

Thanksgiving for 2003; plans for 2004

AS 2003 DRAWS TO A CLOSE, LCC missions rejoice in God's blessings and look forward to new opportunities to share the Good News in 2004.

Thailand

This year has seen rapid change for Sahathai Lutheran Church in Takuapa, Thailand. At the beginning of the year, the church ordained and installed a new pastor, Suchat Srikakhan, to serve the church in Takuapa. While responsible for the church as pastor, he also earns a living for himself and his family as a building contractor. He finds time to do both a complete pastoral ministry and manage a construction company.

The first pastor of the parish, Rev. Suchat Chujit, was called by Sahathai Lutheran Church to be a missionary under the calling of Lutheran Church-Canada. He was installed on October 1 and began his work in the provincial capital of Phang Nga reaching out to the villages and towns on the east side of the province.

These dramatic changes form the backdrop for what is planned for 2004. The future for the mission in Phang Nga is wide open. That is both positive and negative. The field is great. Most of the people in the province have never heard of Christ much less know who He is and what He has done for them. However, the work is difficult because the message of Christ contrasts so dramatically with the Thai people's beliefs. After one month of work, Pastor Chujit is convinced it will take a long time to make any impression on the people of Phang Nga. "It is a very difficult understanding for Thais peoples for the Good News" he



Recent graduates of a Christian education program in Nicaragua sing praises to God during the ceremonies celebrating the completion of their course.

recently wrote in broken English.

"And then some places they [are] also against [our faith] and ran away when I talked with them. Right now my evangelism can't lead a peoples [to] come to the Bible class in room. Nobody interested. I think that I have to [spend] more and more times for them...I don't know how many times, may be a year, two years or that more than."

Please continue praying for the young church in Thailand and for the mission opportunities.

Ukraine

New work constantly appears in Ukraine. This coming year we look forward to developing the base of operations in Lviv where a young man, Dimitro Vasylchenko works with a group of young Christians conducting Bible class and directing their social and evangelistic ministry work in the city.

The people in Dnepropetrovsk and Zarya

continue growing in their faith. They work with LCC missionary Pastor Roland Syens but are always in need of more assistance and support from our mission as they establish a Lutheran presence within their cities.

LCC will continue working with the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Brethren Churches of Ukraine including conducting second-year classes for the second group of seminary students in southern Ukraine. One or two teams of volunteers will travel to Ukraine in 2004 to work with youth in Ukraine, something LCC has done since 1997. These teams have proven effective in bringing hope in Christ and joy in His Gospel to children in towns and villages wherever they go.

Nicaragua

The work in Nicaragua continues to blossom. We anticipate a second seminary program to provide pastoral

training for 40 to 45 new students. These candidates are drawn from the large numbers of new congregations springing up where the Gospel is being proclaimed by our missionaries.

The missions in Matagalpa and León continue bringing more people to Christ and into fellowship with the Lutheran Church. With the growing number of congregations, it will be necessary for them to form a new church body. We hope to see a nationally incorporated Evangelical Lutheran Church in Nicaragua by the end of 2004.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief has helped the mission make application for a substantial grant to make more resources available to educate children who have never been able to attend school. Programs like the Children's Education project help build a community that can support and care for its church and pastors. There is always something new and exciting wherever God Word is preached.

PNG school moves forward with confidence

FOLLOWING A FIRE and tribal warfare which threatened to close the institution, the Highlands Lutheran International School in Papua New Guinea, is "preparing for a serious increase in enrolment for next year" reports Canadian principal Brent Kilback. He says that law and order has stabilized in the province and the school environment is peaceful once again.

The school celebrated its second Grade 12 graduation on December 6 "to the glory of our Lord and Saviour."

During a recent chapel, the school's pre-kindergarten teacher shared a Chinese proverb which she felt appropriate for the school:

"If your vision is for a year, plant wheat.

If your vision is for a decade, plant trees.

If your vision is for a lifetime, plant people."

Kilback says that HLIS is "ablaze with all of you and planting for a lifetime!"

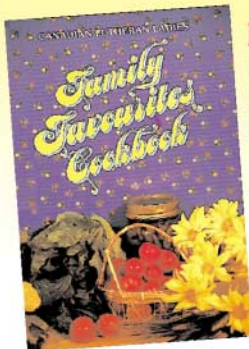
In a recent e-mail he expressed his thanks to "all of you who stood with us during the storm and the most challenging year of HLIS history. Please pray that God will provide the people and the resources to meet the increase in enrolment and the related demand for education and God's Word for next year."

For more mission information visit

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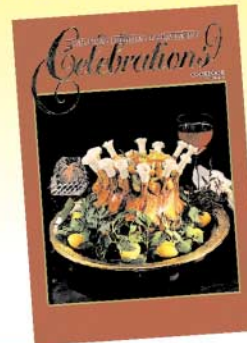
Family Favourites Cookbook

This book has become a Canadian favourite. Lutheran Church groups across Canada shared some of their favourite recipes: "Country Soup" from Lacombe, Alta.; "Hawaiian Dreams" from Ladysmith, Que. and "Jumbo Raisin Drop Cookies" from Hazlet, Sask., are only a few of the home-tested recipes in this book of over 1,000 recipes.

\$14.95 each

RECIPES ARE HOME-TESTED BY HOMEMAKERS.

COIL BOUND



Family Celebrations

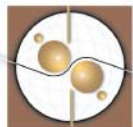
The "Family Favourites" cookbook became such a favourite, the Lutheran Churches decided to pool their recipes and make another book. "Caramel-Apple Pudding" from Calgary, Alta.; "Buffet Mushroom Casserole" from Burnaby, B.C., and "Maple-Blueberry-Pumpkin Bread" from West Northfield, N.S., are some of the recipes you'll want to make. There are over 1,000 recipes featuring breakfast to supper and inbetweens.

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