

Who said Lutherans are bad? *by Sandor Arguello*

FOR MANY CENTURIES people in Hispanic countries have heard negative propaganda against Lutherans. Nicaragua is no exception. "Luther was a heretic, an evil person. His real purpose was to divide, then to destroy the holy Roman Catholic church."

In our first year of mission, people even made the sign of the cross upon their foreheads when they heard the name of Luther. Many times we were rejected, mocked, even persecuted for those who claimed to be defenders of the true religion. Of course, we were not expecting anything better than that. In all of this, our responses were always biblical, combined with love and much patience. The Holy Spirit has been really at work in our hearts and minds giving us wisdom and understanding to confess and witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

After seven years of mission work the negative behaviour against Lutherans has started changing. Our merciful God has used His means of grace and gifted children to share the Gospel of Jesus and to bring acceptance and confidence in His biblical and



An underweight baby receives special care in an incubator delivered to Nicaragua by a Lutheran relief agency.

confessional Lutheran Church. Little by little, through Word, Sacraments and deeds our Lord is opening the hearts and doors of the Nicaraguans so that our Christian Mission of Lutheran Church-Canada may proclaim the Good News of salvation and eternal life in Jesus.

Are Lutherans really bad?

After seeing the many deeds of love and generosity produced by our Lutheran church bodies, congregations and many auxiliary organizations and ministries, the people here have started wondering if they were wrong about Lutherans.

One day last month a young mother came to our office with tears in her eyes. She was so thankful to

our Lutheran mission because her underweight baby was placed in one of the new incubators Orphan Grain Train (an organization affiliated with the Int'l Lutheran Laymen's League) donated to the maternity hospital in Chinandega. The pediatrician taking care of the baby told her that without the new incubator her baby had no chance of survival. The four incubators have again given witness to what we Christian Lutherans really are—God's ambassadors. We care for their spiritual and physical needs, the whole person. Through Word and deeds, Lutherans are God's children ready to witness and proclaim His salvation in Jesus. Lutherans care for people because their merciful Father cares so much for them through Jesus.

The Lord now is providing many opportunities for us to serve. Day after day new preaching stations and mission sites are opening. Invitations to serve come so often that we are getting concerned about it. We are praying to the Lord of the harvest to send more workers to take care of these, His starving sheep.

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(L-r) Team leader Tracy Gray (Immanuel, Rocky Mountain House, Alta.); James Triskle (St. Paul, Medicine Hat, Alta.); Rev. Roland Syens; Claire Ansell (Faith, London, Ontario); and Christine Waite (Immanuel, Rocky Mountain House).

2004 LCC outreach team in Ukraine

AFTER AN ADVENTURE that included missed and delayed flights, misplaced passports and lost baggage, the LCC young adult summer team arrived in Ukraine on July 9.

During their six-week stay, the team worked with six Ukrainian youth teaching VBS in four areas where the Association of the Brethren Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ukraine (ABELCU) has small congregations. The ABELCU is the Lutheran Church in Ukraine which LCC assists by directing the training of pastors and teachers. Missionary Rev. Roland Syens helps coordinate the work between this synod and LCC.

This is the seventh year of the LCC summer outreach. (See page 31.)