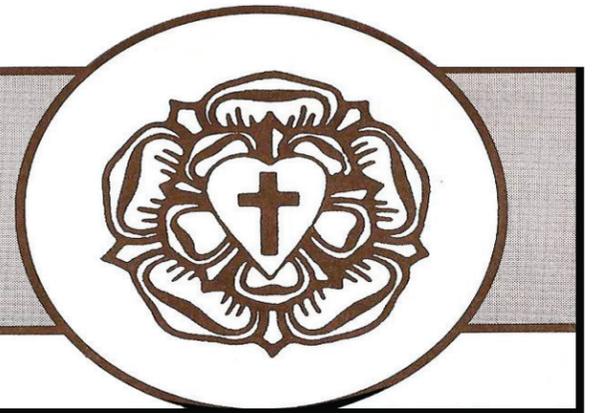


Mission News

Faith Mission Society of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod

VOLUME XLVIII MARCH 2015



Peru

Nearly 50 years ago, The Evangelical Lutheran Synod began work in Peru.

Many American missionaries have served in Peru over the years, and ELS members are quite familiar with ministry opportunities there. At present, the Seminary continues to train pastors in Lima and at extension facilities in the mountains and the jungle. Two elementary schools operate in Lima, two more operate in the jungle and a high school trains teenagers there also.

The Seminary at Lima houses classrooms, library and dormitory rooms, as well as the mission's administrative offices. Thirteen Peruvian men have been ordained and there are currently fifteen vicars in study.



At Dulanto a small congregation worships in the garage of the pastor's home.



Peruvian pastors and students in a Lima Seminary classroom. The building was dedicated in 2010, replacing an older, adobe structure. The 2014 convention of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference was hosted in Lima.



At worship with the congregation at Santa Beatriz.

There are 34 congregations in Lima area and the mountains and 18 jungle congregations.



Missionary David Haeuser and wife Ruth have served in Lima for over 25 years.



Over 200 students are enrolled at Martin Lutero and Jesus Redentor schools. The Catholic religion is taught in public schools, so the Peruvians wanted schools in which Lutheran theology is taught.



The Bible Institute of the Amazon Jungle in Tarapoto, Peru is the training site for the Peruvian Church's mission to Shawi tribes in the rainforest.

Peru (continued)



Students travel to the Bible Institute from Shawi jungle villages to study one week every other month.



Maribi is a traveling jungle evangelist and German is a pastor and high school instructor.



Jungle villages like this one are visited by national missionaries and congregations are served by national pastors/students.

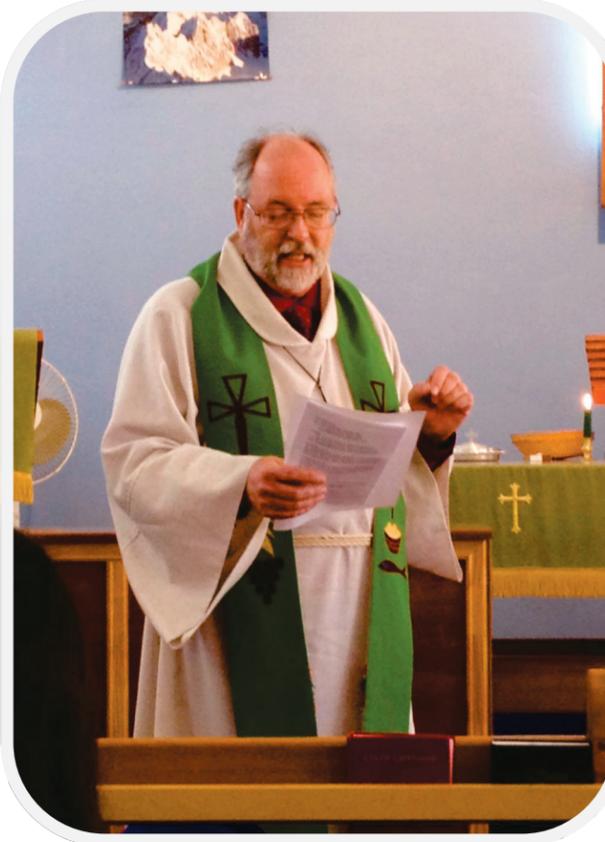


In the picture above you can see some of the students who are studying at a jungle grade school. In this way we are also able to set before them the wonderful truths of Scripture.

Cross-stitch, the network of ELS Women's Mission Societies, graciously provides food for the students.

Chile

Work began in Chile in 1993 as concern about political unrest in Peru created concern about future work there.



Tim and Ellen Erickson relocated to Santiago from Lima, Peru.

Tim focuses attention on seminary training for Chilean men who will eventually become lay-ministers in their church. Four congregations of over 100 members are served by these pastors-in-training. Chelsea Dietsche conducts English as Foreign Language classes in Linares, an important outreach program of the congregation there.



Students gather weekly for theological education. Three men should complete their training and be ordained in 2017.



Guillermo Ruz is the first Chilean vicar.

Like his colleagues, Guillermo Ruz will serve as a bi-vocational pastor, continuing in secular employment as he serves his congregation part-time.



The worship site for The Lord's Vineyard congregation at Puente Alto. The church is a single-family home converted for worship.



This picture was taken at a national reunion held at United in the Faith congregation in Linares. Ellen Erickson is second from far right

The Chilean Church, which joined the CELC in 2014, has a junta directiva which provides leadership.

Chile (continued)



The church at Linares, where plans for expansion are in place. Helping Hands Mission Newsletter recently published news of the building project and solicited help in funding the construction.



Chelsea Dietsche teaches English at Linares. Chelsea currently she has 55 students. She takes the opportunity teaching English provides to introduce her students to Missionary Erickson and members of the congregation. Many as a result have expressed interest in spiritual matters and then take instruction.

Gift of Life - Ukraine

Gift of Life staffs Dental and Medical Clinics on Wheels, visits villages, cities, orphan homes and prisons providing



free public health services. Physicians and nurses, dentists and assistants staff the mobile clinics.



Medical supplies are stored in Ternopil, Ukraine and used in the mobile medical and dental clinics. During winter months the clinics are housed in Ternopil, and public health services are offered to the public there.

A deaconess or evangelist travels with the Medical Clinics on Wheels and shares the Gospel with all who visit. When a congregation of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church is nearby, patients are directed there for further spiritual care.

Gift of Life provides two significant humanitarian ministries:

The Medical Clinics on Wheels (MCOW), providing dental and medical public health services to poor and rural Ukrainians; and four Life Centers where pro-life counseling is offered. Unfortunately, abortion is common in Ukraine, but at the Life Centers professional counselors advise about “God’s Artwork inside a Woman’s Womb.” Every encounter with a patient or pregnant woman provides opportunity to witness for Christ.



At every opportunity, the Gospel is shared with patients and parents. In the village of Reniv these boys were given the New Testament in Ukrainian.



In the medical clinic a nurse examines a child’s eye health with a vision screening instrument.



Counselor Nina Andrechuk addresses a group of college women at the Kremenetz Life Center. There are several colleges nearby and Nina is often asked to make presentations on life in the womb to the students. Some Gift of Life counselors even make pre-natal presentations in medical schools! Although abortion is common in Ukraine, public education officials are willing to expose students to the reality of God’s plan for life before birth.

Please pray for safe travels and good opportunities to share God’s Word through Gift of Life’s humanitarian ministry.



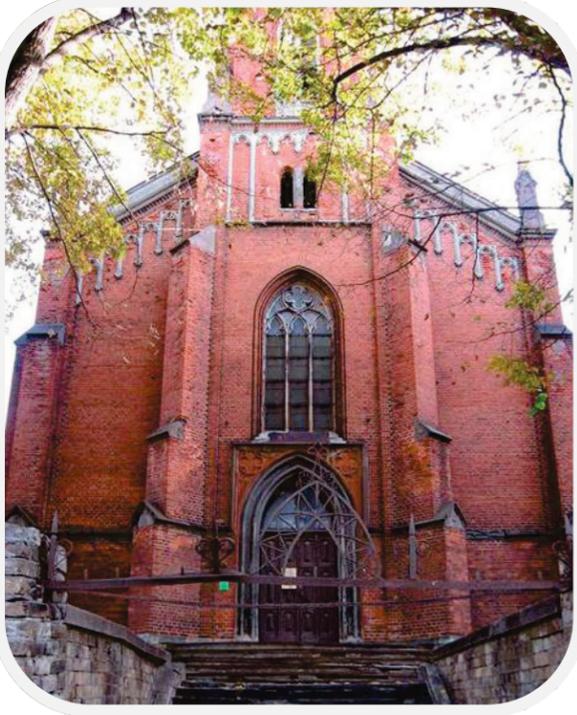
Anticipating a heating oil shortage and price hike due to the ongoing conflict with Russia, Gift of Life’s Administrators Nick and Kerry Laper replaced windows in the Life Centers, Medical Clinics on Wheels garage, offices and administrators’ quarters.

The energy-efficient windows, plus upgraded computers and presentation equipment were donated by Thoughts of Faith supporters.

Equipment, medicine, salaries and supplies are provided by donations to Thoughts of Faith. Contributions from Thoughts of Faith donors are used to pay staff and provide medical and dental supplies needed to care for Gift of Life patients, 80% of whom are children.

Latvia

The Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church in Latvia is comprised of approximately 500 souls, most of them in three congregations: Riga, Ozolneicki and Kekava. Two pastors, Ilars Plume at Kekava and Uldis Fandjevs at Ozolneicki, serve in full-time ministry. Thoughts of Faith subsidizes the salaries their congregations provide. The other six pastors are basically bi-vocational, earning salaries for secular work and receiving limited support from Thoughts of Faith.



The congregation in Riga rents this Anglican church for worship on Sunday. The site is near the historic Old Town district of Riga, along the Daugava River, which flows to the Baltic Sea.



The church at Kekava is located on the highest point of the city, with views all the way to Riga on a clear day. Rev. Ilars Plume serves the congregation. He writes doctrinal books for the Confessional Lutheran Church of Latvia.



Latvian pastors: (left to right) Uldis Fandjevs, Ivo Sildegs, Superintendent Gundars Bakulis (rear), Egons Mudulis, Ilars Plume, Didzis Melkis and Karlis Bush

Ugis Seldigs, not pictured, manages the website Latvian Lutheran [www.latvijasluteranis.lv], the online publication of the Confessional Lutheran Church of Latvia).

Czech Republic



The church at Ozolneicki, served by Rev. Uldis Fandjevs, is on a main street and close to city-center. A school next door and the city government offices nearby make the church easily identifiable in the community.



Secular classes and religious training are both part of the curriculum at Martin Luther School. Several years ago the European Union contributed funds to expand the facility. At one time the school served only the children of the American mission team, but the high quality of education - especially English instruction - was appreciated by the Czech neighbors, and the classrooms soon filled.

Ministry in the Czech Republic centers around Martin Luther School in Plzen.



Years ago, it was determined that evangelism among Czech society (considered the most atheistic in the former Soviet bloc) might best be accomplished through education of children. Today over 250 students are enrolled in pre-school through ninth grade. Religion classes, chapel every Wednesday, and singing at the Sunday worship service provides Pastors Petr Krakora and Martin Vrsecky and teacher Jarka Boukova opportunity to witness. Generally 10-12 school children and/or parents are baptized every year. Martin Luther School building also houses the mission offices and a chapel for St. Paul's Lutheran congregation. The building was originally a public school so the facility is well-known in Plzen.



Several hundred people have become members of St. Paul's congregation. Some have moved away after attending Martin Luther School, but the pastors continue to serve them with email. In the wing to the left of the chapel are school offices. In the wing to the right, the mission offices are found. Classrooms and several faculty apartments are on upper floors.



In June, 2009, Pastors Martin Vrsecky and Petr Krakora were ordained after years of study under American missionaries. Today they are the only pastors serving St. Paul's congregation and Martin Luther School. Both pastors are bi-vocational. Petr teaches English and Martin does accounting at the Martin Luther School. Along with teacher Jarka Boukova, they also teach religion at the school.

Korea

Reformation Sunday 2015 will mark the 10th Anniversary of Seoul Lutheran Church (formerly East Seoul Canaan Church), the ELS mission in Korea. The congregation leases three floors of a large building for worship, fellowship and Canaan Lutheran Academy. Canaan Academy prepares Korean high school students to enroll in Lutheran schools of our fellowship in the US. The families become involved after receiving adult instruction. Currently, Seoul Theological Institute trains men for ministry to the Korean-Chinese population within Korea and beyond its borders.



Seoul Lutheran Church – This building serves as mission headquarters, worship site and educational facility for the ELS mission, Seoul Lutheran Church and Canaan Lutheran Academy. Rev. Young Ha and Margaret Kim. The signs alongside the front doors of the church identify it as the Lutheran mission and Seoul Lutheran Church. Rev. Kim studied at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary in Mankato, MN and then colloquized to the ELS clergy roster.



On special occasions, members dress in traditional Korea style.



Pastor Kim and members of the Boards of Elders and Deacons. Laymen play an active role in the ministry of the congregation, teaching adult instruction classes and shepherding small groups.



Ken Chung, center, was ordained in 2014 after study at Bethany Seminary in Mankato and the Pastoral Studies Institute of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, WI. He serves Yesunim (“Jesus is Lord”) congregation in the northern part of Seoul.



Among innovative ministries is a weekly worship and instruction class for employees of Han Shin factory in Incheon.



Margaret Kim offers private instruction .

Prof. John Vogt inaugurating Seoul Theological Institute in September, 2014.

The Institute teaches Lutheran theology to prepare men for ministry to Korean-Chinese populations.



Students drop out of the Korean public school system and enroll at Canaan Lutheran Academy to study English, Lutheran theology and other subjects which prepare them to enroll in Lutheran high schools and colleges in the US.



Sung Gyu Choi and his family return to Korea in the summer of 2015 after study in Mankato and Fort Wayne. He will serve a period as a vicar, then be ordained and assume responsibility for Seoul Theological Institute.

India

The ELS began work with the Lutheran Mission of Salvation - India in 2005. The church body numbers approximately 20,000 souls in three districts: Rajahmundry, Hyderabad and Jabalpur. LMSI's first two pastors were trained at the WELS seminary, the second two at Bethany Seminary in Mankato, MN, and another 14 were trained by visiting ELS professors and pastors, and by the first four LMSI pastors. The ministry of LMSI includes training Gospel Workers and Bible Women who reach out to Hindu neighbors in their communities. Three schools are in operation and 20 orphan homes caring for over 300 children.



The most common religion in India Hinduism, with its thousands of "gods", so the country is filled with idols everywhere.



ELS Seminary professors and pastors conducted classes among the most promising candidates for ministry, and their training was completed by LMSI pastors. 14 men were ordained in January, 2014, joining the four previously ordained pastors.



LMSI churches vary in style. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Rajahmundry was dedicated in 2014. It now also houses the 140 students of Grace and Truth Cornerstone Lutheran School on the second floor.



It is necessary to cross the canal to enter St. Joseph Lutheran Church.



Some LMSI congregations worship in prayer sheds like this thatch-roof church. Most have electricity and use back-up generators for sound, lights and fans.



Worship, the administration of the sacraments and training in Scripture for children and adults is conducted by pastors and Gospel Workers (lay ministers).



St. Paul's Lutheran School will open in June, 2015 in the village of Guntipalli. Donations to construct and operate the school were provided by ELS members and friends.



St. John's Lutheran School in Jabalpur. The school is completed and is recognized in the Jabalpur area.



The Indian Orphan College Scholarship Fund enables orphans like Indra to gain college educations. At present 6 women are studying nursing or medical lab programs.



Two women (both of whom were raised in the congregation's orphan home) brought their babies for baptism in January, 2015. They have remained faithful to the Lutheran doctrine they learned as children.

Care for orphans is a major ministry priority. This care is shown in two areas.

First, for the sake of the children's spiritual and physical welfare;

Second, to show the sometimes-hostile Hindu community that Christians are loving and faithful neighbors and citizens.



Each small suitcase contains the worldly possessions of one orphan child.



Cross-stitch, the network of ELS Women's Mission Societies, helps provide food, clothing and school supplies for the children.

A \$15/month menu provides the following: 1 serving of chicken each week, 2 eggs, rice and vegetable curry.

FAITH MISSION SOCIETY

Faith Mission Society (FMS) provides a service in which special and emergency assistance is given to the missions of the ELS, over and above synodical and congregational mission giving, by providing the mission fields with funds for projects which enable the expansion of mission work. Gifts to the mission fields through FMS provide the fields with "extra" monies to promote God's Word. Faith Mission Society provides a channel through which Christians may joyfully find an additional chance to serve the Lord.

One of the main projects of Faith Mission Society is the publishing of Mission News which provides timely and informative news of the ELS mission work. It is hoped that this will stimulate greater mission concern and will encourage support of our mission fields financially - and more importantly, with prayers and personal encouragement.

All contributions through Faith Mission Society are used as directed by the contributor.

All ELS affiliates and missionaries may be contacted through:

The Board for World Outreach,
6 Browns Ct.
Mankato, MN, 56001
or
World Outreach Administrator
Rev. Steven Petersen at
spp@blc.edu

More information about ELS missions may be found at:

www.elsworldoutreach.org
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kauffeld@booksoftheway.com

Our desire and goal is to bring the lives and events of our Missions into your heart and homes. We also want to show how various groups and churches use their time, talents and treasurers to spread the Gospel of Christ. There is so much we can do, and so much that the Lord has done in these Mission Fields. The more we know, the more we can thank our Lord and Savior and serve in His kingdom.

Pastor Kauffeld serves St. Katherine's (ELS) in rural Menomonie, Wisconsin.

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