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August 2009

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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From the Executive Director

—Robert J. Scudieri
Associate Executive Director
LCMS World Mission, North America

Fr. Virgil Funk has been researching the ideas of Joseph Ratzinger on liturgy. For twenty five years he was the influential head of liturgy development for the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. He is intending to write a book about Ratzinger's ideas. I sat next to Virgil on a recent Southwest Airlines Flight—Fr. Virgil's favorite airline. I shared with Virgil that I was involved with a Lutheran mission society—he was very interested—in fact I invited him to write for us in one of our upcoming issues—one on liturgy and music and mission. He was eager to do this (note to Al Buckman!).

As we talked I shared with him something about the discussions I had been involved with between Pr. David Johnson (head of the LCMS Commission on Worship) and the St Louis seminary faculty. Very productive. We talked about the difference between contemporary and contextual worship. He asked me what the difference was. I told him that a sixty year old playing a guitar was not contemporary, but it might be contextual. I also told him how eager some of us were for Lutherans to

become more engaged in the contextual, missionary effort to create liturgies that were absolutely theologically true but which could speak to the hearts of people in each context in which they live. Luther did translate the Bible into German so that more people could hear the saving Word. And, all of this is predicated on the incarnation—the loving initiative of a God who wanted human beings to know Who He is—the One who created the heavens and the earth; the One who loves us—loved us enough to allow His child to die so that we could live.

There is a lot of conversation these days about liturgy and mission. Maybe LSFM can contribute by closing the divide between missions and liturgy. What about it Dr Buckman?



Bob Scudieri

Articles of Mission News and Reflection Needed

The Communicator is published twice yearly. 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

Ralph D. Winter (1924 to 2009)

—Dr. Allan R. Buckman

Readers of *Missio Apostolica* who knew Dr. Ralph Winter were also aware of his creative approach to issues in missions, missiology, the World Christian Movement and life in general. This committed servant of Christ was called to his eternal home on May 20th.

Gifted with a brilliant mind, he was highly educated with degrees from Caltech (B.S. Civil Engineering), Princeton (B.D.), Columbia University (M.A., TESL), and Cornell (Ph.D., Linguistics/Anthropology). Having kept his creative intellect continually focused on issues having to do with the extension of God's Kingdom, he became widely known for his many conceptual breakthroughs and unique approaches to mission challenges.

It would require pages to list all of his notable contributions, but to cite just a few; his *unreached peoples* concept, first presented at the 1974 Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization, completely refocused the remaining task in global missions, shifting emphasis from countries to people groups. Correspondingly, the resources of numerous mission agencies in this country and elsewhere were allocated to accommodate this new concept.



1970: Dr. Ralph D. Winter and His wife Roberta



Dr. Ralph D. Winter and Teen Mania

Similarly, Dr. Winter's treatment of church and mission structures in terms of *modalities and sodalities* brought into focus the distinct, but complimentary nature of the two. It is widely regarded as one of the most penetrating analysis of church/mission structures and relations, and has influenced the formation of numerous emerging mission societies globally.

Other notable contributions include:

- Missionary service in Guatemala among the Mayan people, with the Presbyterian Foreign Mission Board, 1956-1966.
- Co-founder of the TEE global initiative, with a current enrollment of 13,000 students.
- Professor, Historical Development of the Christian Movement, SWM, Fuller Seminary.
- Co-founder, Secretary-Treasurer, American Society of Missiology.
- Founder, International Society for Frontier Missiology.
- Founder, Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, with 80,000 alumni in the USA alone.
- Founder and General Director, U.S. Center for World Mission
- Founder, William Carey Library.
- President, William Carey International University.
- Author of numerous books and articles dealing with issues in missiology.

During his tenure as Professor at the School of World Mission, Dr. Winter taught approximately 1,000 students, of whom I was privileged to be one. At the time and during subsequent years, he served as mentor for many, and certainly will be missed. But his legacy lives on.

India: Rebuilding of Inadequate Chapels

Because of the rapid expansion of congregations in the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC), many are rebuilding their facilities.

The policy is to expect the congregation to build up to the roof level, and the IELC Trust Association then provides funds to complete the chapel.

The needs have far outstripped the resources of the Trust Association, and some donors in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, USA have stepped forward to help through the Ablaze! "Fan into Flame" fund.

OHSCO Notes–Fall 2009

—Rev. Mark G. Press, PhD

Workshop on Missional Leadership

The Oswald Hoffmann School of Christian Outreach held a Workshop on Missional Leadership at Concordia University, St. Paul, MN, on July 23-25, 2009.

Approximately 30 individuals (from around the country) attended the workshop. They heard presentations from gifted speakers such as Rev. Dr. Robert Newton, president of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District LCMS, and Rev. Jerry Kosberg, recently retired mission executive from the Pacific Southwest District LCMS.

Dr. Newton's presentations focused on the mission of God and how each baptized Christian is part of that mission, having been made "co-owners" with Christ of the "family business." As those who live in an alien culture, we are like "foreigners on a passport," needing to learn to live as "outsiders" in a world where we prefer "insider" status. In Rev. Kosberg's presentations the focus was on personal formation for spiritual leadership and how the Word of God equips God's children to face satanic opposition.

Besides the speakers' input, participants took part in small group conversations each day. These conversations were designed to review some of the presenters' topics and to encourage the participants to apply what they were learning to their own ministry settings. One other important piece of the workshop was an "Urban Plunge," during which participants were sent to one of three immigrant malls to carry out various tasks, learning to deal with another culture.

The concluding sections of the workshop focused on preparing the participants with personal strategic plans for outreach which they will be putting into motion in their homes, churches and communities.

Workshop presentations should soon be available on OHSCO's website.

OHSCO Website Development

Recently a newly-designed website was introduced by the Oswald Hoffmann School of Christian Outreach. It may be reviewed at www.csp.edu/ohsco. The website features a number of resources designed to assist those with a passion for outreach. Links to some of OHSCO's outreach partners are found, as are a number of videos that speak to various areas of outreach. You can find out what new programs are planned as well as the status of existing programs of training outreach leaders.

New features are being added regularly, as OHSCO seeks to partner with those who have a passion for reaching out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If you have a possible link to suggest, an outreach question to ask, or just a curious mind wanting to know more about outreach, please visit our website and let us know how we can help.

Nigerian MACO Cohort

OHSCO's Master of Arts in Christian Outreach (MACO) program includes one cohort of 15 students in Nigeria. This group, made up predominantly of pastors in the Lutheran Church of Nigeria, is working their way steadily through the program. The intent is that, upon completion, each student will receive a fully accredited master's level degree.

This outreach-oriented study includes such courses as "Worldviews and the Gospel," "Spiritual Leadership Formation," "Mission of God," "History of Mission," and "Social Issues in Mission," among many others. Professors are contracted through Concordia University St. Paul. Some of these professors are stationed in Nigeria, while others travel from the U.S. to teach in Nigeria. Rev. Dr. David Erber serves as the Coordinator of the MACO program in Nigeria.

If a master's program of this sort holds interest for you, it is also possible to join a MACO cohort in the U.S. in January or next June. Just contact Norman Piatti, piatti@csp.edu or 651-641-8224.

Philippines: North Luzon Highland District Celebrates Growth

—Asia Ablaze! Newsletter

While falling short of its Ablaze! goal of establishing eight new congregations by this time, the North Luzon Highland District of the Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP) did accept and recognize four newly established congregations at its district conference in April this year.

At the same conference, twenty-six new mission and preaching stations were also recognized as official mission stations of the district. It is hoped that in two to three years these mission stations will become official congregations.

One of the factors that led to this growth in the district is the great involvement of the laity, many of whom attended the Ablaze! Summit held two years ago in the district.

LSFM Annual Meeting

—Dr. Allan Buckman

The 2009 LSFM Annual Meeting and Banquet were held on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis the afternoon and evening of Thursday, May 7. Special guests at the Board meeting included Dr. Yohannes Mengsteab, Director of LCMS World Mission’s New Congregations Development Unit. His presentation addressed key issues in the continuing development of LCMS Urban Ministries.

For the past nine months, LSFM Research Assistant Laura Koepke has worked on the development of approximately 60 Missionary Profiles, most of which are now available on the LSFM web site www.lsfmissiology.org/wiki. This was a high point for the entire event in that the profiles represent the realization of an effort under way for over three years.

Theme issues for the publication of *Missio Apostolica* were also reviewed. Past issues have focused on topics such as,

“Hispanic Mission Expansion Among Lutherans”, “Lay Missionaries in Lutheran Mission Expansion” and “HIV/AIDS”. Future issues will be devoted to, “The Role of Seminaries in Missionary Formation”, “Short Term Missions” and “Lutheran Mission Expansion Among those with Disabilities”. Partners have been identified for the publication of each of these issues.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Zehnder, Executive Director for LCMS World Mission, served as banquet speaker and provided an interesting and informative presentation on the topic, “LCMS World Mission Today: Challenges and Opportunities”.

During the banquet “Cutting Edge” awards were also announced as follows: “Cutting Edge – Individual”; Rev. Khurram Khan, Executive Director of POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach). “Cutting Edge – Organization”; LINC – Houston. Both were selected because of their innovative approaches to new ministries; POBLO for work among Muslims and LINC – Houston for their work among immigrants and refugees in the Houston, TX area and beyond.

April 29 has been selected as the date for the 2010 Annual Meeting, which will again convene on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.



Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina

—LCMS President's Letter to Pastors

In 1905, the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS), USA, responded to a God-given mission opportunity by sending missionaries to northeastern Argentina, where they took the Gospel to Russian-German immigrants in the farm areas there. The work took root and grew. In 1928, the Argentine mission field became one of the LCMS's districts. Another fifty-eight years later, in 1986, the LCMS convention granted partnerchurch status to the Argentine District.

The Iglesia Evangélica Luterana de Argentina (IELA) now strives to meet changing ministry needs throughout the country. Formerly an immigrant church, the IELA today is an indigenous church that works in Spanish, using church planting, leadership training, and social ministry as tools for spreading the Gospel.

When the IELA celebrated its centennial in 2005, it gave thanks to God for His many blessings, despite years of hyperinflation, political instability, and lack of government continuity in Argentina. It has more than 28,000 baptized members in 265 congregations and is served by seventy-two pastors. The IELA operates a seminary in Buenos Aires, and its school system has some 4,200 students.

The IELA works in partnership with LCMS World Mission, which has sent missionaries to Argentina in recent years to fill a number of specialized roles. The IELA also works with LCMS World Mission by receiving LCMS deaconess interns as missionaries and by sending missionary pastors to Spain.

LCC Welcomes New Mission Executive

Rev. Dr. Leonardo Neitzel has accepted the call to serve as Lutheran Church-Canada's (LCC) executive assistant to the president for Mission and Social Ministry Services. LCC's Board of Directors extended the call on 25 June. Pastor Neitzel and his wife, Maria, visited Winnipeg in August, and he expects to begin work on 1 October. Rev. Neitzel, fifty-seven, a native of Brazil, currently serves Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Vancouver. Before immigrating to Canada in 2003, he was a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil where he served as a mission developer and taught missiology at the church body's seminary. He received his Ph.D. in Missiology from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, U.S.A.

Upon receiving the news from Pastor Neitzel, LCC president, Rev. Robert Bugbee expressed his gratitude to God and to the pastor "for his decision to embrace the call to serve as the new mission executive for our Lutheran Church-Canada." The president assured Pastor Neitzel of his prayers, asking God to "bless you with a clear head and a heart of love for all the arrangements that now need to be made."

LCC's mission and social ministry executive position was left vacant in 2006 with the retirement of Rev. Dr. Leonard Harms. Former president, Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan began serving in an interim capacity in 2008 and concluded his service on 30 September after which he will serve as a volunteer missionary in Nicaragua.

Zehnder Accepts Call as Executive Director

—LCMS World Mission

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) World Mission is pleased to announce that Dr. Thomas R. Zehnder, who has been serving as interim executive director of LCMS World Mission since November 2008, has accepted a call from the Board for Mission Services to continue his service as executive director. The Board extended the call at its 15 April 2009 meeting in St. Louis, USA. Their action removes the "interim" title from Dr. Zehnder's position and serves as an endorsement of his continuing leadership of LCMS World Mission.

The Board decided to call Zehnder to the post on a more permanent basis, and put on hold its search for a new executive director. Zehnder's proven leadership abilities are key for LCMS World Mission at this time, especially considering

possible structure changes that may be authorized by the 2010 LCMS convention. Zehnder, seventy-two, of Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin, USA, succeeds Dr. Robert Roegner, who resigned in November 2008, citing his desire to return to "a more hands-on ministry." Roegner, fifty-five, had served as executive director since November 2001. He recently accepted a call to serve as a mission developer for the English District in the Riverview area of North St. Louis County, Missouri.

A 1961 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Zehnder and his wife, Jacquelyn, served as missionaries in Japan for nearly a decade. From 1987 to 1997, Zehnder was president of the LCMS's Florida-Georgia District. He has also served as pastor to congregations in Columbus, Georgia; Stuart, Florida; and Williamsburg, Virginia.

Ph.D. Students' Annual Visit to Mission Conference at Trinity Deerfield



Ph.D. Students' Annual Visit to the Mission Conference at Trinity, Deerfield.

The Annual Missiology Conference on March 28, 2009, at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois, covered two themes: "Ethics and Mission" and "The Missiological Legacy of Dr. Paul Hiebert." Dr. Douglas

Rutt presented on the topic of Ethics in Mission and Money, during this conference. The students heard day-long lectures of important scholars, perused the book display, and carried on congenial conversations over an excellent lunch.

New Church Workers For Central America

—LCC News

Members of the Iglesia Luterana Sínodo de Nicaragua (ILSN) celebrated the graduation of fourteen theological school students on 28 March this year. Five pastors and nine deaconesses have completed three years of training coordinated by Dr. Roger Humann of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Catharines, Ontario.

Of the five pastoral candidates, three will be ordained into the public ministry as pastors by ILSN president, Pastor Luis Turcio. This is the first ordination for the president who was elected at the ILSN's founding convention in January 2008. Two candidates will return to Panama where the Lutheran Church of Panama will ordain and place them into

congregations. The three Nicaraguan pastors will continue serving the congregations where they served their vicarages.

"There is no greater honor in this fallen world than to be permitted to stand up before people week by week and to point the way to heaven," said Rev. Robert Bugbee, president of Lutheran Church—Canada (LCC) in a letter to the graduates. "He has placed into your hearts and mouths the one message that takes the load of sin off the backs of people, and sets them free." He went on to congratulate the graduates and assured them of prayers and support from LCC.

Eight ILSN congregations will each receive a deaconess who will take responsibility for ministry to women and

children along with Christian education. The ninth deaconess will return to Panama for placement.

Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan, LCC's interim mission executive and retired president, has participated in the two previous graduations and preached at the service. Dr. Roger Humann also participated in the graduation ceremonies. Dr. Jorge Groh, the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod's Area Mission Director for Central and South America, was also present.

LCC began proclaiming the gospel in Nicaragua in 1996. Since then, the Canadian church has trained pastors and deaconesses to serve the Lutheran churches in Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rico and Panama.

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

Graduates Record Number of Ph.D. in Missiology Graduates May 22, 2009

Adoga, Michael O.

The Use of Yala Proverbs (Paremia) in Communicating the Gospel: A Model for Communicating the Gospel in Africa

Arsse, Berhanu D.

Towards a Comprehensive Approach to Islam in the United States

Halche, Yared H.

A Socio-Cultural Analysis of Leadership Approaches in Ethiopian Immigrant Churches in the United States:

Leadership Styles and Implications for Missions

Howard, Josef A.

A Case Study of Challenges Foreign-Born Church Leaders Face in Establishing Multicultural Churches in the United States: Bethel World Outreach Ministries, USA

Leach, LeRoy H.

Marriage of God, Mission of God: A Missiological Paradigm Based in the Church as the Bride of Christ Bearing Seed and Producing Fruit

Massa, Gabriel N.

Reversion and Syncretism among the Wimbun Baptists of Cameroon, West Africa: A Missiological Problem



Mengsteab, Yohannes A.

Effective Urban Congregations: A Study of Ministry Factors that Contribute to the Effectiveness of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Urban Congregation

Ofgaa, Berhanu E.

Impact of Ethnic Homogeneity on Outreach: Study on the Organization of the Ethiopian Evangelical Diaspora Congregations in the United States

Stilve, Didzis

Theological and Missiological Implications of Contextualization: Interdisciplinary Analysis of the Concept “Context”

Tesema, Tesfai Z.

Global Nomads: Identity and Assimilation of 1.5 and Second Generation Ethiopian Christians in the United States

Yoo, Jong Pil

Preaching the Gospel in Korea: A Critical Analysis of the Contextual Theologies of Shamanism and Minjung

God Also Speaks My Language

New Translation of the New Testament and Psalms into Kalanga Published

He who lives in Botswana knows what hard work it is to plow a piece of land for the first time. Stones have to be collected, thorn trees removed and the soil nearly hard as stone has to be broken up. But also during the next years more stones have to be removed and stumps rooted out, which were left standing the first time round.

In 1929 the first translation of the Gospels and Revelations into the Kalanga language appeared, which was re-printed for the last time in 1985. At the same time work started on a totally new and complete translation of the New Testament, published in 1999. This work was done in the name of the Lutheran Church with help of sister churches in the USA, Germany and Southern Africa. The Lutheran Church Mission - Bleckmar Mission of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK), Germany sent Rev. Klaus Palen as a missionary and coordinator of the translation project.

At the same time the Bible Society of Botswana (BSB) became more and more involved, and with the start of the work on the Old Testament the translation project was taken over by it. A new team of translators, courses in biblical Greek and Hebrew in Nairobi, Kenya, computers and outstanding

computer software brought totally new conditions.

Reviews and reports on the New Testament translation caused the BSB to stop the work on the Old Testament and to revise the New Testament from the beginning. “Tolimulula”, said the then translator in the team, “we plough up once again.”

Now the new translation has come out in print. The Psalms have been added to the New Testament, and it shows that the work is based on the original Greek text, that in intensive communication with experts of Kalanga a fluent and natural language was achieved, and that the translators were eager to bring the Word of God to people in their mother tongue.

On 10 July 2009 the new translation was presented to the public. It was a festive and important occasion in the presence of Botswana’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, its Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, and a judge at the highest court of Botswana. Also present were many groups of the Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed, Anglican, Baptist and independent African Churches.

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. Your mission news and announcements are welcome. Please send them one month in advance to:

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Mark Your Calendars!

LSFM Annual Meeting

April 29, 2010
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Board Meeting **Conference Call**

Wednesday, January 20, 2010
11:00 a.m.

Website:

www.LSFMissiology.org



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