



AFRICA

Cameroon - Teaching and training is the essence of the ministry in Cameroon at this time. Missionary Myers and Justin Dauck are teaching and training pastors to understand the Bible better, to make applications to their culture and to live their faith in their words and actions. Training of certified assistants (CAs) in their understanding of the Scriptures as well as their ability to assist the pastors and to preach is also being done. New men are being trained to become certified assistants as well. The women are being taught how to live as a family according to God's biblical plan. The LCC leadership is being trained to be more organized, more pro-active and more plan-oriented, while the youth are taught to love God's Word and be evangelists.

Malawi – The LCCA has four new pastors, with two serving in urban areas and two in the rural areas. The six current WELS Mission staff include: Steve Lawrenz, John Holtz, and Robert Wendland, all doing work in rural areas helping to address the large number of vacancies; Paul Nitz and Mark Panning teach at the theological school; and the newly arrived Peter Martin is getting ready to do publication work and set up systems to carry out continuing education of pastors and lay leaders. The Central Africa Medical Mission also funds two full time expatriate staff: Jennifer Lee and Theresa Unterholzner.

Nigeria - All Saints Lutheran Church of Nigeria members have responded to Jason Paltzer's urging to organize themselves for congregation member health improvement purposes. Christ the King Lutheran Church of Nigeria has administered its own discipline in the case of three pastors involved in witchcraft practices. Christ the King Lutheran Seminary has eleven students in their 2nd and final year of pre-seminary studies.

Zambia - The months of August and September have been filled with special services around the country. The eight recent seminary graduates have been holding their Ordination and Installation services. These are being attended by pastors from around the country. These services remind the LCCA of the blessings they have received: "Workers for the Harvest Fields".



EUROPE

Albania/Bulgaria - The Lord continues to bless the work of our dedicated lay leaders in Albania and the national pastors, evangelists, and deaconesses in Bulgaria. Rev. John Vogt is serving as Regional Coordinator in a joint WELS-ELS effort to strengthen and encourage the ministry of national workers in Eastern Europe. Rev. Vogt will visit, train, advise, and oversee the ministry activities and the continuing education of the national workers in Albania and Bulgaria for WELS and will do the same for the ELS in Ukraine and Latvia.

Russia - One American missionary remains on the field and works together with a gifted Russian pastor to care for the members of four congregations. Retired missionary John Sullivan spent the summer in Novosibirsk where he taught Bible Institute classes and led worship services while Missionary Luke Wolfgramm was on furlough in the States. Three Russian deaconesses help care for the spiritual needs of children, the sick and the lost in Iskitim and Berdsk. Special, non-budgeted offerings are being used to broadcast radio devotions in Novosibirsk, to support a seminarian's full-time service to the church and to reach out to the 500,000 residents of Tomsk. Several "literature sharing points" were identified where we can leave books for people to take and read on their own.

LATIN AMERICA

Brazil - Still adjusting to the recall of WELS missionaries from Brazil, the Brazilian Lutheran Church (ILB) thanks God for 22 years of partnership with WELS. Two hundred saints strive to maintain two existing congregations and one mission startup. Friendly Counselor Nathan Wagenknecht, a member of the LATTE team residing in Mexico, will try to offer theological training for pastoral ministry students and continuing education for two current pastors as able. An ILB national meeting in February 2010 will attempt to deal with these challenges.

Colombia - Due to God's grace and blessing, the congregations in Colombia are prospering under the direction of their own national leadership. The spiritual needs of the congregations are being met, training of members for ministry is being done, the congregations are active in evangelism, and outreach is being done to other cities of Colombia. Visits by LATTE professors continue and some courses are now being taught online.

Dominican Republic - The congregations in the Dominican Republic continue to slowly adjust to the new reality of having fewer resident missionaries. They continue to be grateful that one LATTE professor has so far been allowed to continue serving. The Dominican and Haitian leaders are taking more ownership for the ministry and Gospel outreach in their own country. Both the Moca congregation and the San Pedro congregation have shown some recent growth, while the Monte Adentro congregation has stopped holding worship services.

LATTE - Trained pastors have been called to, or are already serving in thirty-four congregations in seven countries. At least half of the pastors trained by LATTE professors are actively engaged in also training others for service (Bible Institute work) in their own congregations and beyond. These pastors have also been active in working with queries from pastors and congregations who have expressed interest in fellowship with our confessional church bodies throughout Latin America. It is a blessing to have five or

six congregations being added to our fellowship through colloquy and the on-going training of pastors through internet evangelism.

Mexico - In July two congregations in the Mexican state of Sonora were officially received as a part of the Mexican national church. These congregations were begun by Mission to the Children. In addition, a new church was dedicated in August in Torreón. Property was purchased in September for a mission congregation in Monterrey. At their annual convention, the Mexican national church called two Mexican pastors to serve as missionaries to the state of Sonora in northern Mexico. These national pastors will head there, God-willing, in January.



NATIVE AMERICAN

Apache Missions – There is currently one field director, one Apache Christian Training School (ACTS) director, four pastors, eight teachers, and one evangelist serving the souls on the two reservations. The Apache Lutheran Council, made up of leaders from each church council on the field, continue to meet and prayerfully plan the future direction of the mission. A Christian Counseling Center and Bookstore is operating in Whiteriver. This unique ministry opportunity is a valuable tool to reach out to current members who battle personal challenges. It provides excellent evangelism opportunities and helps to build community goodwill at the same time.

ACTS (Apache Christian Training School) – The new ACTS director – Rev. Daniel Rautenberg – is carrying out a full schedule of classes. Many Apaches are attending and being trained for leadership in their churches.

ASIA-PACIFIC RIM

Indonesia – The national church, working with the Missionary-Advisor, is actively working on developing a plan with goals for Gereja Lutheran Indonesia (GLI) to stand on its own. This plan will have a timed schedule that allows a gradual and achievable transition while still being a challenge. GLI wants to become a mature church body that can stand on its own and is in the beginning stages of working towards this.

Japan – On September 22, the Mito church celebrated 50 years of gospel ministry with a special worship service attended by more than 90 people followed by a potluck meal. In Tokyo and Zushi was the blessing of three adult baptisms in September. The rijikai continues to make plans for how the LECC will be organized after the last missionary returns to the states.



Thailand - With the defunding and departure of the two resident missionaries, Rob Meister and Jud Krohn, the missions are presently going through a transition process to assure their continued support through prayers and offerings. The national leaders of the missions are stepping up to the plate to carry on their work of proclaiming the gospel without the presence of our missionaries. Through a grant from the Humanitarian Aid Committee, the churches in ChiangMai and Village 9 are assisting their members and using the supported projects as a tool of outreach to their communities. In spite of what some might consider serious setbacks with no missionary presence and financial cuts, the church is healthy and endeavors to move forward.

EAST ASIA

Asia Lutheran Seminary (ALS) - Asia Lutheran Seminary has entered its fifth year and will grant degrees for the first time on November 2. Student body size that had ebbed slightly during the last two years has stabilized this fall. The current human resources within our support and auxiliary staff are extraordinary in talent, experience, and cumulative energy. An additional resident faculty member, Steven Witte, who will also serve ALS as vice-president was welcomed to the field. The challenge before us is to channel the blessings of the moment into a longer term sustainable impact for the mission of WELS in Asia through ALS, Life Net and WELS para-church organizations serving East Asia.

Taiwan – Sunday morning worship began on the first Sunday of August at the Taichung Ministry Center. The new Christian Lutheran Evangelical Church (CELC) Board of Directors was voted into place at the CLEC meeting on the first Saturday of September.

SOUTH ASIA

India - In spite of the difficulties and challenges, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Ministries continues to minister to seven thousand souls. Some men have proved to be unfaithful but there are still dozens of gospel workers, pastors and Bible women who are dedicated to the Lord and His flock. While it is sad to lose men, perhaps the financial problems and a governing body with a more hands-on approach is the Lord's way of separating the wheat from the chaff, the true shepherds from the hirelings. Ten men began their final year of seminary training and will, the Lord willing, graduate in July of 2010. Seventeen men began their second year of seminary training and thirty-six men continue their first year of pre-seminary instruction. It is hoped that the new Telugu hymnal will be distributed during the first weeks of October.

Nepal - The church in Nepal is being blessed by God in extraordinary ways. They are exhibiting the spirit of the early church where "they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:38). In September 2009, 135 people gathered for the seventh worker training workshop to study the Gospel of John. The people are growing in their knowledge of God's word and in their ability to teach it to others. Workers are also zealous to share the gospel in spite of the Hindu opposition. In 2002 they were working in five districts. Today they are working in 28 districts – one-third of the country. More than 60,000 pieces of Christian literature has been distributed and more than 9,500 person are enrolled in the Scripture Learning Program since its inception in January, 2006. In June they took the gospel to Tibetans who were not able to understand Nepali, using an interpreter to translate. One woman was baptized.

Pakistan - The mission in Pakistan grows like a beautiful rose in the desert. Surrounded by a nation that is 97% Muslim many seeds are being sown. More than 62,000 Christian books have been distributed. More than 20,000 people have been enrolled in the Bible Correspondence & Teaching School. There is a hunger for the gospel in this country though militant Islam is on the rise. In spite of the threat of persecution the gospel is being shared boldly. 10,000 copies of The Promise have been published into Pashtu – the language of the northwest tribal region of Pakistan. Plans are being made to translate the Kuske Catechism into Urdu and The Promise into Punjabi, a third language of Pakistan. The “Feeding Jesus’ Lambs in Pakistan” Sunday School ministry cares for 1,150 children in 30 different Sunday Schools. With help from the Committee on Relief a medical clinic was opened in Charsada to serve the refugees from the Swat Valley. These humanitarian efforts help to open the way for many hearts and minds to hear about the love of Christ.