

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.

Inside This Issue:

Religious Persecution in Today's World2

Master of Arts in Christian Outreach Program Expanding3

Library Bequeathed to China Lutheran Seminary in Taiwan3

Nigeria--Jamaica Mission Opportunity4

Lutheran Church of Togo Ordains Five Pastors5

Hispanic Lutherans Discuss Concerns6

LWML Adopts \$1.7 Million Mission Goal8

Dr. Ray Bakke and Dr. Philip Jenkins Address LCMS International Missionaries9

From Executive Director Bob Scudieri

According to Ingemar Oberg, in his new book *Luther and World Mission* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2007), “during the first two generations after Luther, Lutherans did in fact begin missions among the Slavs, the Turks, and the Sami (Lapps).” Oberg describes the rich mission contribution made by Martin Luther in his hymns, his catechism and his theological writing in general. He then goes on to say that it was orthodoxy that “soon squelched the mission involvement with the theory that all peoples had heard the Gospel already during the time of the apostles and that therefore, the peoples themselves were responsible for how they received or did not receive the Gospel” (p. 501).

It is not just the orthodox who find reasons not to communicate the gospel. The old Adam in us will always find reasons not to share the love of Christ. But then the Spirit intervenes. In the end, it is not our intentions or our love or our plans or our need or our goal to share the good news that is determinative.

On July 9, 1706, the first Lutheran missionaries to India landed in Tranquebar. Bartholemew Ziegenbalg and Henry Pluetschau had traveled over seven months by sailing ship from

Copenhagen. Before they left they had covenanted “never to seek anything but the glory of God, the spread of His kingdom, and the salvation of mankind...” (WG Polack, *Into All the World*, St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1930). Polack says that the two missionaries had met with stiff opposition from the Lutheran chaplain on board ship. Ziegenbalg died at age 36, after translating Luther's catechism and the New Testament into Tamil. He established a school and a church. All this in thirteen years of ministry.

Mission work will not always receive immediate affirmation from other human beings. The persistence demonstrated by missionaries is, however, not as great, not as strong, not as alive as the love of God's Son—the One who persistently comes in the Gospel, the Word and the Sacraments, to love His people.

It is not our love for the lost that is determinative—it is the love of God that insists that all the world will hear the good news of His love that will bring this to completion. Thank God.



Bob Scudieri

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

LSFM BOARD MEETINGS

--Dr. Allan R. Buckman Executive Director

Highlights of the April 29-30, 2007 Board meeting included a review of LSFM goals, especially those having to do with partnerships, memberships and communications, as well as the future direction of *Missio Apostolica*, the LSFM flagship print publication.

Partnerships continue to grow, both with regard to number as well as intensity. LCMS World Relief sponsored the publication of the May issue of *Missio Apostolica*, with a focus on HIV/AIDS and Lutheran mission expansion. LCMS World Mission has agreed to partner with the Lutheran Society for Missiology for the publication of the November issue, to include several case studies presented at the July, 2007 Ablaze! International Summit, which convened in Houston, Texas at the conclusion of the LCMS Convention.

Recently, the World Mission Prayer League purchased a blanket subscription to *Missio Apostolica* for its 50 missionaries, thereby establishing a partnering relationship

similar to those established with LCMS World Mission and Lutheran Bible Translators. The flow of ideas, issues and concepts between these key Lutheran mission agencies and the Lutheran Society For Missiology will no doubt be greatly facilitated.

LSFM memberships and subscriptions are now at their highest level for the past several years—486 as of the end of May. Trend lines have been pointing upward for the past few months.

Key to LSFM communications efforts is the recently updated LSFM website at www.lsfmissiology.org. The Board noted that site visits have been averaging approximately 350 per week, with between 200 and 250 downloads.

The LSFM Annual Meeting is scheduled for September 26-27, 2007 on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The banquet is scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. on the 26th. Key program events include the annual Cutting Edge Awards as well as the election of officers. No doubt this will be yet another great time of sharing and fellowship!

Religious Persecution in Today's World

--Douglas L. Rutt

As this is being written, reports indicate that the Taliban has killed two Korean Christian aid workers in Afghanistan. The deaths come after the Taliban kidnapped 23 church volunteers from a Korean church, including seven women, who were on a summer mission program. On Wednesday, July 25, Pastor Bae Hyeong-gyu, 42, was killed, according to government officials. On Monday, July 30, the second Korean hostage, Shim Sung-min, 29, was executed after deadlines given by the Taliban demanding the release of insurgent prisoners passed with no action. At the time of the writing of this report, there is no end in sight in the hostage situation, since the Afghan government refuses to negotiate with the terrorists. The Taliban has threatened to continue killing the hostages if their demands, which include the release of terrorist prisoners, are not met.

It is estimated that today more than 200 million Christians are the victims of persecution because of their faith. In a recent issue of *Moody Magazine*, Jeff Taylor documents the rise of persecution and the affect that it has on all Christians.

Religious persecution runs from the horrific to the subtle. One case that Taylor reports on is that of Arab slave traders who kidnapped a young woman by the name of Rebecca Mathok along with her three sisters. He quotes her as saying, "The raiders descended on our village and destroyed everything. They burnt all our houses and seized cattle and property." She was forced to practice Islam until her freedom was bought back by an organization called Christian Solidarity Worldwide.

Taylor reports that the causes for persecution are varied, but they include religious extremism, especially in Islamic and Hindu countries, remnant communism, as

well as other causes. Taylor states, "What often makes dealing with the visible source of Christian persecution difficult is that other factors—society, culture, ethnicity, economics—are usually involved."

Paradoxically, as has been the case through the centuries, persecution often results in the growth of the church. According to Taylor, one Iranian church leader reportedly commented that the return of the Ayatolla Khomeine to Iran in 1979 "was the best thing that ever happened to the church in Iran... Many in Iran had put their hope in an Islamic state. But under Khomeini, their hope soon turned to hopelessness. They began to look elsewhere for answers, and they are finding the only answer, Jesus Christ."

We should keep the Korean hostages and persecuted Christians around the world in our prayers.

Taylor's full article, "Persecution Today," can be found at www.moodymagazine.com.

MACO Program Expanding

—Rev. Dr. Mark G. Press

The Oswald Hoffmann School of Christian Outreach (OHSCO) is continuing to expand its sphere of influence. One of the programs that has had a good deal of impact in recent years is the Master of Arts in Christian Outreach (MACO) program, which aims at creating outreach leaders who can have a significant impact on mission and ministry wherever they are living.

OHSCO leaders have been working for two years to expand the program by making MACO available to students and church leaders in Nigeria. Now all the approvals have been given at the university level, and it is anticipated that the first cohort of students will begin their way through the program later this fall/winter.

One of the realities that has made this expansion possible is the presence in Nigeria of two graduates from the Ph.D. in Missiology program of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Dr. David Erber has served for 20 years as missionary in Nigeria and will be the on-site coordinator for MACO in Nigeria. Dr. Nelson Unwene, former president of the Lutheran Church in Nigeria, also anticipates being involved in

teaching students in MACO. Besides these two men, Dr. Paul Mueller (former director of OHSCO) is based in Nairobi, Kenya, and will provide some support to MACO.

Are you a pastor or a congregational leader looking to raise up leaders within your congregation? OHSCO encourages you to give consideration to sending promising leaders to MACO to receive support, skills training, encouragement, and understanding of the best of mission and outreach learning. It is an investment in future mission and ministry that will pay huge dividends.

MACO is a cohort-based program that requires three two-week residencies on campus at Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota. Other classes are taught via distance education. Students are able to focus on their current ministry/mission setting throughout the course of their study, culminating in a "capstone" that summarizes some of their findings and makes recommendations for further development of outreach possibilities. For more information, contact Dr. Gene Bunkowske, director of the MACO program, (bunkowske@csp.edu) or Norm Piatti, student coordinator of MACO, (piattin@csp.edu).



The Zeta cohort of the Master of Arts in Christian Outreach with their professor, Dr. Douglas Rutt.

Library Bequeathed to China Lutheran Seminary in Taiwan



Shortly before her death in June, Dr. Louise Robbert bequeathed to China Lutheran Seminary (Taiwan) the library of her departed husband, Dr. George Robbert. As professor of Reformation history at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, Dr. G. Robbert had significant resources in Reformation resources. By divine serendipity, China Lutheran Seminary (CLS) has recently completed construction of a major multi-purpose facility, which will provide spacious

accommodation for those resources. That gift of books will enhance the festivities when the new facility is dedicated the end of October. More important than facilities, CLS has committed itself, beginning just two years ago, to a Chinese-language Th.M. program in Luther Studies, the only such program in the world. Not only does death not separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, but it does not even terminate shared ministry in the Gospel.

Nicaragua: Founding of Lutheran Church Planned for 2008

Canadian Mission Project Takes Important Step to Independence

The founding of a new Lutheran Synod in Nicaragua is planned for January 2008. This is the most important result of discussions between Dr. Ralph Mayan, president of Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC) and representative pastors, deaconesses and lay persons from Nicaraguan congregations in December 2006.

At this meeting Mayan shared with the representatives a variety of models for governance used by Lutheran church bodies around the world. The assembled group opted to move forward using the LCC model of synod as an association of congregations, pastors and deacons. “This is all new for the people involved,” explained LCC missionary, Pastor Sandor Arguello. “Everything is new

and it will take time for everyone to understand how a church works.” The Nicaraguan delegates set January 2008 as a target date for the founding convention of Iglesia Luterana Sínodo de Nicaragua (ILSN), the Lutheran Church Synod of Nicaragua. LCC’s director of communications, Ian Adnams, will act as advisor for the founding convention and has already led an information session for the committees formed for its preparation.

The Lutheran congregations in Nicaragua have grown out of the work of LCC, whose mission outreach in Nicaragua began in 1997. Since then the Canadian church has trained 17 pastors who serve twelve congregations. Two pastors serve as LCC missionaries, two others have established mission outposts in Honduras, Costa Rica, and a third serves the Lutheran Church in Panama. In addition, almost 35 deaconesses support the work of the pastors through Christian education programs including daily school classes, Sunday schools and vacation Bible schools.

Nigeria - Jamaica Mission Opportunity

---LCMS World Mission

Jamaica may be a rather odd place for a mission field for Africa, but there are some real connections. The vast majority of Jamaicans today are descendants of African slaves, many from Nigeria. People in Jamaica have a curiosity about Africa. Likewise, many Africans are quite aware of the fact that their people, who were carried off from their homeland so many years ago, are still out there somewhere.

For the last 15 years, the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) World Mission has been sending missionaries to Jamaica; however, recent discussions between LCMS World Mission and the church in Jamaica led to a change of strategy. A request came to the Lutheran Church of Nigeria for a Nigerian pastor who could serve as a missionary in Jamaica.

Rev. Effiong Ekanem, president of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria (LCN), and Dr. David Erber, LCMS World Mission area facilitator for West Africa, traveled to Jamaica to meet the people of the church in Jamaica, as well as LCMS World Mission leaders in that corner of the world. While there are significant cultural differences between the cultures in Africa and the people in Jamaica, it is believed that there is tremendous potential for a Nigerian pastor to work effectively in Christian outreach and church planting in Jamaica.



Divine Service in Nigeria

President Ekanem explained that the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod has the goal of reaching 100 million people with the Gospel and that the Lutheran Church of Nigeria has the goal of reaching one million people. “Our purpose of sending a missionary from Nigeria is not to be the pastor of a congregation, but to reach out to the multitudes of people living in Jamaica,” he said.

Taking into account that a variety of resources are needed and are available for this mission endeavor, it was determined that the Lutheran Church of Nigeria will supply the missionary personnel, LCMS World Mission will supply the basic finances for missionary support, and the church in Jamaica will work with the missionary in orientation to living in Jamaica and assisting him in outreach and church planting endeavors.

It is hoped to have a Nigerian missionary in Jamaica within the next six months.

Bible Translated into 2426 Languages

The Bible or at least parts of the Bible can now be read in 2426 languages. The numbers are based on the annual Scripture Language Report of the United Bible Societies (UBS). Last year 23 languages have been added. The complete Bible is translated into 429 languages, three more than last year. The New Testament is available in 1145 languages. Experts estimate the number of spoken languages worldwide at 6 500.

The Bible remains the book most

frequently translated in history since the invention of the letterpress with mobile characters by Johannes Gutenberg. Leader under the continents is Africa with 693 translations. In Europe there are translations into 212 languages.

According to information from the UBS, 95 percent of the world population can read a part of the Bible in a language they understand. However, this isn't always their mother tongue. There is still no understandable Bible translation for

about 300 million people. The Bible companies therefore have declared in a world meeting in 2004 that Bible translation remains a central necessity. In addition to new translations, revisions of existing translations are also part of the program.

145 national Bible societies work together in the UBS, whose seat is in Reading (England). At present the UBS or national Bible societies have commissioned more than 600 translation projects in 495 languages.

Lutheran Church of Togo Ordains Five Pastors

--LCMS World Mission

The Lutheran Church of Togo is now blessed with five new pastors who have joined the five pastors ordained in 2002 in serving God's Church and proclaiming God's Word. On 25 November 2006, church leaders, chiefs from surrounding villages, members of many Lutheran congregations, and interested villagers gathered under large acacia and neem trees in the Nano village school yard to witness the ordination of four vicars. The four men had completed three years of study at the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies in Dapaong, a year of field work, and at least one year of vicarage before reaching this goal.



Togolese Graduates

The fifth vicar was ordained in the capital city of Lome on Sunday, 3 December 2006 by Dr. Robert Roegner, executive director of Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) World Mission, USA. Michael 'Kwaku' Amegah has been the mission's administrative assistant in Lome for many years before following God's Call to Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis, Missouri, USA. After completing three years of study and his vicarage in the U.S., Amegah returned to lead the church in Lome.

Missio Apostolica November 2007

--Victor Raj

Case studies make up much of the November 2007 issue of *Missio Apostolica*, journal of the Lutheran Society for Missiology. These real life narratives tell the story of the spreading of God's word to the ends of the world in the 21st Century. They remind us how the Christian mission struggles in parts of Europe, and makes strides in Asia and Africa in unprecedented ways. Leaders of LCMS partner churches report how

seminary graduates reach out to unreached peoples with the Gospel and start new congregations before they are ordained. They also report how charity institutions and the ministry of education continue to serve as God's agents leading new people to Christ.

The May 2007 issue on AIDS was well received. Thanks to the generous support from the LCMS World Relief for underwriting that project. LCMS

World Mission stands behind the special issue on mission case studies. Together, the journal moves ahead with the clear goal of proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord to those who are far and near. How beautiful is this! We are barely ten years away from our common goal of reaching one hundred million people by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Every one counts in the Lord's kingdom.

Forty New Missionaries Commissioned at Concordia University, St. Paul

---LCMS WORLD MISSION

Forty new missionaries received certificates of completion to commemorate their recent completion of LCMS World Mission orientation at the Oswald Hoffman School of Christian Outreach on Thursday, June 28. The commissioning service was held in Graebner Memorial Chapel at Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota, and served as the formal conclusion to this year's two-week missionary orientation.

The new missionaries will serve in more than 19 different countries within three regions through LCMS World Mission this year, from as far west as Lithuania across the breadth of Central and East Asia, into Japan. Missionaries will also serve in Southeast Asia and Latin America.



New Missionaries Commissioned at Concordia University, St. Paul

Please keep these new and continuing missionaries in your prayers, especially that they always consider their role in terms of God's vision, that they proceed with wisdom, assurance, and joy, and that God may keep them safe.

Hispanic Lutherans Discuss Concerns

---LCMS WORLD MISSION

Hispanic ministry is a "whole-church issue," not just a "missions issue," says Rev. Eloy Gonzalez, associate director of the Center for Hispanic Studies in St. Louis, and chairman of the Synod's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Hispanic Ministry. So, "issues of importance to Hispanic Lutherans—such as inclusion, national representation, immigration concerns, and language barriers—need to be shared with the church at-large," he says. That's why the Hispanic Ministry Summit, held Jan. 16-18 in St. Louis, brought together national LCMS executives and Hispanic ministry leaders to discuss the task force's report and recommendations.

Hispanics now number 44.7 million, or 15 percent of the U.S. population, and are the fastest-growing ethnic group in this country, according to the task force. Some 10,000 of the Synod's 2.6 million members are Hispanic, and about 140 of the church body's 6,000 congregations are involved in Hispanic ministry.

National LCMS executives "have really not ever been part of the full conversation" about Hispanic

ministry, said Gonzalez. "So, we're saying, 'Hey, we want partners from the church to be part of this.'" Hispanic ministry also has been seen historically in the Synod "as a responsibility of the Missions department only," he said. "[Now] we're saying it's a whole-church issue."

Executives from the Synod's national offices—including those for schools, Black ministry, human care, university education, theology and church relations, district presidents, communications, and world mission—were invited to take part in the summit "to sensitize them and make them aware of the issues," according to Gonzalez.

Appointed by LCMS President Gerald Kieschnick last June, the task force is charged with determining the best ways for the Synod to aggressively reach Hispanic, or Latino, people in the United States. The full report of the Blue Ribbon Task Force can be found on the internet site of the Center for Hispanic Studies, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, www.hispanicstudies.org.



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 you opinion on the question of print vs. electronic format for the *Communicator* to the editor at this e-mail address: LSFMCommunicator@gmail.com.

LSFM Thanks First Researcher for the Facing Missiology Project

--Tara Mulder

At a project meeting in May, the Facing Missiology Project committee officially thanked Michael Stahl for his hours of work to advance the project and prayed the Lord's blessings upon him and his family as he begins the pastoral ministry. Michael spent the last academic year working to refine a list of LCMS missionaries and gather information. The list includes missionaries sent by the Board for Mission Services (and its antecedents) and who are no longer on the field to which they were called. Top priority was locating missionary files and artifacts in the collection at Concordia Historical Institute (CHI). CHI, a partner in the project, continues to be very generous in providing access and to their vast collection, as well as research guidance. Michael completed the first phase of the missionary research, compiling a list of more than 1200 missionaries. Michael was able to gather basic biographical information and notes about artifacts on file for close to 90% of the current list.

While reading through the files and artifacts, Michael also recorded personal reactions to the lives of the missionaries. Missionary family after missionary family, he was struck not only by their service and accomplishments, but also by the depth of their faith in Christ and perseverance in the face of adversity. While researching missionary Elmer

Thode, who served in China from 1926-1952, and then in Hong Kong 1953-1965, Michael discovered Thode's wife, Frieda, remained in Hong Kong after his death and continued to do mission work. "I cannot begin to imagine the kind of faith and commitment to the Lord of the church Mrs. Thode had to continue to live in a foreign country apart from family and continue the work of spreading the Good News of Jesus after losing her husband. I don't know if I could have done that."

Michael's well-organized research will make for a smooth transition for the next researcher as well as for the entry of the missionary data into the Facing Missiology database, scheduled to go on the LSFM website later this year. Please join us in prayers of thanksgiving and blessings upon Michael Stahl as he begins the pastoral ministry at Lutheran Church of the Cross, Hanover, Massachusetts. Michael was sent off with a practical gift from LSFM and of course, a complimentary subscription to *Missio Apostolica* and *The Communicator*.



Michael & Stacey Stahl

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 familiar blue cover and 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 of 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.

LWML Adopts \$1.7 Million Mission Goal

--Paula Schlueter Ross

Relying on the “rock-solid” foundation of their faith in Jesus Christ, delegates to the 32nd Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League adopted a record-setting mission goal of \$1.7 million for the 2007-09 biennium. More than 5,000 people attended the 65th anniversary convention, held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, June 21-24 under the theme “ROCK! Rest On Christ the King,” from Psalm 31:1-3: “Secure in Jesus, my rock and fortress, I step out in faith to declare His praise and serve others.” Sioux Falls, known for its pink quartzite rock, second only to diamonds in strength, was mentioned by several speakers as being an apt location for the convention, with its “ROCK” theme.

The record mission goal is \$75,000 more than the LWML's previous goal for 2005-07. Contributions given by the organization's 250,000 members nationwide over the next two years will be used to cover organizational expenses and to support 18 mission grants to:

- ✘ train deaf-ministry leaders (\$50,000).
- ✘ provide portable medical clinics in Sudan, East Africa (\$70,000).
- ✘ build 10 Lutheran churches in India (\$100,000).
- ✘ support a female missionary to Muslim people in Guinea, Africa (\$100,000).
- ✘ help Lutheran Bible Translators, Aurora, Illinois, provide transportation for missionaries (\$60,000).
- ✘ open eight Lutheran Blind Mission Outreach Centers nationwide (\$40,000).
- ✘ provide education to Muslims in Bangladesh (\$75,000).
- ✘ support a “circuit rider” pastor in rural northwest South Dakota (\$65,000).
- ✘ support an inner-city children's ministry in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota (\$50,000).
- ✘ send a female human-care missionary to Africa (\$100,000).
- ✘ support a Christian family counseling center in St. Petersburg, Russia (\$36,000).
- ✘ expand mission work in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, and Ethiopia, Africa (\$104,500).
- ✘ begin a Lutheran campus ministry at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas (\$95,000).
- ✘ expand Internet streaming capabilities at KFYO-AM Radio in St. Louis, (\$50,000).
- ✘ support Concordia University Texas, Austin, students preparing for child-welfare careers (\$80,000).
- ✘ assist Lutheran City Ministries in its outreach to homeless and addicted people in Detroit, Michigan (\$49,000).
- ✘ support a soup kitchen at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Chicago, Illinois (\$33,000).
- ✘ support a cross-cultural urban ministry in Ohio (\$32,500).



The 600-plus delegates also elected a new president to lead the organization over the next four years—Janice (Jan) Wendorf of Grafton, Wisconsin.

Besides exceeding their 2005-07 mission goal by more than \$55,000 and adopting the LWML's most ambitious mission goal ever for 2007-09, convention-goers gave daily offerings:

- ✘ \$52,381.81, contributed during Thursday's opening worship service, will go toward the 2007-09 mission goal.
- ✘ \$57,268.50, given on Friday, will be divided 30 percent for the LWML Endowment Fund and 70 percent for LCMS World Mission for educating missionary children. Added to that figure are offerings sent prior to the convention in recognition of the 65th Anniversary Celebration from local LWML groups and individuals of \$24,906.91, for a total of \$82,175.41.
- ✘ \$47,831.54, contributed on Saturday, will support seminary-student education. It will be divided equally between the two LCMS seminaries.
- ✘ \$39,796.51 from Sunday's closing service will be used to continue funding for the LWML's “Heart to Heart Sisters” program, which serves women of different ethnic groups.

Dr. Ray Bakke and Dr. Philip Jenkins Address LCMS International Missionaries

--Douglas L. Rutt

More than fifty LCMS missionary families from around the world and LCMS World Mission staff members were treated to studies presented by two world-famous scholars during the triennial Ablaze Summit, held in Houston, Texas, July 7-13.

Dr. Ray Bakke, a gifted teacher, author and leader in the area of urban ministry, is the founder of International Urban Associates. He has animated a network of more than 100 urban churches and missions leaders in many of the world's largest cities. Formerly a pastor in the city of Chicago, he currently serves as Regent's Chair and Acting Academic Dean at Bakke Graduate University in Seattle, Washington. Among other books, he is the author of *A Theology as Big as the City*, and *The Urban Christian: Effective Ministry in Today's Urban World*.

Bakke's most exciting work is his development of a pro-urban theology and ideas in community development. His books, articles, and resources are highly respected because they give practical answers to hard questions: How does God work with the city? What are the dynamics of the urban environment, and what does that mean for ministry there? How can we form lasting solutions to urban problems like poverty and oppression?

When commenting on the immense diversity of population in the city of Chicago, where one square mile can contain over sixty thousand people from more than one hundred nations, he asked the question: "Is there a theology as big as Chicago?" The answer, of course, was yes—God is the God of the city also. Bakke pointed out that the word "city" is used more than 1250 times in the Scriptures. In spite of the fact that many Christians view the city as a threatening place, "God loves the city," he said, "as demonstrated by his care for the city of Nineveh."

Dr. Philip Jenkins is the Distinguished Professor of History and Religious Studies at Pennsylvania State University, but

he is perhaps best known for his thought provoking book, *The Next Christendom: The Rise of Global Christianity*, published in 2002. During his presentation to the LCMS missionaries and staff, he pointed out that Christianity is moving to the "global south." "For example, from 1900 to 2000," he said, "the numbers of Christians in Africa has grown from 10 million to 360 million."



Dr. Ray Bakke (second from right) during small group discussions on urban ministry.



Dr. Philip Jenkins

The shift in the 'center of gravity' to the south has not been without its challenges for the mother churches in the North, he cautioned. The churches in the south tend to hold to more conservative moral values, while some churches in the north, such as those who form the Anglican Communion, have been more tolerant of, and even embraced, ideas such as homosexuals serving in the priesthood.

The divide between churches in the north and south, is not only about moral issues, however. It is an issue

of how Scripture is interpreted, and even of which portions of the Bible are valued. "The Old Testament worldview is closer to the African worldview," Jenkins affirmed. "One text that shows up again and again is that of Naboth (1 Kings 21), 'The Lord forbid that I should depart from the land of my fathers.' The African is still closely connected to his ancestors, as were the people of the Old Testament," he said. "In Africa, the Old Testament speaks more powerfully than it does to those of us from the north." Another example is the Epistle to the Hebrews, of which Luther had a low view. It is considered in Africa to be "the epistle to Africa." "Basically," asserted Jenkins a little apprehensively given his audience, "if Luther didn't like it, it goes down well in Africa."

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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The Communicator is published twice yearly in August and February. Your mission news and announcements are welcome. Please send them one month in advance to:

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Mark Your Calendars!

Fall LSFM Board Meeting

Dates
Wednesday, Sept. 26
12:00 noon. to 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 27
8:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Venue
Concordia Seminary,
Saint Louis, MO

LSFM Annual Meeting and Banquet

Date
Wednesday, Sept. 26
6:00 p.m.

Key Events
Cutting Edge Awards
Election of Officers

Venue
Concordia Seminary,
Saint Louis, MO

Website:

www.LSFMissiology.org



The Lutheran Society for Missiology
Concordia Seminary
880 Seminary place
St. Louis, MO 63105