

NEW MISSION FRONTIERS

LCC'S MISSIONS AND SOCIAL MINISTRY SERVICES

MISSION NEWSLETTER 2015



Come to Him
who answers prayer

Psalm 65:2

***“You who answer prayer,
to You all people will come.”***

– Psalm 65:2 –

Mission and Social Ministry Services

www.lutheranchurch.ca/missions

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1-800-588-4226 ext. 2215

 LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA
ÉGLISE LUTHÉRIENNE du CANADA



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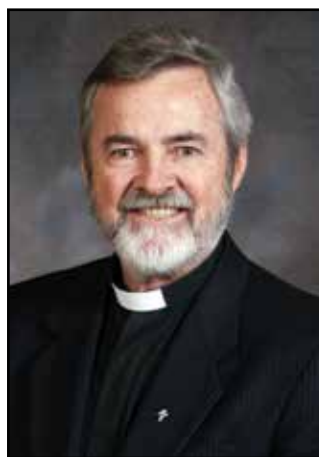
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Nicaraguan children enjoy a hearty meal.

INTRODUCTION FROM REV. DR. LEONARDO NEITZEL

One of the many joys I experience in Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC) is related to our church’s triennial convention themes. Drawn from Scripture, these themes comfort, inspire, and challenge us, providing food for thought as well as for our souls.



When I first accepted the call to be LCC’s international missions coordinator, the triennial theme at the time was “Give Jesus Glory: His Calling, Our Praise.” It focused on the blessings of LCC’s 20th anniversary as well as the birth of the Iglesia Lutherana Sinodo de Nicaragua. The following theme was taken from Psalm 36:9: “In Your Light We See Light.” It focused our attention on the Word of God and the blessing of abiding in it regularly.

Our Synod’s current theme is taken from Psalm 62:5: “Come To Him Who Answers Prayer.” Building on the previous theme, it encourages us to focus on our prayer life. The synodical theme also inspires the Districts’ conventions themes too, with each district providing its own focus. What a blessing!

These triennial themes encourage each of us, as individual church members, congregations, families, and other entities of the church to study God’s Word, to pray, to plan, to work, and to promote outreach events as a witness to the Lord’s Kingdom. Sadly, not all pastors and congregations take advantage of that opportunity. We should all consider these themes more carefully, studying how they may help us to grow spiritually and to help others in their Christian journey.

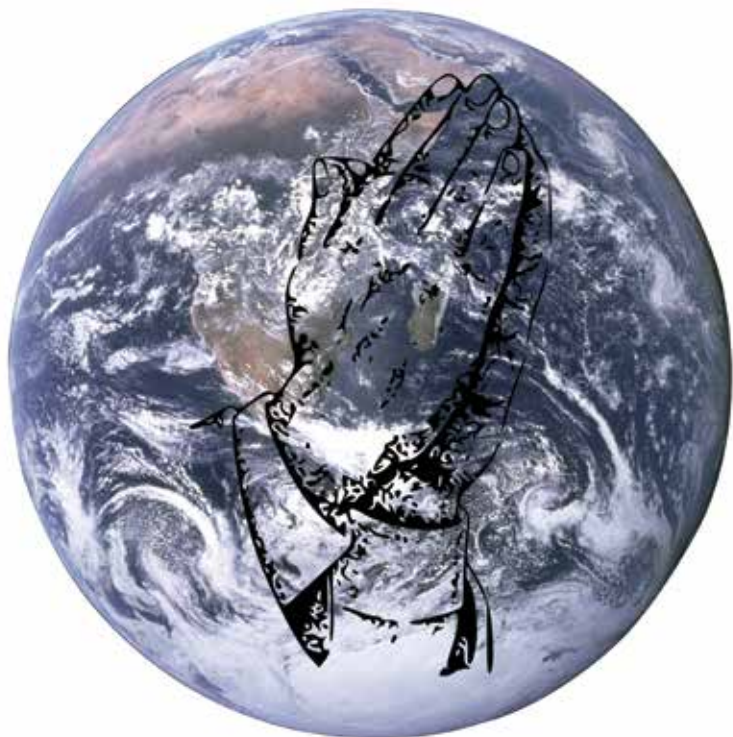
LCC’s mission fields are regularly encouraged to use these themes to guide their own work. As we give Jesus glory, abide in His Word, and come to Him who answers prayer, the Church

INTRODUCTION

is strengthened and enabled to reach out to the world with the Gospel of salvation.

This year's Mission Newsletter showcases answers to Lutheran Church–Canada's prayers in the form of new mission frontiers during the past two years and ongoing international mission work. The main purpose is to highlight some of the many blessings our Lord has bestowed on the various world regions where LCC is active sowing the seed of God's Word.

In so doing, the Newsletter provides opportunities for you and your congregation to become involved with LCC's mission work, both through prayer and support.



NEW MISSION FRONTIERS

Youth Ministry Outreach in Central America: Congregations in Nicaragua and Costa Rica have started to focus on youth outreach and education in God's Word. One congregation promotes regular retreats for youth and another holds monthly worship services for youth.



Youth gather to hear God's Word.

Church Music: Thanks to financial support from Lutheran Church–Canada, congregations in Nicaragua now benefit from trained musicians to assist in leading singing and liturgy during worship.



Musicians play during a Reformation celebration in Nicaragua.

NEW MISSION FRONTIERS

Seminars for Deaconesses: Deaconesses in Cambodia and Central America benefit from seminars providing continuing instruction on biblical themes and family life education.



Participants in a seminar take a break from lessons.

Sister to Sister Seminars: Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada has been involved in sponsoring deaconess education seminars since 2014, leading to greater knowledge of God's Word and closer fellowship between LCC women and international partners.



Nicaraguan women take notes during a seminar.

NEW MISSION FRONTIERS

Computer Training Program: Throughout Nicaragua, children in the Christian Education Program are learning basic computer training from deaconesses. In fact, all 23 communities where LCC and its partner church are active are offering this education component.



Nicaraguan deaconesses take computer training before teaching their students.

Children Education Program: In Cambodia, Thailand, and Central America, children are taught God's Word through children's education programs. In Nicaragua, LCC provides full-year scholarships along with basic needs like uniforms, shoes, and a backpack with school supplies. Deaconesses also tutor students in literacy and mathematics.



Cambodian students play games during lessons led by a local deaconess.

NEW MISSION FRONTIERS

Children Feeding Program: For about a \$1.30 a day, Lutheran Church–Canada is providing children with a substantial meal in several feeding programs throughout Central America and Cambodia.



Nicaraguan children enjoy a meal.

Agricultural Projects: The property at LCC's Mission Centre in Chinandega, Nicaragua has been cultivated for farming, which both helps support LCC's mission in the country and provides for the needy in the region. A similar project is planned for Telica, and will provide vegetables for LCC's children's feeding programs.



Nicaraguans show off the fruit of their labours.

NEW MISSION FRONTIERS

Greek Studies: Every year, Central America holds an annual seminar where pastors are learning the basics of New Testament Greek, thanks to instruction offered by pastors of Lutheran Church–Canada.



Central American pastors study New Testament Greek.

Church Workers Wellness Clinic: LCC is developing a wellness clinic for pastors, deaconesses, and their families in Central America, to ensure that church workers are assisted holistically. This work is made possible by through an experienced team of pastors and physicians from LCC.



Church workers' Wellness Clinic.

NEW MISSION FRONTIERS

Ukraine Seminary Education: Lutheran Church–Canada provides theological education for the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ukraine, LCC's sister church in that country. A new round of studies began in 2015.



New students at the Ukraine Seminary with instructor Rev. Dr. Torgerson.

Men's Bible Studies: After making contacts with the families of children in the education program, a Nicaraguan pastor has started a men's Bible study group reaching out to men in the community with God's Word and home devotions.



Men gather for Bible Study.

NEW MISSION FRONTIERS

Education in Cambodia: LCC supports theological education in Cambodia. Luther's Institute South East Asia (LISA) provides education to pastors while Concordia Institute Cambodia (CIC) serves laypeople. In June 2015, 34 students graduated through LISA and 20 through CIC.



Recent graduates of Luther's Institute South East Asia and Concordia Institute Cambodia.

Expanding Libraries: Through special donations from Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada, individuals, and families, the personal theological libraries of Nicaragua's church workers and the communal library at the Mission centre have been expanded in 2015.



Some of the books recently added to Nicaraguan church workers' libraries.

PRA YING FOR LCC'S MISSIONS

Keep Lutheran Church–Canada's missions in prayer. Please pray for LCC's missionaries and our partner churches around the world as they sow the Seed of God's Word in their communities:

COSTA RICA



Rev. Edmundo and Deaconess Betty Retana and their son Diego, as they minister God's Word and care for people in the cities of Cartago and San Jose.



Costa Rican youth study the Bible with their pastor,

P R A Y I N G F O R L C C ' S M I S S I O N S

HONDURAS



Rev. Junior Martinez and Rev. Tulo Meza as they continue to proclaim the Gospel to people in La Paz and the capital, Tegucigalpa, respectively, as well as for the work of sharing God's Kingdom in Honduras at large.

For the mission in Comayaguela, where five adults and three youth were recently confirmed in November, 2015.



A worship service in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, led by Rev. Tulo Meza.

PRAYING FOR LCC'S MISSIONS

NICARAGUA



President Marvin Antonio Donaire Picado, President of the Iglesia Luterana Sinodo de Nicaragua, for his family, and for the Nicaraguan church.

Rev. Rufino Quintero Lainez and Deaconess Mariana Cristina Castillo Santalis; Rev. Erwind Ramiro Roque Tijerino; and Rev. Jairo Elias Tenorio González as they minister God's Word and care for people in the communities of Rivas, Jinotepe, La Pita and Diriamba.

Rev. Maximo Roman Urroz Espinoza and Deaconess Jeryll Adriana Mejía D'ávila as they minister in Leon and Telica.

Rev. Hector Enrique Morales Andrade and Deaconess Cristina Xiomara Lopez Martínez as they minister in the city of Sebaco.

LCC's mission staff in Chinandega: Licenciado Roberto Jose, Francisco, Lorena, Romulo, Marco Antonio, Edmundo, and Cherie Auger.

For all pastors and deaconesses of the Iglesia Luterana Sinodo de Nicaragua.

PRAYING FOR LCC'S MISSIONS

For all Nicaragua's newly ordained pastors and consecrated deaconesses who were installed in 2015.



Nicaragua's new church workers called, ordained, and consecrated in 2015.



Nicaraguan children play during a Reformation festival.

PRAYING FOR LCC'S MISSIONS

UKRAINE



Bishop Alexander Yurchenko (Sasha) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ukraine, for his family, and for the Ukrainian church.

Rev. Oleg Schewtschenko's ministry and mission in Odessa, and his work assisting the bishop.

Rev. Alexey Navrotski as he continues his studies at Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton, Alberta.

The new seminary term 2015-2018, its instructors, and students.

Orphanages and orphans assisted by LCC.

All of Ukraine's vicars and pastors.



PRAYING FOR LCC'S MISSIONS

THAILAND



Rev. Suchart Srikakarn in Takuapa.

Rev. Niran Temsakul, who is reaching out and ministering Word, Sacrament and mercy care to Hmong people in north Thailand.

Rev. Suchart Chujit, LCC's Missionary, as he ministers with Word, Sacrament, and human care for communities in the Kokkloi region.

All of Thailand's pastors and church workers.



Thai youth and their pastor on way to an event.

PRAYING FOR LCC'S MISSIONS

CAMBODIA



President Vannarith Chhim of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cambodia (ELCC), his family, and the whole Cambodian church.

Cambodia's deaconesses and female evangelists.

All recently graduated students from Luther's Institute South East Asia and Concordia Institute Cambodia.

Children's education programs.

All pastors in the Cambodian church.



Cambodian children pose during a class.

For more news on LCC's Missions and Social Ministry Services, and to donate online, visit www.lutheranchurch.ca. Be sure also to read the Mission Section in *The Canadian Lutheran* and to watch for regular updates at CanadianLutheran.ca.

For further information on LCC's Missions and Social Ministry Services, contact:

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