there now seem very close to us.

We're grateful for every way in which our projects make it possible for new believers in foreign lands to go to their neighbours and speak the good news of Him who bled and died for all.

We also praise the Lord for many people who, for whatever

reason, cannot set out on such trips personally, but who can help them happen through their devoted support of CLMS. We hope God will use the stories of this edition to open many eyes and hearts to the ways you can

further the mission of Christ by sharing your gifts with us. And please be assured that we will work hard to be prayerful and wise in the way we use them.

Lauren Bugbee, Assistant Director of Mission Education

Seminary and Mission Centre in Chinandega, Nicaragua



This is one of the projects funded through CLMS over the past three years. A generous grant from the Schwan foundation helped keep the project on schedule before rampant inflation would have severely hampered its completion.

Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS), an auxiliary of Lutheran Church Canada, serves the church by promoting and supporting our church's missions and keeping the members of our synod informed of mission work carried out both on a corporate and individual basis.

Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS)

An Auxiliary of Lutheran Church-Canada

Being involved first-hand is an amazing joy

It started as the inspiration of Pastor Gary Kuenzel, then assistant pastor at Christ Lutheran, St. Catharines, who had opportunity, in connection with the St. Catharines seminary, to teach in Nicaragua for two weeks. How about a team of members assisting with the mission work there? In the middle of March, 2005, a team of ten headed down with a three-fold plan: assist with renovations to the pastor's house; lead craft and ESL (English as a Second Language) workshops; and conduct seminars in dental care and first aid where the Gospel could be shared.

The team distributed nine suitcases full of medicine and 1,700 toothbrushes. Ladies from all over the area gathered for craft classes and music. Not only did the construction crew fix up the home of Pastor Hector Morales, but they bought him a fridge, stove and mattresses for their beds. The construction team also went searching for a better site than the



Dedication service at Christ Lutheran Church, Matagalpa

pastor's house for the little congregation, a place where a church could be built. They found a site, gave a down-payment, and returned to Canada to raise funds to complete the purchase.

Christ congregation, with some help from other friends, raised the \$9,000 needed in the 60 day time window. But now a church needed to be built. Plans

were set in motion for a return trip.

Led by Pastor Steve Oetting, a team of twelve, including members from Christ, St. Catharines, Our Saviour, Grimbsy, and Prince of Peace, Burlington, headed off in December 2005. Celebrating New Year in festive Nicaraguan style, the team had two jobs. The first was to conduct a vacation Bible school in Matagalpa

and witness to Jesus Christ in the community. The other was building a church. More than 100 children attended the Matagalpa VBS, and another 80 came to a one-day program in Jinotega. After three weeks of work, Iglesia Luterana de Cristo (Christ Lutheran Church) was dedicated to God's glory.

Of course, we're not done yet. Plans are underway to return this December, 2006, to complete renovations on another building on the church property. A vacation Bible school will reach out to nearby Jinotega, and we will seek property there to build another church. What an amazing joy it is to be involved first-hand with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are working so enthusiastically and so effectively in sharing Jesus. Whatever we have offered to them we have received back ten-fold in God's blessings and love.

Pastor Steve Oetting

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**

- 601 Ukraine, seminary and mission centre (\$10,000)
- 602 Nicaragua, seminary and mission centre (\$12,000)
- 603 Nicaragua, vacation Bible school program (\$4,125)
- 604 Nicaragua, deaconess support (\$4,800)
- 605 Thailand, female evangelists (\$3,000)
- 606 Philippines, lay leader training for outreach (\$5,000)
- 607 Nicaragua, Children's Christian Education in Matagalpa and Jinotega (\$5,400)

- 608 Ukraine, renovations and equipment, Armansk (\$1,500) COMPLETED**
- 609 Nicaragua, washroom facilities for congregations (\$5,760)
- 610 Southeast Asia, theological education (\$6,000)
- 611 Ukraine, short-term missionary (\$3,500)
- 612 Nicaragua, sewing school (\$6,000)
- 613 Thailand, member transportation (\$2,880) COMPLETED**
- 614 LCC Districts, cross-cultural ministry conference (\$3,000)

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 _____