

CONCORDIA *mission* ADVOCATE



a publication of Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS)

Spring 2014

Empowered by God's own mission to save the world, the mission of Concordia Lutheran Mission Society, is to enlist the prayers, gifts, and energies of God's people in Lutheran Church-Canada to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ wherever God provides opportunity.

And God said, "Let there be light" and there was light!

Partners in Mission

And God said, "Let there be light" and there was light! These words recorded in the first chapter of Genesis describe our God as a God who brings light. Into a formless and empty world covered with thick darkness, God spoke the Word. Light was created and that light brought life. It brought a relationship with the Creator God. It brought order and purpose and meaning to all of life.

But then darkness encompassed God's creation. It wasn't a physical darkness, but a spiritual one. It was a darkness of sin and death, of separation from the Creator of life. Again God said, "Let there be light" and His "Word became flesh." St. John tells us that "in him was life and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."

Oh, darkness tried—in the wilderness and in the garden. And

then on the cross when darkness covered the face of the world, it appeared that darkness had won. But then came the dawn and the open tomb. "He is not here," the angel said, "He is risen from the dead!" Darkness defeated; His light continues to shine!

For this "God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." Once we were darkness, but now tied to Him we are light in the Lord. Indeed we are called to walk as "children of light."

What a gift God gives us and what a privilege. Reflecting the light of Jesus Christ, we bring light and life to others. It was God's mission from the beginning! It's a mission in which we today can share.

What a privilege and gift to know Jesus Christ, the only true



Lord and Saviour. We are called to shine His light around the world and share God's desire to welcome everyone into His loving arms. He empowers us to be His

instruments in mission work here at home and around the world. Please support God's work by supporting the following projects of CLMS.

2014 MISSION PROJECTS

Cambodia

1401 - Vehicle for the Evangelical Lutheran Church – an eight-passenger used vehicle - \$8,400

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cambodia (ELCC) is facing a challenge to transport groups of people to visit the work of pastors and deaconesses in remote areas of Cambodia. This project will supply a used eight-passenger vehicle to allow the

staff and leadership of the ELCC to visit the missions and social ministry sites and to meet with community leaders.

1402 - Three motorbikes for deaconesses – for work in the most remote areas - \$5,400

The countryside of Cambodia has very few paved roads. Getting from one village to another is a matter of using dirt roads, tracks and dikes. In the dry season they are dusty and rough yet passable.

In the rainy season the roads, tracks and dikes become almost impassable except for motorcycles. This project will make motorcycles to three deaconesses for their evangelism work.

Canada

1403 - Foreign student fund – Lutheran theology training in Canada (carried forward from project #1321) - \$5,000

Missionary Rev. Alexey

Navrotsky in Ukraine has a desire to further equip himself for service and learn more of God's Word and Lutheran theology. To achieve this goal, he is doing some preparatory work with Lutheran Church-Canada's Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton, Alta., with the goal of completing his studies by spending almost two years studying on-site in Canada. With this type of training

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he will be able to provide strong leadership in his church body in Ukraine.

1404 - South Asian Christian Radio – praise and worship, Bible study (carried forward from project 1323) - \$5,000

For many new Canadians, radio programs in Canada which reflect their language and culture are important. Knowing this, Javed, a PAT student of Lutheran Church-Canada, developed a radio program called *Hamd-O-Sanaa* – Praise and Worship – featuring a 20-minute Bible study, a 20-minute topical discussion and 20 minutes of Christian music. This program reaches the ears of Pakistani, Hindi and Punjabi people who are Muslim, Sikh or Hindu by faith. It also enjoys a strong Christian following among its listeners. In addition, the program can be heard in Pakistan and Iran.

Costa Rica

1405 - Children's Christian education program – stipends, resources, transportation, food - \$6,000

Deaconess Betty Retana, together with Pastor Edmundo, lead this program. They gather

children weekly for special Bible storytime and catechesis, fellowship, snacks and refreshment. This project funds basic needs such as a stipend for the deaconess, educational resources, Bibles, catechisms, teaching resources and tools as well as helping with food and transportation for the children.

1406 - Facility rentals in Cartago and San Jose – purchasing is unaffordable - \$11,380

By God's grace LCC's mission in Costa Rica is expanding into the large city of Cartago as well as in the capital, San Jose. Several mission and social ministry services have been started in Cartago – Bible study for women, outreach to teenagers in challenging life situations, sewing, Bible study groups, international mission teams' work and other activities. A new outreach has begun in San Jose with the vision of making it a Lutheran national/international connection since the capital is on the North-South road in Central America. The church cannot afford property in Costa Rica so rentals facilities are needed in both cities.

1407 - Children's Christian education program in Alajuelita – stipend and resources - \$2,400

In the community of Alajuelita, near San Jose, there are several children participating in church programs on a regular basis. Deaconess Betty Solorzano, together with Pastor Edmundo, supervise this program. Funds will provide a small monthly stipend for the instructor and Christian education and mission resources.

1408 - Missionary and deaconess – housing, utilities, transportation, stipend (carried forward from project #1310) - \$6,000

Pastor Edmundo Retana and his wife, Deaconess Betty, welcome and work alongside visiting teams from Canada and the United States. The Lutheran outreach in Costa Rica is grateful to all who visit to help expand the mission work and Christian education program. Unlike some other Central American mission fields, Costa Rica enjoys a relatively higher standard of living, meaning it is more expensive to work and live there. This project will assist the pastor and his wife with housing, utilities, transportation,

office supplies and a stipend.

Honduras

1409 - Mission in Olanchito – to carry out mission work and outreach - \$4,500

LCC fully supports the mission and educational work done in Honduras, more specifically in the northern city of Olanchito. Missionary Douglas Aguilar has established a community of believers with a scattered church in the city. This project will assist LCC's mission work in there.

Nicaragua

1410 - Vacation Bible School – material, transportation, food for up to 5,700 children - \$6,000

A missionary method and strategy in Central America leads community outreach through activities with children. The population is large and the children bring the deaconesses and missionaries into the homes of their families and relatives. VBS takes place mostly during January through March each year. This project provides teaching resources, books, crafts, crayons, Bibles, Bible storybooks, pencils, pens, paper, transportation, food, snacks, water, refreshment,

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stipends for volunteers, medical emergency kits for these VBS programs.

1411 - Deaconess support – extra support for 15 deaconesses at \$30 per month - \$4,500

The work of the deaconesses of ILSN has been of great blessing for the church's mission and education in Central America. Their major focus is to assist the pastors in providing Christian education or catechesis for children. They are very instrumental in the Children education program. Most deaconesses receive a small stipend via the program (#1412). This project provides extra support each month for each deaconess.

1412 - Children's Christian education program – uniforms, lunch, teaching resources for 60 children @\$125 - \$7,500

Around 650 children attend ILSN's children's education program annually. Each deaconess teaches a group of 25 or more children, either on a daily basis, twice, or three times a week. There are currently 700 children in the program. Each of the 23 communities have a children's outreach program. This project supports 60 children a year (\$125 per child) in the following areas: school uniforms, shoes, school supplies, snacks/lunch, teaching resources, deaconess stipends.

1413 - Medical and dental clinic – stipend for staff and medication - \$3,200

Through this clinic LCC has been able to assist low-

income families in the regions of Chinandega and vicinity with medical and dental consultation, medication and referrals. A qualified medical doctor and a team of nurses provide this service at the LCC's mission centre in Chinandega on a weekly basis. This is a tripartite shared project between Lutheran Church–Canada, Canadian Lutheran World Relief and Concordia Lutheran Mission Society. It provides stipends for the medical and nursing staff as well as all medication required for their work.

1414 - Motorcycle for Cristo Rey Mission – many areas unreachable with public transportation - \$2,500

A number of pastors in Nicaragua are currently relying on public transportation as they are called to minister to remote congregations and mission outreach programs. This takes a great amount of time. Also, some communities such as Cristo Rey, are unreachable by transportation during the rainy season. This project will provide a motorcycle rugged enough to handle the unique terrain of this region.

1415 - Mission House Rent in Rivas - \$5,750

Two students from Seminario Reforma Luterana are assigned for their vicarage in Rivas, Jinotepe and La Pita in 2014. This grant will assist LCC in paying the rent for the worship place in Rivas.

1416 - Tarp for Community of Altos de Vera Cruz, Leon – protects from sun and rain - \$1,550

A new mission has been started by Pastor Henry in the community of Alto de Vera Cruz in the Province of Leon. Some homes have enough space for gathering, other do not. Sometimes trees provide enough shade for the services but when it rains it makes things much more difficult. This project will provide a tarp which will be of great blessing for worship and Bible studies.

1417 Facility rentals in Sebaco – for missionary and for services and activities - \$5,500

Pastor Hector Morales and his wife, Deaconess Cristina, continue focusing on mission outreach in the community of Sebaco, about 40km south of Matagalpa. Twenty-five to 30 people regularly attend Bible studies. Two houses are rented in Sebaco: for the missionary and for mission activities and worship services. This project provides support for pastor Hector's mission outreach and facility rental in Sebaco.

1418 - New mission start in Managua – transportation, resources, rent - \$5,000

Since 1997 the Lord has blessed Nicaragua with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Children's Christian education programs, theological education, continuing education, medical clinics, social ministry and many other

areas in general. The work has been developed mostly to the Northwest Pacific region and south of Managua, the capital. For years LCC has prayed to work with the ILSN in starting a new mission in Managua. This project will assist with the following major items: transportation of vicars and pastors, mission and children education resources, rent of a house for worship services, utilities.

1419 - Musical instruments for the church communities – instruments and training - \$5,000

Many congregations now have individuals being trained to play keyboard for worship. People in Nicaragua love music and love to sing. Music is a very important outreach tool in the Latino culture in general. This project will allow the synod to purchase instruments for training local church musicians and for use in worship service and mission outreach.

1420 - Children's Christian education – desks for five new communities – 125 in total - \$3,150

This is a new project for 2014. The Children's Christian education program has grown to 750 children. Each of the 23 congregations has now a program or a Children Feeding Program. In some communities the children's school desks have been used in worship services and the children also use the desks as tables for their lunch. There is a



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need for 25 desks in each of five new communities for the 2014 education program. Each desk costs approximately CAD 25.50.

1421 - Electronic theological library for church workers in Central America – computer network - \$3,000

A functional and integrated computer network at LCC's mission centre in Nicaragua would benefit all church workers in Nicaragua and those visiting from Central America for the Continuing Education Program, conventions, meetings, and other seminars and events. This project will help to fund the computers and networking equipment needed to fulfill this mission.

Thailand

1422 - Thai Missionary Rev. Suchat Chujit – stipends, utilities, transportation, materials - \$8,700

Missionaries Suchat Chujit and Suchat Srikakan continue their work in the southern province of Thailand in the region of Takuapa, Phang-nga Province. As Pastor Chujit provides ministry for his local congregations he continues to reach out to individuals and families in the area, building contact for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and starting home Bible studies and worship services.

This project helps to provide for the stipends, utilities, worker transportation, and telephone and worship materials for the several congregations and preaching stations under Missionary Chujit.

Ukraine

1423 - Seminary program in Odessa – food, travel, cook's salary, utilities, translator - \$10,000

Currently four students are enrolled for seminary training to start in September 2014. At the recent convention, SELCU opened opportunity for other churches in Eastern Europe to send their students to the seminary in Odessa. This is seen as a great opportunity for SELCU to expand its connection with other Lutheran churches and to become a regional centre for theological education. This project contributes towards food, travel, utilities, translators, and a cook at the seminary.

1424 - Mission and ministry to prisoners – transportation, literature, necessities for inmates - \$1,050

The team of missionaries from the Synod of Evangelical Churches in Ukraine started their mission in two high security prisons in Nikolaev province. Lutheran missionary Rev. Alexander Urchenko and Deacon

Sergey Bondarenko visit the prison weekly, holding services and enjoying fellowship. This project will cover transportation costs, literature and necessary help for the inmates including medicine, tea, warm cloths, books and food.

1425 - VBS and summer and winter Bible camps – for over 360 children and young adults - \$6,000

This project supports a program of children's camps (VBS) where up to 250 take part, a summer camping program where nearly 110 young people participate, and a winter youth conference which gathers groups from SELCU congregations for worship, fellowship and study at the Odessa seminary. This work with children and youth is very important to the church in Ukraine.

1426 - Mission outreach to college/university students in Odessa - literature, rent, materials - \$1,260

Over the course of almost three years the pastor of the church in Odessa, Oleg Shevchenko, along with a group of volunteers,

has been running an evangelism ministry with many students in the educational facilities of the college in Odessa. Each week they hold Bible studies and organize various special projects: thematic evenings, discussion clubs, hikes, conferences and competitions. This project supports the purchase of Christian literature, the rental of facilities, and printed materials for meetings.

1427 - Mission outreach to athletes in Dnepropetrovsk – transportation, literature, snacks - \$1,260

Under the supervision of SELCU missionary Rev. A. Navrotsky and in conjunction with the student centre "Alpha and Omega," a group of self-initiating Christian sportsmen is working with non-Christian sportsmen. Their professional trainer, Christian Igor Solodenko, has been working for several years with a team of soccer players. This ministry reaches approximately 80 young sportsmen. The project provides support for equipment, transportation and facility/field rental.



Response Form

Become a "partner in mission." Kindly indicate below how we may direct your donation and return this form along with your cheque to Concordia Lutheran Mission Society, P.O. Box 2921, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1Y4.

Project number _____ \$ _____ Operational costs \$ _____

Project number _____ \$ _____ Total gift \$ _____

Wherever needed \$ _____

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Philippians 1:4-5

Please provide the following information so we may forward a charitable receipt to you and to keep you informed on current mission projects via our mailings. If you fill in the form as "Mr. & Mrs." you will receive two ballots for mail-in elections. In this case both first names are helpful.

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

Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____ Country _____ Postal Code _____

Email _____

The following information is optional: Home Phone _____