

# CONCORDIA *mission* ADVOCATE



a publication of Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS)

Spring 2013

## Reaching out in a world longing for peace

### *Partners in Mission*

**I**n a world crying out in agony from the pain and suffering of war, hunger and disease there is a peace that we can share. The only true peace is not of this world.

Jesus said in John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; I do not give you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

As Christians we each have a responsibility to share the Good News and peace of Christ. Mission work is a story of money carefully spent, grateful partners in far-off lands, and amazing

ways the Lord works through His people! We can't all work in the mission field, but we can all support mission projects with our donations and prayers.

It's a fantastic feeling to be personally connected to the final destination of our mission dollars, seeing God at work. CLMS provides the opportunity for you to specifically choose a mission and know that every dollar given will go directly to the project.

Every dollar you donate goes directly to the project you choose!



## 2013 MISSION PROJECTS

### **Nicaragua**

**Vacation Bible School -  
Nicaragua (#1301) \$6,000**

"I'm coming and I am going to bring a friend. We look forward to our vacation Bible school week each year. Then we can bring Christ into our homes through deaconesses and missionaries. Vacation Bible school occurs during January through March and in some areas other times of the year as well. This event has reached out to 23 congregations plus mission stations, drawing around 150 to 250 children in each; totalling 3,500 to 5,700 children becoming little missionaries and some have

become leaders of the church in Nicaragua. (\$2 per child)

**Deaconess Support (#1302)  
\$4,500**

My focus is to assist pastors in providing Christian education for children. Minimum attendance is 25 daily or two or three times a week. Since school is only half a day we provide a snack as they come to us for the other part of the day. I help with homework, teach literacy, mathematics and God's Word through Bible stories and the Small Catechism. I also help with general church work and outreach to children's families. (\$25 a month for each of the 15 deaconesses)

**Children's Education,  
Nicaragua (#1303) \$7,500**

Yearly 650 of us attend the Children's Christian Education program. This project will support 60 of us children with school uniforms, shoes, school supplies, snacks/lunch, teaching resources, and a small stipend for our deaconesses who help us and many more with our homework and teaching us God's Word. They even meet with our families. Some of us have graduated from this program and are preparing to become pastors and deaconesses, too. (\$125 per child)

**Medical and Dental Clinic  
(#1304) \$5,000**

We live as low income families in Chinandega and vicinity. Thanks to the qualified medical doctor and a team of nurses the clinic is open on a weekly basis for medical and dental consultation, medication and referrals. We also receive spiritual care from pastors and deaconesses when contacted by them before, during or after treatment. (small stipend for staff and meds)

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Every dollar you donate to a specific project goes directly to that project!

## 2013 MISSION PROJECTS

### **Missionary in Rivas and Jinotepe (#1305) \$10,310**

I am Missionary Rufino. I continue to do outreach ministry in Rivas and Jinotepe and by God's Grace soon in La Pita and Managua, the capital city. We have worship, Bible study and soon a Children's Christian Education program. This project will help with major expenses such as housing, utilities, transportation, office material and a stipend. (annual support)

### **Sebaco Rental Facilities (#1306) \$5,500**

I am Missionary Hector Morales and along with Deaconess Cristina, my wife. Our outreach ministry is in the community of Sebaco. We began this mission with home Bible studies which drew in 25 – 30 people attending on a regular basis. We also do outreach to children and families. We rent two buildings – one for our home and one for worship and mission activities. Funds from this project cover rent, living expenses, utilities, transportation, mission resources. (annual support)

### **Tarp and Chairs for Worship (#1307) \$1,550**

With no building either available or affordable we

congregate in the open. Sometimes God brings the rains and sometimes the sun. Tarps for over our heads and chairs bring great relief. Here we have worship, Bible study and Sunday school. (1 tarp and 50 chairs)

### **Costa Rica Cartago and San Jose Rental Facilities (#1308) \$7,880**

I am missionary Pastor Edmundo. Our mission in Costa Rica has expanded in our city of Cartago and also our capital, San Jose, connecting North America with South America by a well-travelled road way. We hold and run several new programs for women and teenagers plus outreach to families. Since our church is unable to afford property we must rent buildings to worship in. (annual support)

### **Children's Christian Education, Costa Rica (#1309) \$6,000**

Forty to sixty of us gather weekly for Bible stories and catechesis and interaction with one another and yes as Lutherans there are always snacks and refreshments. This is our Christian Education program that we look forward to. Our parents are also getting involved

by attending church. We need help with basic needs such as Bibles, catechisms, teaching resources, transportation and yes food. (\$100 - \$150 per child)

### **Missionary and Deaconess (#1310) \$12,000**

I am missionary Pastor Edmundo Retana and along with Deaconess Betty my wife, we work alongside welcomed teams from United States and Canada. We thank you all for coming aboard in order to expand our mission work and Christian Education program. This project will assist us with housing, utilities, transportation, office supplies and a stipend for each of us. (annual support)

### **Adolescents at risk (#1311) \$1,575**

We are young adolescents from environments of violence, drugs, sex, street life and broken family relationships. Missionary and Deaconess Retana started a support group for us six to eight young people. Here we have Christian education, helped with our studies and look for work in the job market. By the grace of God through Jesus Christ, with the help of our church family, we will recover. Our parents

are visited regularly. We have a special need – Love, teaching resources and snacks. (\$200 - \$260 per adolescent)

### **Honduras Missionary in Olanchito, Honduras (#1312) \$4,500**

My name is missionary Douglas Aguilar. The mission outreach and educational programs are largely in the northern city of Olanchito. Prayerfully we will soon be able to focus on outreach in the capital city of Tegucigalpa with a possible upcoming missionary graduating from the Seminary in Nicaragua. Your help with assisting me with basic living expenses and material for the mission is much appreciated. (annual support)

### **Ukraine Summer Bible Camps, Ukraine (#1313) \$6,000**

We are so excited to make new friends and once again hear of God's love. Over 200 of us younger ones get to go to VBS camp for one week in August. Nearly 120 youth will have a summer camp and about 50 teens will have a youth conference in the winter. For some of us this



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## 2013 MISSION PROJECTS

will be the first time we hear of Jesus and others are planning to become leaders themselves. We do not have the money for Bibles, teaching material, transportation, stipends and yes snacks but with this program, it will continue. (\$15 - \$20 per person)

### **Orphaned, Elderly and Imprisoned (#1314) \$1,500**

I am scared because I am all alone and abandoned, I am old and cannot get around, I am in jail. But visitors come and give us hope and tell us about forgiveness and Christ. They bring warm clothes and medical supplies. This brings a smile to our faces. It is love. The missionaries who come do not have much but because of your help they give us a ray of SON shine. (annual support)

### **Dnepropetrovsk Orphanages, Ukraine (#1315) \$1,200**

Sometimes we are sad to see so many children in orphanages but it brings joy to our hearts when we share Bible stories, songs and food with them. They love crafts and we help with school work and bring supplies. There is always a need for medical supplies, too. We are students and volunteer our help so the donation you send allows us to continue loving those who are separated from their families. We visit three orphanages two or three times a month. (\$15 - \$20 per visit)

### **Seminars for Lay People (#1316) \$2,000**

We want to help our pastors and volunteer in the church but

we need training. Some of us are already helping and cannot leave the church for long periods of time and some of us cannot leave our families for long periods of time or our other jobs. So it is good that we will be able to go to a short-term seminar – one for men and one for women. We will pay for our room and food but need help with transportation and training supplies for the seminar. (\$10 per person)

### **Mission work with students/ young people (#1317) \$1,200**

We have a great task in front of us. There are over 100,000 students in our University in Odessa with a large number of foreign students. Pastor Oleg and the church youth are reaching out to those from Muslim countries and Russian speaking students by hosting special events at the church to encourage community fellowship and friendly relationships. This will give us an opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We need financial help with transportation, teaching resources and Bibles and of course a snack. (one-time support)

### **Church Completion, Nikolaev, Ukraine (#1318) \$1,600**

Our church in Nikolaev was built in 1997. We are a small congregation and found ourselves unable to complete the outside of the church. It is in need of paint for protection from the elements. We cannot afford it on our own. (one-time cost)

### **Thailand**

#### **Missionary Rev. Suchat Chujit, Thailand (#1319) \$8,700**

This is a challenging country for a Christian missionary. There is much outreach that must be done. We work in the southern province of Phang-nga in the region of Takuapa. Besides the ministry in the local churches, mission stations and Bible studies there are many people who need to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ outside these walls. This entails much travelling about. The congregation members are unable to support the costs of workers' stipends and transportation, utilities and worship material. (annual support)

#### **Rental of Mission Station (#1320) \$4,000**

A place to worship is a blessing indeed. To bring members together as one family under one roof creates fellowship and unity. The strength of this unity draws more to His Saving Grace. We cannot afford our own building so must rent in Takuapa. (annual support)

### **Canada**

#### **Foreign Student Fund, Revs. Niran/Alexey (#1321) \$10,000**

We are missionaries, Rev. Niran Temsakul from Thailand and Rev. Alexey Navrotsky of Ukraine, with a desire to become more equipped and knowledgeable of the Lutheran theology for the betterment of the office of pastor in the church. With this completed academic standing we will not

only be better equipped to lead but also to train in our own country. We are already in pre training here at home; the balance would be 21 months at a Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Canada. (one-time support)

#### **PAT Program (#1322) \$2,905 (carried forward from 2012)**

A land of opportunities to share with one another the love of Christ. We come from many foreign lands – India, Africa, Central America, Madagascar but are united as one in Christ and the Lutheran Theology. A conference allows us to bind together our cultures and ethnic origins. This is exciting as we all have one goal – to lead His people in their language. This project will assist us with books and teaching resources, seminars, travels and a small stipend. (one-time support)

#### **South Asian Ministry Radio Program (#1323) 10,000**

Javed Ahkter here, a PAT student of Lutheran Church-Canada and also developed a radio program called Hamd-O-Sanaa – Praise and Worship – 20 min. Bible study, 20 min. discussion of topic, 20 min. Christian music. This is reaching the ears of Pakistan, Hindi and Punjabi people but also Muslim, Sikh or Hindu by faith; a proven ministry that there is a strong Christian following among the listening audience. This program can be heard in Pakistan and Iran as well. (one-time support)



# Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS)

An Auxiliary of Lutheran Church–Canada

## Jesus and the Squirrel

The story has been told more than a few times. It's about the four-year-old whose Sunday school teacher was talking about all the wonderful animals God created and still cares for. The teacher held up a picture of a furry little animal with a long tail and asked, "and what is this picture about?" The boy quickly put up his hand, but then thought awhile before answering: "It looks like a squirrel, but I think the answer is Jesus."

In the narrow sense, he would have been right if he had simply said, "It's a squirrel." But he knew from many questions the teacher had previously asked,

that the answer always seemed to be "Jesus."

I thought of that old story when I was asked to write a few words about "why I am a partner in mission with CLMS." In the narrow sense (the "squirrel" sense?), I could give you many reasons:

- Because our normal congregational giving is not enough to support the mission efforts God has placed before our synod, and CLMS helps fill part of the gap.
- Because it is good knowing that when I designate my gift for a specific mission project, every dollar will be used for that

purpose, not to pay for staff or to raise more money.

- Because I can identify with projects of my choosing, so when I read about them I can do so with gratitude that God has enabled me to be a part of that work.
- Because it encourages me to pray for specific missionaries, deaconesses and their work.

But in the broader sense, the answer to "why I am a partner in mission with CLMS" is "Jesus." He is the one who came as this planet's true missionary when He was born as a human being, lived, suffered, died and rose again so we can live with him forever. This

Jesus does not merely command us to "make disciples of all nations." He invites us to share in a privilege not even granted to the angels.

As Christians we live in this world knowing that the ultimate answer – the eternal answer – is not found in us, in what we do or don't do in this world. It's found in Jesus -- in what He has done for us and for the whole world.

So when we say we are "Partners in Mission," with whom do we partner? With one another? With our missionaries? With our synod? Of course! But once again, the real answer is, "Jesus!"

*Ed Lehman*

*Advisor to the Board, CLMS*

## Response Form

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 made out to "Concordia Lutheran Mission Society" to June Barlund, P.O. Box 2921, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1Y4.

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Bible School, Nicaragua #1301                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Bible Camps, Ukraine, #1313                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deaconess Support, #1302                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Orphaned, Elderly and Imprisoned, Ukraine, #1314        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Christian Education, Nicaragua, #1303          | <input type="checkbox"/> Dnepropetrovsk Orphanages, Ukraine, #1315               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical and Dental Clinic, Nicaragua, #1304               | <input type="checkbox"/> Two Seminars for Lay People, Ukraine, #1316             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Missionary in Rivas and Jinotepe, Nicaragua #1305         | <input type="checkbox"/> Mission Work - Students/Young People, Ukraine. #1317    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sebaco Rental Facilities, Nicaragua, #1306                | <input type="checkbox"/> Lutheran Church Completion, Nikolaev, Ukraine, #1318    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tarp and Chairs for Worship, Nicaragua, #1307             | <input type="checkbox"/> Missionary Rev. Suchat Chujit, Thailand, #1319          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cartago and San Jose rental facilities, Costa Rica, #1308 | <input type="checkbox"/> Rental of Mission Station, Thailand, #1320              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Christian Education, Costa Rica, #1309         | <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Student Fund, Revs. Niran/Alexey, Canada, #1321 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Missionary and Deaconess, Costa Rica, #1310               | <input type="checkbox"/> PAT Program, Canada, #1322 (carried forward from 2012)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adolescents at Risk, Costa Rica, #1311                    | <input type="checkbox"/> South Asian Ministry Radio Program, Canada, #1323       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Missionary in Olanchito, Honduras, #1312                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Where needed  |

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 your 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 \_\_\_\_\_