

# CONCORDIA *mission* ADVOCATE



a publication of Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS)

Fall 2010

## Sharing the Gospel

*An update on the Deaconess Program in Cambodia*

Phenomenal evangelists working under difficult and often dangerous circumstances: that describes the 10 deaconesses who graduated this year from Luther Institute Southeast Asia's theological program. In several instances a single deaconess must cover multiple locations—working with up to 50 children at each locale. They work in situations most of us could not imagine, yet carry out their difficult tasks faithfully and joyously. Over the past two years Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS) has provided funds for supplies these women would never be able to afford. Supporting them in their work with women and children over the coming year will cost \$15,000.

All deaconess students of Luther Seminary Cambodia completed their course of study and received diplomas at the May 14 graduation ceremonies in Sihanoukville. Of the nine



*ELCC president, Rev. Vanarith Chiim serves the Lord's Supper to deaconesses at their graduation service.*

who graduated, eight became Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cambodia (ELCC) members and received commissions to work in their parishes as rostered members of the church body. At graduation all expressed sincere thanks for the support CLMS provided and for gifts to their individual ministries.

Many conditions make their

work difficult. Most people in Cambodia are desperately poor. In addition to church work, many deaconesses labour outside the home to supply their families with food and clothing. Some are seamstresses; some prepare food for sale on village streets. Some care for orphan children in their homes without compensation. All share the Gospel primarily with women in their communities.

Others teach the Gospel to young children, counsel and guide teenage girls, comfort and help feed the elderly whose families are very poor. Everywhere they

go, they proclaim boldly the good news of our Lord and His saving grace.

Each of these women will receive a monthly allotment of \$156 provided by CLMS. What can you do with \$156? The money pays for teaching materials and worship supplies. It provides transportation and buys food for hungry children whose parents have died of AIDS, other diseases, accidents. Though it may not seem much to us, it is extremely important to the women who carefully use each riel to advance the Gospel among the women, children and men of their villages.

Meeting with ELCC treasurer Rev. Om Sophal, each woman provides a detailed report of money she has spent as well as a plan for money she will receive. Rev. Sophal in turn reports to the church's Board of Directors. In this way funds provided by CLMS are carefully administered.

May God continue to grant His blessings to those who support the work of these wonderful women. May he bless the Word of hope and love they in turn share with the people of Cambodia.

*Dr. Len Harms*

## PRESIDENT

### *Changes, Changes, Changes*

Some years back, at a presentation on the seven habits of highly effective people, I was struck less by the particular habits the speaker enumerated than by his summary. To effectively change our habits, he said, we shouldn't aim at a few big changes all at once but at numerous small changes every day. Every day, every day, every day. It struck me as being the same for a Christian's process of sanctification: Make numerous small changes every day. Grow daily in faith and love toward Jesus Christ.

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

✂ Children Helping Children

✂ 2010 Mission Projects

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

...your Sunday school can help support missions

Are you looking for a something special to unite Sunday school families and help others? Consider choosing a Concordia Lutheran Mission Society project!

This is what happened at one congregation.

Sunday school families at Holy Cross in Kitchener, Ontario, decided to support a CLMS initiative providing school desks to children in Nicaragua. We checked

out opportunities at the CLMS website, and chose the Nicaragua project because a mission team from our church family served in this area during March 2009. We set up a display in our narthex for high visibility and included photos, a real school desk, and lots of posters coloured by the children. We planned a six-week campaign hoping to raise enough money to purchase 100 desks. Letters went home to families encouraging them

to think of creative ways to raise money—things like lemonade stands, chores and more. Regular updates in the bulletin and to our display marked our project's progress and drew the whole congregation into the excitement. Every Sunday school opening featured a Desks 4 Nicaragua time (see photo at right) including a "parade to the coin can" to our theme song, "God is So Good; I'll Share His Love." Plenty of opportunities arose to talk about

how God has richly blessed us, and how He can bless others through us.

We praise God for moving our Holy Cross families to contribute \$2,727.29 to this project—enough to buy 118 desks, exceeding our goal! Consider creating a similar project for your own Sunday school. It's a great way to share God's love!

Beth Gibney,  
Parish Life Coordinator,  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

President, continued from previous page

CLMS, too, made a number of small changes this year as we evolved as a society:

- In our election process, president Terry Goerz and treasurer Anne Taylor were returned to office and Rev. John Grande added as new director of development, all by acclamation. (Rev. Irwin Pudrycki retired after serving the maximum term.) Our nominations committee received many good candidate submissions, but did not receive consent to stand from any except the three named above.
- With *The Canadian Lutheran (TCL)* published less frequently, only one issue of *The Mission Advocate* will go out each year, included in *TCL's* September/October issue. We normally ran four yearly appeals: two in *The Mission Advocate* and two via regular mail. We have decided now to run three mail appeals: in April, June and December.
- We have gathered enough e-mail addresses to contact a portion of the mailing list by e-mail, but we need your permission to do this. If you are interested please let Rev. John Grande (rj@grandes.ca) know and he will add you to our list.
- Churches in the Yorkton area agreed to host a mission festival as a part of our annual meeting. Rev. Daniel Moeller and Zion Lutheran proved exceptional hosts of this new adjunct to our meeting. As featured speaker, LCC president Rev. Robert Bugbee offered a new perspective from Nicaragua after his recent visit and some compelling thoughts on mission giving.
- We have once again been led by the Spirit to offer a challenging number of projects. We increased our projects goal to \$129,000, a 7.5 per cent increase.
- All project requirements for 2009 have been met. On behalf of our board of directors I once again express our deep appreciation to all our mission partners who have been inspired to accomplish this challenging objective.
- An exciting development is the completion of that portion of the seminary building in Odessa, Ukraine, required to start a new seminary class. Although the gas has not yet been hooked up to the building, the funds for this are being held in reserve. The seminary building was dedicated August 20, and Rev. Dr. Norman Threinen is currently in Ukraine teaching the new class.

Blessings as you grow daily in faith and love,  
Terry Goerz



Above, children at Holy Cross Lutheran, Kitchener, Ont., pray for the success of their chosen project. Left, children in Jinotega, Nicaragua enjoy their new desks.

In Memoriam and Recognition

Gifts have been received 1 July 2009 – 24 July 2010 in memory of the following people:

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Bernice CARLSON    | Cindy KOZAK     |
| Keith ESCH         | Dan LONGAVEN    |
| Phyllis GUEBERT    | Irene NILSSON   |
| Florence HEINEMANN | Essie RODRIGUES |
| Eunice HONEGGER    | Bert SCHMIDT    |
| Hugo KOHL          | David ULMER     |

and in recognition of the following

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Gordon and Mary BARON | 50 <sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary       |
| Vera KROENING         | 80 <sup>th</sup> birthday                  |
| Thomas KRUESEL        | 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination |

1. **Vacation Bible Schools, Nicaragua.** With the support of CLMS, the Lutheran Church in Nicaragua has been offering vacation Bible school, wherever it has congregations and outreach ministries. At \$6 per child the cost will be **\$6,000.**
2. **Seminary Training, Odessa, Ukraine.** With completion of the new seminary building near Odessa, seminary sessions began anew in August. Underwriting this work for 2010 is expected to be **\$12,000.**
3. **Professor Travel, Odessa, Ukraine.** As the seminary program begins anew, professors need to travel to Ukraine. Besides the rector who will teach the first session, a professor from Canada has committed volunteer time to teach a 2010 session. Cost of his travel: **\$2,500.**
4. **Missionary Salary, South Thailand.** In Phang Nga province of Thailand, missionary Suchat Chujit reaches out aggressively to many non-believing people. CLMS has committed support in 2010 of **\$8,500.**
5. **Outreach to Women and Children, Cambodia.** The deaconesses who graduated from Luther Institute Southeast Asia's theological program do phenomenal evangelism, but need catechisms and other study materials. The cost is **\$15,000.**
6. **Children's Christian Education, Nicaragua.** This program continues to be one of LCC's most important and effective outreach tools in Central American mission work. A number of other agencies also support this project. At \$1.25 per child for 60 children the cost is **\$7,500.**
7. **Deaconess Support, Nicaragua.** CLMS has been supporting deaconesses in Nicaragua with a very modest stipend based on need, and would like to continue this support in 2010. Cost for the program: **\$4,500.**
8. **Mission Rental, San Miguel, Costa Rica.** San Miguel missionary Pedro Adolfo Quintero has gathered a number of believers, and they have rented a building for worship and study. Renting this facility in 2010 will be **\$7,200.**
9. **School Desks for Children's Christian Education, Nicaragua.** This project was adopted by the children of Holy Cross, Kitchener. See story on previous page. **COMPLETED.**
10. **New Mission Facility Rental, Sebaco, Nicaragua.** In the commercial centre of Sebaco, a newly planted mission needs a worship/study facility for people who have just become believers. Funds to support renting a place: **\$4,500.**
11. **Children's Outreach, Northern Thailand.** Northeast of Bangkok a young couple devotes all their energy and funds (generated from a family business) to reaching children abandoned by their parents, especially young girls who are prey to prostitution. Cost to help them: **\$10,000.**
12. **Mission Rental, Cartago, Costa Rica.** In Cartago, missionary Edmundo Retana and his wife have gathered a community of believers for Bible study, social activities and worship. They need to rent a facility as a base for outreach endeavours. Cost to undergird them in this: **\$6,000.**
13. **New Mission Rental, Rivas, Nicaragua.** In Rivas, about 50 km south of Granada, missionary Rufino and his wife, Marianna, have been called to begin evangelistic outreach work. A small community of believers, presently gathering in a member's home, needs a place. Rental: **\$4,500.**
14. **Member Transportation, Thailand.** Because transportation is expensive in South Thailand, providing rides to congregation members in a rented songtheo encourages worship attendance. In 2010 this project will cost **\$4,000.**
15. **Van for Oromo Congregation, Winnipeg.** In Winnipeg, the Oromo (East African) Christian community is growing but scattered, and needs help getting members to worship and fellowship events. A previously owned bus is available for **\$18,000.**
16. **Orphanage Ministry, Ukraine.** In Dnepropetrovsk, missionary Alexey Novrotsky reaches out to orphans. A team of Christian students has begun visiting an orphanage to share Christ. Cost to support this ministry: **\$1,500. COMPLETED.**
17. **Agricultural Project, Cambodia:** A fish farm and a watercress plantation would help pastors of a group of believers near Phnom Penh carry out their ministry and respond to the material needs of the poor they serve: **\$2,000. COMPLETED.**
18. **Summer Youth and Adult Camps, Ukraine.** Costs of summer camp are prohibitive for those who need it most, especially orphans and the urban poor. Missionary Alexey Novrotsky requests help in providing such growth experiences for children and adults. **\$8,000.**
19. **Construction of Church, Ukraine.** In the Crimean city of Pervomaisk, lack of a facility hampers growth of a small congregation. Two years ago CLMS provided a grant to purchase property close to the centre of town. An old house was demolished and the foundation laid, but the group needs help to continue construction. Amount requested: **\$5,000.**

**Total cost of projects adopted for 2010: \$129,000**

**TOLL FREE NUMBER**

If you do not have Internet access and wish to contact CLMS you may use toll free number:

**1-866-799-2567**

*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.*



Partners are found in business, marriage, sports, prayer—even partners in crime. Some partners are silent, others are active—but each partner depends on the other to fulfill the aims and purposes of the partnership. One is handicapped without the other.

Christ recognized the value of partners: “The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of Him, two by two, into every town and place” (Luke 10:1 ESV). “And He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two” (Mark 6:7). As children of God we are privileged to be partners in His mission as we proclaim His word here at home and abroad. As partners in mission

we have no soloists—we partner two by two as we put the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20 into action.

Partnership is a wonderful gift of God, and He calls different people to do different things in a partnership. Is one more important than the other? No way—all parts make a whole. Some of us may leave the comforts of home and travel to a foreign country to tell the Good News of Jesus’ love to those who have not yet heard. Others stay home and generously donate dollars to meet the material and physical needs of the mission.

As partners in mission we remind each other, rejoice and

give thanks for what God is doing throughout His world. We pray for our missionaries daily. “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!” (Ecc. 4:9-10).

Partners need each other, need the other’s encouragement, care, prayer. Partnership binds us together, and when we labour for God He will bless what we do together. As God’s baptized children we are all partners in the mission of proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ and the assurance of our sins forgiven.

The early Christians were

known as people “who have turned the world upside down” (Acts 17:6). By ourselves we can’t turn the world upside down, but as partners, together in Christ, we can. What a wonderful partnership we have in Christ! Two or more can accomplish much more than each one of us separately and in Christ we are truly **strong**. **“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them” (Matt. 18:20).**

As Partners in Mission, I encourage you to give generously and to pray for God’s blessings on the projects undertaken by Concordia Lutheran Mission Society throughout this year.

Anne Taylor

## Response Form

We invite you to become a Partner in Mission. Kindly indicate how we may direct your donation by checking off your selected mission project and returning this form along with your cheque payable to “Concordia Lutheran Mission Society” and forwarded to William Andrew, 180 South Alder Street, Campbell River, BC V9W 5H8.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1001 Vacation Bible Schools, Nicaragua               | <input type="checkbox"/> 1011 Children’s Outreach, Thailand                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1002 Seminary Training, Odessa, Ukraine              | <input type="checkbox"/> 1012 Mission Rental, Cartago, Costa Rica           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1003 Professor Travel, Ukraine Seminary              | <input type="checkbox"/> 1013 New Mission Rental, Rivas, Nicaragua          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1004 Missionary Salary, Rev. Suchat Chujit, Thailand | <input type="checkbox"/> 1014 Member Transportation, Takuapa, Thailand      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1005 Outreach to Women and Children, Cambodia        | <input type="checkbox"/> 1015 Van for Mission to Oromo Community, Winnipeg  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1006 Children’s Christian Education, Nicaragua       | Complete! 1016 Orphanage Ministry, Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1007 Deaconess Support, Nicaragua                    | Complete! 1017 Agricultural Project, Phnom Penh, Cambodia                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1008 Mission Rental, San Miguel, Costa Rica          | <input type="checkbox"/> 1018 Summer Youth and Adult Camps, Ukraine         |
| Complete! 1009 School Desks for Children’s Christian Education, Nicaragua     | <input type="checkbox"/> 1019 Construction of a Church, Pervomaisk, Ukraine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1010 New Mission Rental, Sebaco, Nicaragua           | <input type="checkbox"/> Where needed                                       |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Operational costs                                  |

Each gift designated toward a board-approved project will be used as specified, with the understanding that when any given project has been fully funded, designated gifts will be used where needed most.

Please provide the following information so that a charitable receipt might be forwarded 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 your first names are helpful.

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

The following information is optional. The e-mail address can be very helpful to us in sharing mission news with you.

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_ 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. Our privacy policy can be found on our website: [www.concordiamissions.org](http://www.concordiamissions.org).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_