

The Communicator



Lutheran Society for Missiology

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The Purpose of LSFM:

To be an instrument for communicating God's Mission to seek and to save lost people (Luke 19:10).

The Mission of LSFM:

To advance the discussion and study of God's Mission from a Lutheran perspective.

The Vision of LSFM:

That the Lutheran contribution to missiology (Ephesians 2:8-10) impact God's worldwide mission.

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Community Evangelism

---Robert J. Scudieri

In his book *The Celtic Way of Evangelism*, Dr George Hunter proposes a more community form of evangelism. Hunter, dean of the E. Stanley Jones School of World Mission at Asbury Theological Seminary, sees outreach as having a community base. People are not won only through one on one encounters—community is crucial. Hunter recounts how St Patrick reached the indigenous people of Ireland in the fifth century. Patrick began evangelization from a group organized for mission and, when there was opportunity elsewhere, a new community would go together to the new location. Wilhelm Loehle, the great 19th century Lutheran missions leader could have been a disciple of Patrick.

According to F. Dean Leuking in his important book, *Mission in the Making* (CPH, 1964), Loehle had conceived the idea for a mission colony in Tuscola County, Michigan to reach Chippewa Indians of that region. In 1846, one year before the LCMS was organized, "a mission colony of one hundred Bavarian German settlers arrived" in Michigan. Friedrich Wyneken had contacted Loehle and urged him to respond to the need of the Chippewa to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Mayer describes how Loehle "conceived of the plan of a lay colony which would present a living demonstration of the power of the Gospel" to the native Americans.

During the winter of 1844-45 Loehle brought the proposed members of the new

colony through a period of intense training. The laity, all volunteers, met on Saturday evenings and Sundays to go over details of how to organize a congregation, to study more deeply Christian doctrine, to "drill themselves in Christian doctrine," and to come to agreement on eighty eight paragraphs of their colony's constitution. It was, as Mayer describes it, a "lay apostolate."

Christians today know the need for their congregations to be communities of "lay apostolates." Pastors do not have nearly the opportunities laity have for interacting with unchurched people. And, when someone new attends a Lutheran congregation for the first time, would they experience Christian community? Could we be more intentional in teaching pastors and lay leaders how to build community? Could we be more intentional in intensely training individuals to know the elements of their faith more deeply and to create congregations that are "living demonstrations of the power of the Gospel"?

Hales Corner Lutheran Church is now the largest congregation in the LCMS with over eight thousand members, but it



Bob Scudieri

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Articles of Mission News and Reflection Needed

The Communicator is published twice yearly, in February and August. Please remember to submit articles, mission news items, announcements, or other pieces appropriate to the purpose of the Lutheran Society for Missiology to the editor. Photos are always welcomed. —The editor

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demonstrates living, lively, Christian community. Recently Hales Corners has agreed to stand with two LCMS congregations that have come on difficult times—one an inner city church, one a congregation in the suburbs. Both churches are no longer able to financially stand on their own. Rev. Mike Ernst, pastor of Hales Corners, sees this as a significant mission opportunity. Leaders from Hales Corners can bring new ideas, new resources, new leadership to these struggling churches. Just like Loehe's response

to Wyneken, this is a demonstration of Christian community reaching across barriers of organization and distance. That same spirit caused 119 new satellite congregations to begin in LCMS churches last year.

Let me suggest that every pastor should be a mission leader; every lay person should learn to do the work of a missionary. "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:9).

MACO Developments

—Mark Press

Over the last two or three years, a missionary's dream has been coming into focus and finally into reality. Rev. Dr. David Erber has served for more than 20 years in Nigeria under the sponsorship of LCMS World Mission. His family has grown up in that land, to the point that Luke (the Erbers' oldest child) has started college at Concordia University Chicago this year.

David's dream, ever since he heard about the Master of Arts in Christian Outreach Program (MACO) that the Oswald Hoffmann School of Christian Outreach conducts at Concordia University, St. Paul, has been that this program would one day be used to equip Christian outreach leaders in Nigeria. A major step toward that goal took place in January, 2008, when the first cohort of MACO students gathered for classes in Nigeria.

With the help and encouragement of Dr. Eugene Bunkowske (director of the MACO program) and of many other leaders at Concordia, David has worked to see MACO come home to Nigeria. David worked and prayed for a cohort of fifteen students. Between January 7 and January 17, nineteen students met in Obot Idim, Nigeria, to receive the initial courses that will eventually lead to their receiving the MACO degree. Meeting with them were Dr. Bunkowske and Dr. Mark Press, director of the Oswald Hoffmann School of Christian Outreach, the location from which the MACO program originated (under Dr. Paul Mueller's leadership) some 6 years ago.

Of the nineteen students, eighteen are pastors and one is an elder in a Lutheran congregation. The students include the Nigerian pastor who serves as missionary to Gambia (sent by the Lutheran Church of Nigeria), the Liberian pastor who serves as the coordinator for the pastoral training program in Liberia and Sierra Leone, the Vice President and National Secretary of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria and a number of district superintendents of the LCN.

With the establishment of a cohort of MACO students in Nigeria, thoughts of expanding MACO into other areas of the world are circulating around OHSCO. Dr. Erber deliberately planned that two of the MACO students in Nigeria are serving in

other African countries, specifically Liberia and the Gambia. There are hopes of taking this training into other places – and hopes that the leaders in these other places will also help to shape the future of MACO's programming and offerings so that they are even more effective in training people in cross-cultural outreach.

LCMS World Mission personnel are anxious to see how the MACO program progresses. CRISP (the World Mission "Committee Responsible for International Student Programs") has provided significant funding for this cohort of MACO students, which has enabled OHSCO and CSP to offer the program for a cost that is reasonable in the African context, though the degree will be accredited through Concordia University, St. Paul. CRISP usually funds programs of study for international students to come to the United States for their degree work, so this is taking a step outside their normal boundaries. They believe that this could be a way of multiplying their

resources by training even more people than they might be able to through their traditional approaches.

If you have any suggestions or ideas about how MACO might move into the future, please call Dr. Eugene Bunkowske (MACO program director, 651-603-6252), Norm Piatti (MACO student coordinator, 651-641-8224), or Dr. Mark Press (OHSCO director, 651-641-8830).

Prayers are requested on behalf of these nineteen students as they work toward the MACO degree, the professors who will instruct them (especially Dr. Erber and Dr. Nelson Unwene), and all who serve to make this outreach leader training a blessing to the church at large. In addition, prayers are also essential for those who will be touched by the people who are being trained, especially for those who do not yet know Jesus as Savior but because of MACO will be found among the saints around Christ's throne in eternity!



Lutheran Bible Translators Features Missionary Speakers and Auction at May 2 Event

—Rick Allmon

Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) will celebrate the work its missionaries are doing around the world at an auction and banquet Friday, May 2, at the Naperville/Lisle Hilton. All are invited.

Proceeds will help support new missionaries as they begin their ministries.

Those attending the meeting will hear about LBT missionaries currently serving with their families on five continents for a generation.... or longer. In the field, missionaries and spouses work with nationals to translate the Scriptures into the heart language of local populations. They also work to develop and expand Scripture Use, literacy and vernacular media programs in their host country. Hear why they do it and what inspires them.

A broad array of items in a wide price range are being assembled and donated for the silent and live auctions that are one of the event's principal fund raising

vehicles. Items already donated include a hand crafted 2 story tall doll house, crafts and art work from many of the 19 countries where LBT missionaries serve, gift baskets and items from area merchants and business people.

LBT's mission is to help bring people to faith in Jesus Christ by making the Word of God available to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts.

To meet that end, LBT recruits, trains, educates, equips and helps support missionaries who serve as Bible translation advisors language and literacy specialists, and vernacular media specialists throughout the world.

Since its founding in 1964, LBT missionaries, working with nationals in the countries they serve, have completed 28 New Testament translations. As many as five more translations are expected to be completed within the next 12 – 18 months. There are more than 6,900 languages in the world. More than



400,000,000 people who speak 4,500 of those languages cannot read Scripture in the language of their heart.

At present, 87 LBT missionaries are serving in 19 countries on 5 continents, working on 31 Bible translations and 54 Scripture Use or linguistic programs.

Lutheran Bible Translators is an independent Lutheran mission organization whose work and missionaries are supported solely through the prayers of those aware of our mission, and through their generous financial gifts and ongoing donations.

Reservations for the annual dinner are required. A free will offering will be received at the function to defray costs. To donate an auction item, call 1-800-532-4253. For more information about Lutheran Bible Translators, visit our Website at www.LBT.org.

Association of Lutheran Mission Agencies Update

—Jim Pindras

At the 12th annual conference of ALMA, The Association of Lutheran Mission Agencies, Rev. Kevin Parviz opened with a devotion and use of the “shofar,” reminding those in attendance of our call from God. That call reverberated through the room and within the hearts and souls of the attendees as they proclaimed and re-affirmed their goal, “...to reach more lost and uncommitted people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ...”

And who were these gathered at a hotel in St. Louis? Representatives of 75 mission agencies who daily work to fulfill this mission. ALMA was created to aid each member in their goal – from working to connect mission agencies that can complement each other in their particular area of expertise – to planning with each other as to how a particular nation, people or geographic area could best be served – to communicating with each other the “best practices” that will enable them to bring more to Christ.

This conference also aided the attendees in focusing on the Word as the basis of all they do as well as what it means to be in mission. Dr. Jerry Kosberg shared Scripture that clearly provided

impetus and a deeper understanding of Mission in our world today.

Dr. Robert Newton then took the field of missiology and provided his view of the road map we need to follow to bring the lost and uncommitted to Christ. It will be the lay people, he said, who must lead the charge – who must tackle the work. Why? The numbers of people worldwide who have not heard of Christ or accepted Him number in the billions. We must seize the moment to use every resource God gave us – every person who hears the call in their heart to spread the Gospel.

What could you do to be a part of this mission? Go to www.almanetwork.org and learn about each of the 75 agencies already involved. The links will provide information on the depth and breadth of what each agency does to bring more to Christ. Join ALMA as a congregation or a mission agency and learn ways to create more capacity to reach more people for Christ.

Remember that mission work is first and last about people. People like Bobbie Lautenschlager who with her husband, Dr. John Lautenschlager, joined the dream of Dr. Nancy Lass, to bring medical resources to people in need. That is what mission is about—that is what it takes to open hearts to learn about Christ. Have you heard the “shofar?”

LCMS World Mission alum Walt DeMoss retires from LBT

Rev. Walter DeMoss, director of program ministries for Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) since 2000, retired at the end of 2007. Rev. DeMoss joined LBT in 1991. He served as congregational representative coordinator and director of support ministries before becoming director of program ministries. For the past seven years, Rev. DeMoss has overseen the work of LBT missionaries and associate missionaries in the United States and overseas. "Those familiar with LBT's mission and work have long recognized and appreciated the devoted guidance, effort and contribution Walt has made to our mission over the past 16 years," Marshall Gillam, LBT executive director said.

Initially from Pittsburgh, Rev. DeMoss graduated from Valparaiso University in 1964 and was ordained a minister in 1968 after graduating from Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois (now Fort Wayne). He and his wife, Helena, then served as missionaries in Ghana and Togo. In July 2007, the DeMoss' were recognized for their LCMS missionary service before the 63rd LCMS Convention in Houston,

Texas.

Walt began his fourth year at the seminary never having considered foreign mission service. He was given a ministry interest survey early that year, and his last choice was foreign mission work. But, he spoke with Helena, and she said that she had always desired to serve as a missionary. God seemed to be pointing them in the mission direction. Eventually, they were called to serve in Africa through LCMS World Mission.

After initially serving in an urban area in Ghana, Walt and Helena later had the opportunity to start new work and train new workers among the Moba people of northern Ghana. Some of these early trainees are now key leaders in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana. Later, in the mid-1970s, LCMS World Mission realized that the Moba people extended east into Togo. Because Walt already knew the language, culture, and geography, he was asked to spearhead this new work. The DeMoss family moved to Togo in September 1979. The Lord also has blessed those efforts as some of the early trainees now serve as key leaders in the Lutheran Church in Togo.

As she did on the mission field,

Helena continues to use her nursing skills in ministry. She brings comfort through skilled care to a wide spectrum of people, including those who have been marginalized in our society. The DeMosses have three grown children and three grandchildren.

Looking to the future, Rev. DeMoss encouraged LBT and Lutherans to, "never be satisfied. Keep the vision, keep growing, keep looking for opportunities . . . not only in terms of missionaries, but also programs. Preach Christ and Him crucified," Rev. DeMoss said. He also recalled that one of the most memorable moments of his overseas ministry was, "when I first heard a Togolese lay leader reading and preaching from the Moba language texts we had been working on. What a thrill to know that people were hearing and understanding Scripture in their mother tongue. And that we had a hand in helping them do that."

Please join LCMS World Mission in congratulating Rev. DeMoss for his years of service with LCMS World Mission and Lutheran Bible Translators and praying that the Lord would continue to bless the DeMosses in their retirement years.

James Maxey Named Director of Program Ministries at Lutheran Bible Translators

—Don Ruhter

James Maxey, a missionary who has almost 20 years of experience internationally and domestically with Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT), has been named Director of Program Ministries for the Bible translation organization, effective Jan 1, 2008.

In this key position, Maxey will be responsible for supervising and directing the efforts of 87 LBT missionaries in 19 countries on 5 continents, for maintaining and supporting them on the field, and for growing the program.

He will supervise people responsible for identifying, recruiting, training, equipping, and helping to support new missionaries as LBT strives to increase the

number of missionaries and the scope and range of its Bible translation, Scripture Use and literacy projects and efforts in coming years.

"I pray that LBT will play a strategic role, raising the bar for 21st century Bible translation" Maxey said. "I want to lead LBT's professional and numerical growth in existing countries as well as in new locales. With God's help, LBT will demonstrate an even greater capacity for playing a critical role in Bible translation."

"Christianity's center of gravity is shifting out of Europe and North America. LBT wants to expand its work in translation, Scripture Use and Literacy efforts by partnering with existing and

new local church bodies in as many countries as possible," he said. "Our rich Lutheran heritage informs and influences our work."

Maxey takes over from Rev. Walter DeMoss, who is retiring after more than 36 years of service as a missionary, including 16 years as an administrator with LBT. For the last 8 years, Rev. DeMoss served as Director of Program Ministry.

"Participating in God's Mission of transforming lives through Jesus Christ is a life long goal for my wife Pam and me," James said. "We're dedicated to working with supporters in North America and

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James Maxey

around the world, and with national Lutheran churches helping translate Scriptures into the mother tongues of those who otherwise would not have access to it....and to promoting and broadening literacy and Scripture Use among those people.”

The Maxeys and LBT recently celebrated the publication and dedication of the Vuté New Testament in Cameroon, West Africa. Starting in 1991, the

Maxeys came along side local Cameroonians, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon (ELCC), other local churches and the Bible Society of Cameroon, to translate and publish the Vuté New Testament. In 2002, the ELCC asked Maxey to direct and coordinate translation and literacy efforts for 16 different Cameroonian translations in various stages of progress.

Maxey is finishing work on his doctoral dissertation at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC). His dissertation deals with “Bible Translation as Contextualization: The Role of Oral Performance in New Testament and African Contexts”. His doctorate will be in World Christianity and Mission. He has continued to work with the ELCC throughout his doctoral work.

“We’ll miss Rev. DeMoss’ presence and guidance tremendously,” Dr. Marshall Gillam, Executive Director of Lutheran Bible Translators said. “But we’re thankful that God led us to find an individual with Jim’s faith, savvy field experience, gift for translation, ability to relate to many people in different societies, and administrative abilities.”

“As LBT missionaries we occupy a privileged position,” Maxey said. “We help translate and deliver the financial aid and prayers of thousands of Lutherans and other Christians who support LBT’s efforts. These gifts when invested in people who don’t have access to Scripture, yield dynamic and meaningful Bible translations that change lives through Bible use, faith in Christ and through increased local literacy rates.”

James and Pam (Kirschenmann) Maxey were married on August 13, 1988, the same day they accepted LBT’s invitation to serve as long term overseas missionaries. After finishing course work, prayer and financial partnership development, they went overseas in 1990. After studying French in Brussels, the Maxeys worked with national partners on the Vuté New Testament translation and other projects.

Pam, who had previously served as a teacher in Cameroon, worked as a literacy consultant for the Vuté project, helping in the development of literacy materials. Later, she home schooled their growing family, maintained the household, and ministered to the local community in various ways including teaching and Bible study.

The Maxeys and their four children, Samuel, Levi, Jane and Lauren currently live in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago.

They will be moving closer to LBT’s Aurora service center in Chicago’s western suburbs.

Lutheran Bible Translators is an independent Christian mission organization. LBT missionaries and international partners help bring Bible-less people to faith in Jesus Christ by translating the Word of God and making it available to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts. At present, 87 LBT missionaries work in 19 countries on 5 continents pursuing more than 80 Bible translation, Scripture Use and literacy projects.

LBT aspires to increase its missionary contingent to at least 105, and add an additional 25 Bible translation, Scripture Use or literacy projects before its 50th anniversary in 2014. For more information, check out LBT’s website at www.lbt.org.

History and Future Celebrated in Nicaragua

—ILC News

Lutherans in Nicaragua celebrated the 490th anniversary of Luther’s Reformation with a special worship service on 30 October 2007 in the Martin Luther Chapel on the mission center campus. “It is so wonderful to see how these new believers in Jesus celebrate and rejoice remembering this special celebration,” commented LCC missionary, Rev. Sandor Arguello. “They

give thanks to our gracious God for Luther and his Reformation, and for Lutheran Church-Canada for sharing our living faith in Jesus and sharing our Lutheran Confessions.”

The previous weekend, Pastor Arguello attended “Christ, King of kings” mission congregation in Granada. Missionary Quintero and his faithful deaconess wife, Mariana did more than

254 home visitations in less than two years. The fruits of the Lord’s work was the baptism of seven children from Granada.

“The Gospel of Jesus is producing abundant fruits wherever the Word is faithfully preached,” Pastor Arguello said. “The Kingdom of God is truly increasing its number upon this, His mission field of Nicaragua and Central America.”

ILC Accepts Four New Member Churches

—LCMSNews – No. 69

The International Lutheran Council (ILC) accepted four new member church bodies—the most at any one time—during its 22nd international conference Accra, Ghana Sept. 24-30.

The ILC is an association of 34 confessional Lutheran church bodies from six continents that promote proclamation of the Gospel in accordance with the inspired and infallible Scripture, as confessed in the Lutheran Confessions.

The new member church bodies are The American Association of Lutheran Churches, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya, the Evangelical Lutheran Church—Peru, and the Portuguese Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The council elected and installed LCMS President Gerald B. Kieschnick as ILC chairman and Dr. Reginald Quirk—chairman of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England—as secretary. Kieschnick succeeds Dr. Ralph Mayan, president of Lutheran Church—Canada (LCC), who served as ILC chairman for the past nine years and who has announced that he will not stand for re-election to the LCC presidency.

The council reappointed as its executive secretary Dr. Samuel H. Nafzger, who is executive director of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations. Nafzger has served as ILC executive secretary since its formation in 1993.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana hosted the conference, at which 27 ILC-member churches were represented, along with invited guests from eight other Lutheran church bodies.

In addition to admitting new church body members, the council acted on a number of resolutions, including those that:

- ♦ authorize that its vice chairman will now be chosen by the executive committee from representatives of the world areas also elected to the executive committee -- leaders of Lutheran church bodies in Nigeria, Germany, Korea, Brazil, the Philippines, and Canada. Previously, the vice chairman was elected by all those representing ILC member churches at the international conference.
- ♦ agree with the conclusion of an ILC task force that the council “maintain its present model” as “an evangelical approach to inter-church relations that has been working well for member churches.” The task force—called for in a resolution of the 2005 ILC conference in Berlin and appointed by the executive committee—studied a number of potential models for the council's future.
- ♦ initiate a new three-year cycle for the council beginning next year, with regional meetings to be held the first year, the international conference the next year, and a theological (or "seminary") conference in the third year. Until now, international and regional conferences have been held every two years and three theological conferences have occurred since 2001—the most recent one earlier this year in South Africa.
- ♦ designate Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis, as the official repository for the ILC archives.



Representatives from English speaking Africa meet for a small group session.

- ♦ adopt “principles” for member-church assessments to meet the ILC's budget.
- ♦ “encourage faithful practice of member churches in matters of church fellowship.”
- ♦ merge ILC world areas of Southeast Asia and East Asia into a single world area, for ILC representation.

“Living as reconciled children of God” was the theme for this year’s international conference, with 2 Cor. 5:18 as its scriptural basis.

Daily Bible study and devotions led by ILC-member church leaders addressed the theme.

Also, Ted Kober, founder and president of Ambassadors of Reconciliation of Billings, Mont., offered the keynote address and daily presentations on the topic.

“Everyone there was deeply moved by Ted’s presentations, especially his emphasis on the need for confession and absolution, at home and in our church bodies,” Nafzger said. “The presentations were outstanding—helping this to be a very positive conference.”

In his report, Nafzger quoted from his 2005 report to the conference, saying, “I am convinced now more than ever that there is a pressing need ‘for the truly confessional Lutheran churches from around the world to stand together in witness to the beautiful Gospel message of the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ -- and in Him alone.’”

“Today, more than ever,” Nafzger said, “there is a need that we support one another and nurture relationships with each other that show this conviction.”

The next ILC conference is being planned for Korea in 2009. Later conferences will be scheduled in line with the newly-approved three-year cycle.

Information for this article was compiled by Dr. Dieter Reinstorf, vice president of the Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa.

Unique, Free, Three-Day Workshop For Would-Be Missionaries Available May 29-31, Near Chicago

—Don Ruhter

A free, three-day workshop designed to answer questions potential missionaries have about becoming a missionary will be held May 29-31 at Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) headquarters, 303 N. Lake St., Aurora, IL.

There is no cost for the workshop. Housing and meals are provided. Participating individuals only need to arrange transportation to and from Chicago. This is the 14th year LBT program ministry staff and missionaries will host the workshop. Aurora is about 45 miles west of the Chicago lake front.

LBT concentrates on long term mission projects. Missionaries who serve Christ through LBT generally focus on Bible translation, Scripture Use and literacy among people groups who do not yet have God's Word translated into the language of their hearts.

LBT currently has 87 missionaries and associates on the field working on more than 80 projects in 19 countries on 5 continents. LBT staff and missionaries have a substantial body of knowledge, know how and experience to share with those interested in the possibility of becoming missionaries. The organization has been in existence since 1964.

"We're interested in identifying, encouraging, advising and, if appropriate, developing individuals and couples to serve Christ and spread His word," Peter Slayton, Mobilization Coordinator said. "It is common, after listening to attendees, for our LBT staff to refer potential missionaries, whose hearts are leading them in another direction, to other organizations they fit with better."

Topics covered in-depth at the workshop include:

- ♦ Is God calling me? My response
- ♦ Cross cultural engagement

- ♦ Coping skills for cross cultural ambiguity, stress and discomfort
- ♦ What does a typical home look like/where would I live?
- ♦ Expectations regarding living standards, amenities, creature comforts
- ♦ Educational options for children
- ♦ Financial arrangements
- ♦ Charitable organizations, missions and visions
- ♦ Fund raising options and opportunities
- ♦ Translation principles and practice
- ♦ Linguistics and the process of language learning
- ♦ Positions and countries with a need to fill - Timelines for overseas mission work
- ♦ Missiological and theological background for missionaries with some focus on Bible Translation and Scripture Use
- ♦ Required course work and the process to complete that work
- ♦ Roles of national co-workers/changing philosophy of overseas mission work
- ♦ Literacy class, alternative ways of making Scripture available
- ♦ Translation, music and vernacular media work shops.
- ♦ Private meetings with staff and missionaries.

"Individuals who've taken the workshop frequently thank us for the real world insights and information we provide, for the sharing opportunities and for the assistance in helping them make informed decisions best suited for them," said Rev. Walter DeMoss, a former missionary in Africa and Director of Program Ministry for LBT.

Macedonia Project: A Great City, A "Lydia" and a Group of Argentinian Volunteers

—Martinho Rennecke

Junin, Argentina, 28° F, a town of 79,000 inhabitants, sits approximately 162 miles from Buenos Aires. It was in this town that Macedonia Project arrived in July 2007.

After a few hours of preparation at the San Pedro de Villa Ballester congregation, in the town of San Martin, in the province of Buenos Aires, pastor Arturo E. Truenow and 13 more volunteers divided themselves into groups. They left in four cars the next day, bound for the town of Junin.

A few months earlier, the CPTLN of Buenos Aires (Fundación Cristo Para Todas Las Naciones – Bringing Christ to the Nations) advertised 30-second messages on a local radio station several times a day. Radio listeners learned that free booklets would be available concerning subjects such as depression, living with optimism, how to stop smoking, how to

deal with anxiety and advices for entrepreneurs.

A week before the visitation, a letter was sent to each one of the radio listeners who had called asking for the booklets to let them know about the visit. Among these, only 13 called back postponing or canceling the visit. That being said, our mission was to visit 88 people who had asked for help, and that is the reason why this strategy is inspired by Paul the Apostle's vision, where a man begs: "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

We left on Sunday, at dawn, going towards our destination while drinking warm 'mates' (pronounced MAH-tes) and walking on the white frost. After three hours, we got to the house of the only Lutheran in the area, grandma Emilia (picture: in

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green shirt), helped by her daughter Marta, where we were warmly welcomed with some hot and delicious coffee and chorripans. Immediately, the Biblical passage of the encounter in Macedonia, between Paul's mission crew and the woman Lydia came to our mind. She was the first European converted to the Lord and hosted them at her own house. A dealer in purple cloth, Lydia certainly gave support to the mission in that place, originating the church of the Philippians.

Divided into groups, we received our maps and material for the visits, and then, everybody held hands and asked in prayer that the Lord accompany us on the streets and houses of that town, where Jesus certainly had people to reach. Among the

visitors, was Rev. José A. Pfaffenzeller, director of the Concordia Seminary of Buenos Aires and the Rev. Alberto Groh, director of the CPTLN in Argentina.

Identified with a badge, we visited the radio listeners without entering their houses, gave them the booklet "Caresses for the Soul", asked a few questions and set up a new visit. Only three declined a follow-up visit. Back to Emilia's house, who gladly listened to the reports on the visits, we set up a new training, thanked God for the successful day and drove back the 162 miles. We were all very tired, but our faith was strengthened by the certainty that we had been part of the living Christ's mission in that town.

For more information: projetomacedonia@terra.com.br.

Macedonia Project: Slums, Gunned Men and an Entrepreneur's Dream

—José Emiliano Starosky

“4^{0°} (104 F) Rio, *The Marvelous City*, territory of beauty and chaos”. It is Rio de Janeiro. The words of this song, so well known to Brazilians, describe the Rio that met the Macedonia Project in June 2006.

After a few hours of preparation at the *Congregação Paz* (Peace Lutheran Church) and a delicious lunch, we were divided in pairs and received our routes and material for the visits.

My partner Mr. Clóvis Albuquerque and I were in charge of Andaraí, a neighborhood that none of us were familiar with. With our map in hands, we left the church and drove as close as possible to the first place we had to visit. We were astonished to find a three-hundred-step staircase continuing what looked like a street on the map.

With some effort, we climbed 180 steps until our first target. It was a simple house, yet in good condition and a housewife, rather shy, welcomed us in a friendly way, but never opening the fence to her house.

Friendliness and Respect

After the first visit, we had to continue going up the staircase to reach our next stops. We kept going up, to steeper points. We were now inside an authentic favela carioca (carioca slum). We visited one more home and saw on the

map that the others were still further up.

At some point during this third part of our journey, I witnessed a terrifying sight. Men with pistols and machine guns standing in front of a small business we planned to pass by. That made me insecure about whether or not we should proceed. We did not stop walking in order not to catch attention and decided to go on and trust that our Macedonia Project t-shirts would speak for themselves. It worked out, with God's grace, that we weren't even approached by those men.

On that day, we continued to visit people, most living in poor conditions. Even though there was a lot of poverty, we were not mistreated at any moment and, in some cases, were treated with great friendliness and respect.

The Lord's Grace leads the Christians

What caught my attention in this Gospel incursion in Rio de Janeiro's slums was a short comment made by Mr.

Albuquerque, a man in his seventies, who in his large life experience had already worked for the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and the African Development Bank, and having worked in countries of extreme poverty. He said something like this: "Today, a wish that I've had for many years has come true. A wish I hadn't expected to satisfy the way I am right now, but this way showed much more. Getting to see a slum closely was my wish, but seeing a slum through spreading God's Word is an enormous blessing!"

It is interesting how God's grace leads the life of the Christians. We can think we already know a lot about life, but we learn that much more can be seen and learned in the humbleness of the work in God's Kingdom.

For more information write to: projetomacedonia@terra.com.br.

Making Communicator an E-Newsletter Under Consideration —Douglas Rutt

Should the *Communicator* be distributed via e-mail and other electronic means, rather than being printed and sent "snail mail"? This is the question the Publications Committee of the Lutheran Society of Missiology is considering. We ask our members to let us know what they think. You can send your opinion on the question of print vs. electronic format for the *Communicator* to the editor at this e-mail address: LSFMCommunicator@gmail.com.

This Far By Faith

— News from Lutheran Ministries in Jamaica, by Rev. Obot Ite

Special Day

Sunday, December 30, 2007, was another special day in the history of the St. Andrew Lutheran Church Kingston. Joy and hope for 2008 gripped the brethren at St. Andrew as David Neil, an inquirer and worshipper at the congregation was confirmed into membership of the church and as another family responded by faith through the Lutheran Hour program and are anticipating their baptism and confirmation.

New member confirmed!

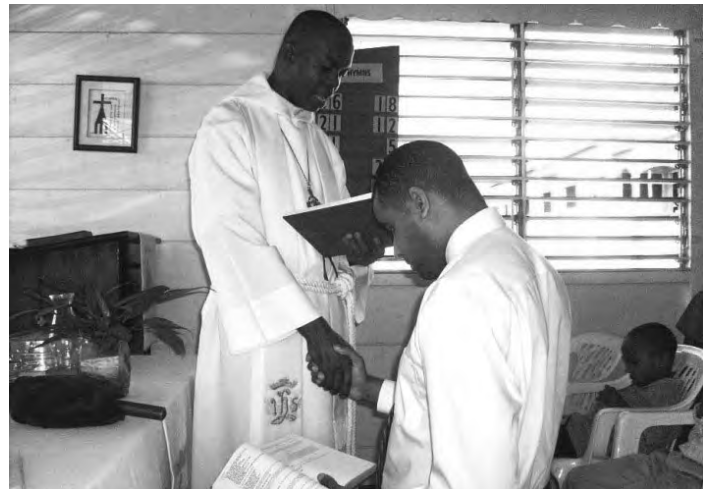
David, who has been waiting for an opportunity to be instructed in the essences of Lutheranism, visited again on the week of our arrival in Kingston and became so faithful and committed to worship services, Bible Study classes and his catechetical lessons. David is one of the ten young men and women I had listed for baptism and confirmation since we resumed work here in Jamaica.

“I had been listening to the Lutheran Hour since I was a child ... ”

Another cause for joy was the visit of Ms. Gretel Johnson. Gretel called on the Saturday, December 29, 2007, and requested for direction to the church and promised to be in the service the following day. I concluded arrangement to pick her at the bus stop by the time she arrives at Kingston. On Sunday morning, while preparing to begin the service she called again to indicate her arrival in Kingston and she was later assisted by Abasifreke to the church. At the end of the service she shared this thrilling story with me:

“I had been listening to the Lutheran Hour Program aired in the Radio station here in Jamaica since I was a child, and the Holy Spirit has been urging me to belong to the Lutheran Ministry family. I grew up disturbing my parents about the Lutherans. I didn’t know how to response. Though I’m presently a youth leader in my former church, I wasn’t satisfied anymore with the activities of the church. The struggle to find and share in Lutheran family was so strong that I couldn’t concentrate again for any meaningful works in the church. Therefore, I have been looking for opportunity to make such amove. So yesterday I decided to call, but said: if someone answer the call then, this vision shall be true for this year. I’m so glad. Thank God you were there at the right time to answer to my call. I hated phone call going into voice mail. This is how God works for his people. I feel at home and will like to continue with the Lutheran Ministry. This is my family now and I felt at home throughout the duration of the service.”

Gretel, a single parent with two kids - a boy and a girl, lives with her parents in Bio Content District in St. Catherine. She had voiced for the baptism of her kids and had already accepted the offer to study for her confirmation. Her joy and expectation was complete as she witnessed David renew his baptismal vows and be accepted into the membership of the family which she had



Confirmation of David Neil, Dec. 30, 2007 by Pastor Obot Ite at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Kingston, Jamaica.



Pastor Ite meeting with Ms. Gretel Johnson and her children at St. Andrew Lutheran Church. Kingston

been wishing for years. To the duo, it was a journey ended and begun. Gretel anticipates strife and hatred in her parents’ family as she is taking bold steps in the direction of the Holy Spirit. She also envisaged the whole family joining her in the future because of this hard and painful decision. Help us pray for these families in this moment of their great beginnings. We are much encouraged by these testimonies as we were about coming to the end of the year. We are convinced that nothing shall be able to separate them from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

Our Response to the Congregation

Since our arrival in Kingston and the commencement of pastoral duties at St. Andrew Lutheran, there have been lots of blessings to mention among the people and the church generally, as a worshipping community. We had learnt so much from the

Continued on page 10

members and they had also learnt from us. The Spirit of worship had been revised in the Church and many who did not see the meaning of worship in the past now have testimonies to share. Mid week Bible Study had been revisited and members are blessed through these sessions of study. The Youth Fellowship had also been revived and her meetings are improving. We have visited some of the members at their homes and are also struggling with our language learning.

In the Church, we have seen remarkable changes and many are still coming in to worship every passing Sunday, though some had been worshipping at times in the past but stopped coming. We shall resume Bible Study Class in Portmore this year and we believe God for greater works in other regions as He leads us.



Congregation in worship



We use this opportunity to thank all the supporters of this mission work, for their prayers, support and visions for the progress of the Mission services in this Island. Worthy of mention is the renewing of contract for the

propagation of the Lutheran Hour program in the Hot 102 FM. I shall not fail to appreciate the encouragement of Rev. Dale Talsma, the Area Facilitator LCMS World Mission, and Ms Ancella Gregory, Secretary, Lutheran Ministries in Jamaica and all the members of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Kingston. To God be the glory for the great things He has done!

—Rev. Obot and Mrs. Abasifreke Ite

IELB Supports Lutheran Church in Angola

—ILC News

In October 2007 president Paulo Moisés Nerbas of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (IELB) recently visited the Lutheran Confessional Church of Angola (ILCA).

In the state capital of Luanda he met the president of the ILCA, Benjamin Nzuzi Mavungo. In Cabinda, Nerbas could inform himself about the distance learning program of the ILCA. A service attended by Nerbas was broadcasted by local radio and TV stations.

Nerbas also met with state representatives to prepare the official recognition of the ILCA.

LSFM Website Is Your Mission Tool

As members of Lutheran Society For Missiology, we all enjoy the day the latest issue of *Missio Apostolica* arrives with its inspiring articles. Missionaries and scholars take us into God's Word and into the hearts and lives of peoples all over the world. We glean missiological insights and proven strategies we can apply to our personal and congregational mission efforts at home and abroad.

The archive of *Missio Apostolica* articles on the LSFM website allows you to access those gems and share them in a few easy clicks. Equip others for mission by sharing and discussing articles. Use an article as the basis of a Bible study. Send an article to a busy church planter for quick insight and encouragement.

On the *Missio Apostolica* web page right now is Dr. Robert Kolb's 2002 article, "Confessing the Creator to Those Who Do Not Believe There is One." This practical article is great to email to friends and coworkers, encouraging them with expert insight to navigate faith-sharing conversations. Email the article with a question or a quotation to stimulate discussion.

Many more articles, including Dr. Won Jong Ji's 2004 article, "Love, Pain/Suffering," can be found by clicking on the Title Index, lower left on the webpage. Dr. Ji's article is more than a scholarly review of Kazoh Kitamori's 1947 work *The Theology of the Pain of God*. It is an intimate snapshot the Lord, drawing us closer to Him. Ji concludes, "Is not pain the sign of love? One feels pain (intimate attachment of feeling and commitment) because he loves. Is not it also true with the "pain of God" for mankind? Is not Christ's suffering the authentic expression and evidence of God's unsearchable love for mankind? Fellowship with Christ means the fellowship of his suffering. To suffer for the faith is not a penalty; it is a privilege of sharing in the very work of Christ." This article forms the foundation of a powerful devotion or Bible study, complete with a range of Scripture references and quotations from Luther. Emailed to a friend in mission, it could provide a profound moment of encouragement.

So click LSFM members! Take every advantage of the immediacy of web technology to promote discussion, equip, and to encourage. Share a *Missio Apostolica* article today. For more information: www.LSFMissiology.org.

Beautiful Feet attendees strive to “bridge the gap”

—LCMS WORLD MISSION The Global Gospel Outreach of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

From November 1 to 4, 2007, more than 100 students gathered in Portland, Ore., on the campus of Concordia University, Portland, for the 11th annual Beautiful Feet Mission Conference. The conference's theme was “Bridge the Gap,” and it focused on encouraging college students to put their faith in action by reaching out to people living in poverty or struggling with AIDS, both in the United States and around the world. Speakers challenged students to step out of their comfort zones and testify of God's love.

Dalas Miller, a student at Concordia University, St. Paul, said, “I was convicted of my own purposeful ignorance and called to do something about it. [The conference] caused me to want to put those issues and the people going through these tragedies in the forefront of my thoughts and prayers.”

In addition to hearing from three keynote speakers, students participated in

a service learning event for an afternoon. Attendees also benefitted from a variety of workshop offerings on Saturday, which included workshops led by LCMS World Mission personnel Matt Wasmund, Michelle Hoepfner, and Herb Hoefler.

LCMS World Mission offered another resource to students who wanted to grow in their faith and share God's Word with others. Conference participants were eligible to receive an Ablaze! in God's Word kit, containing a BibleStick®, an MP3 CD, and a Share It Card. These components each contain the New Testament in dramatized audio form, and the Share It Card can be given to someone else, so they can download their own free copy of the audio New Testament.

Amanda Runey, a junior at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, says, “Beautiful Feet is especially important for college students to attend because this is the perfect time of life for them to get

involved in mission work. Most college students don't have the burden of a family or major financial obligations to hold them back. They can jump in . . . they also have such a fire about them..which is exactly what people doing mission work need.”

The Beautiful Feet Mission Conference is student-led and was initiated in 1997 by Jake Gillard and Dave Federwitz, who were college students at the time. Planning is already underway for next year's conference, which will be held at Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn. LCMS World Mission provides logistical advice and guidance on planning and organizing Beautiful Feet. LCMS World Mission also sponsor the conference every year, providing financial assistance for the conference costs and travel scholarships to help students attend.

English Pastor Installed in Paris Mission Outpost

—ILC News

LCMS World Mission - Rev. Roger Jones was installed as pastor on 16 September 2007 at Holy Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church in Paris, France. He and his wife, Emily, arrived in Paris six weeks earlier from London, England, where Roger served as head pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

After a nearly 80-year partnership between the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS), USA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church-Synod of France and Belgium (EEL-SFB), the synods are continuing their collaborative tradition by calling Roger of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (ELCE), to serve in France.

Jones left his long-time home in London, and is one of twelve Ablaze! Alliance missionaries supported by LCMS World Mission. Having spent ten years in modern language study and mastering French during frequent seasons in residence in a small French village, Jones comes to the pulpit fluent in French, German, and English. His wife, Emily, was born Chan Cheng in Hong Kong and is fluent in English and Cantonese. She hopes to reach out to first- and second-generation Chinese immigrants in France through a language school on the church grounds. Their multilingual repertoire, they believe, will continue to attract an already multi-cultural, multi-lingual congregation.

“It is my conviction that the future of our church is in the

Paris region. Here are the most people; here are the most heathen and the most unchurched,” said Rev. Jean Haessig, president of the EEL-SFB and director of L'Heure Luthérienne (Lutheran Hour). “About one-fifth of the French population is living here, so, statistically, the future is here,” Haessig said.

Holy Savior is located at the bottom floor of an apartment building and stands indistinct among the row of off-white apartment complexes on Rue de L'Abbe Groult. But in spite of the low visibility, the congregation is already a bustling fifty strong - an impressive number considering the anti-religious climate cultivated in France since its eighteenth century Revolution. “I have only been here three days, and I have already had two people knock on the door,” Jones said.

Interest in Lutheran Christianity is an anomaly for France, where more than 30 percent of the population identify themselves as atheist or agnostic, and Lutheran as a denomination is virtually unheard of. “In the month that I've been here, we've had six new people attending church regularly,” said Jones.

Roger and Emily Jones have come prepared with an enthusiastic perspective. Ambitions of an international congregation have already taken shape. Families from Frenchspeaking Africa, England, and the United States are among the congregation's members.

The Lutheran Society for Missiology (LSFM) is a society of Lutheran who are interested in the Apostolic mission of God in today's world. The Society was born on October 25, 1991, out of concern to promote Biblical attitudes for Missions. Among other things, the Society publishes a modest but very significant journal, *MISSIO APOSTOLICA*. To join or receive further information, please contact:



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Mark Your Calendars!

LSFM Annual Meeting

Date

Thursday, May 29
1:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.*

Friday, May 30
8:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Key Events

Cutting Edge Awards
Election of Officers

Venue

Concordia Seminary,
Saint Louis, MO
President's Room

*Note: Annual Banquet to begin at 6:00 p.m on Thursday.

Website:

www.LSFMissiology.org



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