

CONCORDIA *mission* ADVOCATE



a publication of Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS)

Spring 2008

Buddhist indulgences?

Before I became a Christian, I lived in fear. I was always trying to appease the spirits of my ancestors, even making special payments to the *wat* (temple), so that their spirits would not torment me in the next life. Now I no longer have to be afraid."

That's how "Joe" (his English name) explained the change that came over him when he learned that Jesus freed him from his guilt, and that he will not be re-incarnated as some lesser being. "Joe's" subsequent study of Reformation history led him to conclude that the payments he made to the Buddhist temple were much like the indulgences Luther condemned.

"Boom," another convert, says she has found true happiness for the first time because of Christ. Previously she had been trying to atone for sins committed in her previous life, but could never know what she had been or done in that life. She now works in Lutheran Hour Ministries' Bangkok office.

Rev. Colin Liske of Nanaimo, B.C. shared these and similar stories when he reported on his teaching experiences in Cambodia and Thailand at the Annual General Meeting of the Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS) February 3. He, Dr. Norman Threinen of

Summerland, B.C. and Rev. Duane Peters of Niagara Falls, Ontario have taught as many as 47 pastoral and diaconal students in Cambodia, and ten in Thailand. Rev. Liske had also taught in Thailand on four previous occasions. CLMS paid for the travel of LCC instructors in 2007 and has pledged to do the same in 2008.

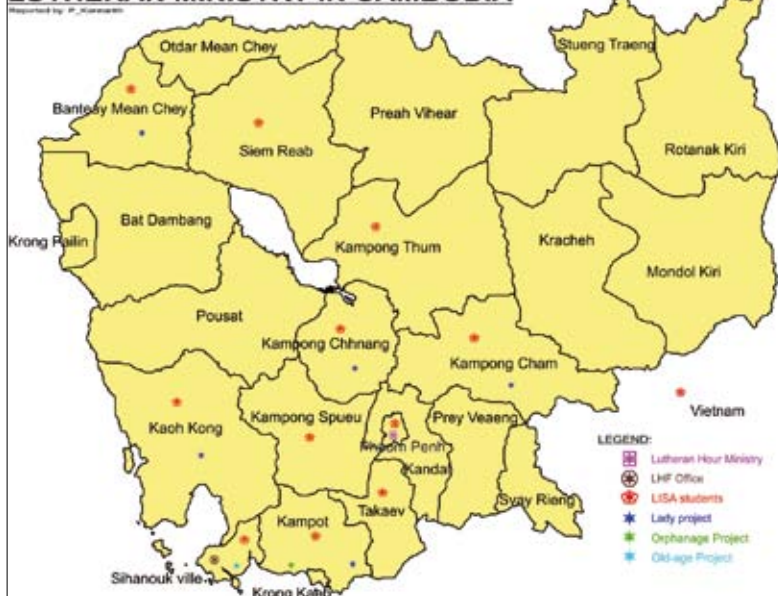
The Cambodian students are a mixed assortment of men and women who have been evangelizing local people and bringing them together

into small groups for spiritual nurture and service. Some had heard of Lutheranism through Lutheran Hour Ministries, and wanted to learn more.

The Thai students are mostly from the Bangkok area, and expansion of the mission there would add to the two ordained pastors currently serving in southern Thailand. Together with several part-time lay evangelists, they have established congregations or preaching stations in five different locations. Support for Lutheran outreach in Thailand was one of CLMS' first projects when it was founded in 1997 and has continued ever since. (For a complete listing of 2008 projects in Cambodia and Thailand see page 30.)

The theological education program is coordinated under the auspices of Lutheran Institute

LUTHERAN MINISTRY IN CAMBODIA



Southeast Asia (LISA), an agency representing both LCC and LCMS interests. Dr. Leonard Harms, retired LCC missions director, is the volunteer coordinator of LISA. The program calls for 14 courses to be taught, each one the equivalent of 30 hours of classroom instruction. Four courses are completed. Each day of teaching lasts from six to eight hours, making it very

demanding for both the instructor and the students.

Even if half of the students end up becoming ordained or consecrated as Lutheran pastors or deaconesses, it would be an amazing breakthrough in this overwhelmingly Buddhist part of the world.

Rev. Dr. Edwin Lehman



Rev. Colin Liske

Concordia Lutheran Mission

Society Sunday May 25

Mission Resources for congregations will be available at
www.concordiamissions.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Missions, a stewardship priority
- 2008 mission project descriptions

visit our web site at <http://www.concordiamissions.org/>

Why missions should be a priority in our stewardship

The word “mission” comes from the Latin word “missio” which means “to send.” A secular dictionary defines “mission” as “a body of persons sent to perform a specific work or service.” It also defines “missionary” as “a person sent to propagate religion or to do educational or charitable work.” This dictionary also defines a “steward” as “one who is entrusted with the management of property, finances or affairs not his own.” (*Funk and Wagnells dictionary*)

Whenever the word stewardship is mentioned in the church most people think of money or raising money. Stewardship is much more than that. It is the management of everything with which God has graciously entrusted us. God

is still the owner. Everything God entrusts us with is meant to be managed and used in the service of God who created us, redeemed us at great cost, and sanctified us.

How are the church's missions and Christian stewardship related? Why should the church's missions be a priority in our personal stewardship?

The primary objective of the church's missions is sharing the Gospel of Christ, the good news of His suffering, death and resurrection. In the Christian church, every pastor, missionary, and other workers called to share the Gospel are stewards of the Gospel. St. Paul said to the Corinthians “So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with

the secret things of God” (1 Cor. 4:1 NIV).

The primary emphasis in the missions of Lutheran Church–Canada has been and no doubt will continue to be preparing workers, pastors and deaconesses so that these workers can share the Gospel in their own language. In missions, good stewardship makes it necessary to follow the Great Commission, given by Jesus shortly before His ascension, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in



Rev. Albert Schmidt

the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:19-20).

Certainly, to carry on this work requires money. To send professors and pastors to teach future pastors in Cambodia, Thailand, Nicaragua and Ukraine requires funding. To build and rent facilities requires funding too. But, we encourage donors and potential donors to see themselves as partners of the Gospel and partners of those who go to teach. We further encourage donors to look at their gifts as an investment for eternity. Souls that have and will be won for Christ are saved for eternity.

Rev. Albert Schmidt, Assist.
Director, Ministry & Projects

2008 PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARIES

0801: Vacation Bible School, Nicaragua. For the cost of \$1.25, all materials and the teacher can be provided for one child in a remote village in Nicaragua. This project will support 2,800 children for the total cost of **\$3,500.**

0802: Children's Christian Education, Nicaragua. Pastors and deaconesses in Nicaragua have found this to be an effective mission tool. For the cost of \$125, clothing and tuition can be provided for a child to attend school in Nicaragua. This project will support 50 children for a total cost of **\$6,250.**

0803: Children's Outreach, Thailand. Satit Kantatiam and his wife are reaching out in two villages with the Gospel to neglected and malnourished children and young girls who are easily led into prostitution. This project will provide for program needs to the extent of **\$8,500.**

0804: Female Evangelists, Thailand. The missionary in South Thailand is aided by two female evangelists who work in the market place and with single women. Funds are needed to provide for their transportation, food while away from home and a small stipend to the extent of **\$2,000.**

0805: Church Roof, Krasnoperekopsk, Ukraine. This mission-minded congregation needs help to provide for a proper roof for its newly renovated church at a cost of **\$10,000.**

0806: Theological Education, Southeast Asia. Cambodia is a beckoning mission field with tremendous potential. Ill equipped pastors and deaconesses are being trained there and in Thailand under the auspices of Luther Institute of Southeast Asia. This project enables Canadian professors to travel to Bangkok and Phnom Penh to teach at a cost of **\$10,000.**

0807: Outreach to Women and Children, Cambodia. Deaconess Hom Sopha wishes to do a project in Gospel evangelism and vocational training among women and children in her Buddhist community in Cambodia for a cost of **\$13,300.**

0808: Deaconess Support, Nicaragua. Deaconesses in Nicaragua do not receive stipends for their work. This project provides funds for their travel and program costs as they carry out their ministry at a cost of **\$4,500.**

0809: Summer Camp, Ukraine. Young people from Canada and Ukraine gather each summer for several days in a camp setting to promote spiritual growth and fellowship among people in the Lutheran Church in Ukraine. This project supports this activity to the extent of **\$8,000.**

0810: Purchase of facilities,

Pervomeisk, Ukraine. To facilitate outreach and to provide a facility for worship, this struggling congregation wants to purchase a house centrally located in the city at a cost of **\$15,000.**

0811: Congregational facilities, Yalta, Ukraine. Missionary Rudy Krause and his congregation in Yalta need a facility to house humanitarian aid and to carry out other congregational activities. This project would help them purchase such a facility at a cost of **\$3,000.**

0812: Rental of Facilities, Costa Rica. To accommodate the worship needs, this growing congregation needs to rent facilities for worship and other activities at a cost of **\$4,000.**

0813: Property for New Church, Granada. The congregation has purchased land in the center of this growing city on which they hope

continued next page

Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. In Galilee these women had followed Him and cared for His needs. Mark 15: 40, 41.

The ministry of the women who followed Jesus, caring for His needs, was a humble one. They were not being prepared and sent out after receiving power to preach and teach and be used by the Holy Spirit to record God's own inspired Word in the books of the New Testament like the apostles; however they laboured in love in the background, enabling, in a manner of speaking, the ministry of our Saviour.

Such is the ministry of CLMS and our mission partners: enablers, in terms of providing

material support to our church's missionaries, serving in the background. The CLMS Board of Directors met at the end of January to examine the mission needs brought to us. After careful consideration and prayer, we adopted a mission project goal of \$116,050, up from last year's goal of \$98,200. We also handled many other reports and items of business over the two and a half days of meetings—the only in-person meeting we hold annually.

Our annual meeting followed on Sunday, hosted by Hope Lutheran Church and School of Port Coquitlam, B.C. Our speaker was Rev. Colin Liske of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Nanaimo, B.C. who brought a very interesting report of our church's mission activities in Southeast Asia (see the article in this issue). It was most

helpful to see the maps and pictures that added much to the foreign-sounding places we have been hearing about. Special thanks to Dave Schick, Rev. Ron Towriss, the many others who did an excellent job of looking after our needs for the whole time of our meetings. (More enablers in the background!!)

In mid-January I was privileged to attend the inaugural convention of Iglesia Luterana Sínodo de Nicaragua bringing greetings and congratulations on behalf of CLMS, as well as the assurance of our continued support. I presented a brief slide show of the convention and service of installation and celebration to the annual meeting.

Our website is going through an update to present a less complicated interface. The new site is now in a test phase and will

be up and running soon (www.concordiamissions.org). We now have a toll-free phone number: 1-866-799-2567 allowing easier contact for our mission partners and others soliciting information. It will be housed at synod office in Winnipeg and automatically forwarded to whoever is the current CLMS president. In my case, that will probably mean leaving a message during the day while I am at work. Of course my e-mail at tgoerz@telusplanet.net will continue to be an effective means of contact.

My deepest gratitude to our mission-minded supporters who have partnered with us in supporting our church's mission work.

May God continue to bless you as you minister in the background, enabling the spread of the Gospel.

Terry Goerz, president.

to build a church. This project will assist them in purchasing this property. Cost \$6,000.

0814: Registration of Church Facilities, Savran, Ukraine. Congregations in Ukraine need to register their church facilities to enable them to use them for effective outreach with the Gospel. This project will assist them in doing so to the extent of \$3,000.

0815: Youth Ministry Training, Nicaragua. Youth leaders in Canada plan to sponsor a youth ministry training event in Nicaragua. This project will assist by bringing 100 youth and youth leaders from Nicaragua to this event at a cost of \$4,000.

0816: Property Expansion, Khok Kloi, Thailand. The congregation

wishes to buy property which will provide access to their church building at a cost of \$9,000.

0817: Intercultural Church Workers' Conference, Canada. This grant will provide for travel and costs for six first-time church workers who are involved in intercultural ministry to attend this conference at a cost of \$3,000.

0818: Ministry Van, Canada. Crew Ministries had an unfortunate accident while traveling to a ministry event which resulted in having to write off their touring bus. This project will help to underwrite the purchase of another bus to the extent of \$3,000.

Total project costs anticipated for 2008: \$116, 050.

Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS), an auxiliary of Lutheran Church Canada, serves the church by promoting and supporting our church's missions and keeping the members of our synod informed of mission work carried out both on a corporate and individual basis.

New board members elected



CLMS Board of Directors for 2008. Back (l-r): Terry Goerz, Rev. Irvin Pudrycki, Lauren Bugvee, Rev. Dr. Edwin Lehman, Rev. Konnie Hahn, William Andrew; front (l-r): Rev. Al Schmidt, Anne Taylor, Jodie Habersstock, Rev. Dr. Norman Threinen.



Rev. Dr. Norman Threinen and Jodie Habersstock during a presentation at the annual meeting.

Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS)

An Auxiliary of Lutheran Church-Canada

Suffering for Christ's sake

Do Christians still face persecution because of their faith? Is the courage with which Christians face persecution as powerful for the spreading of Christianity as it was in the centuries after Christ? Permit me to share with you the story of one deaconess enrolled in the course which I taught in Cambodia in September. It shows the challenge facing new Christians as they witness to their faith, as well as the power which the Gospel still has today.

Ly Sim, a 39-year-old deaconess, was spreading the Gospel in her community of Tbon Khmom in Kampong Cham Province northeast of Phnom Penh. People were becoming Christians through her witness. This infuriated the village

administrator so much that he came to her home one night with a machete to kill her. Sim told him that she did not mind dying, but she would die happy if he would allow her to taste the juice from a certain rare fruit.

He granted permission and a companion was sent to bring the fruit. The delay in finding the fruit gave Sim an opportunity to witness to the administrator as to why Jesus was so important to her and others. The Holy Spirit used



Deaconess Ly Sim

her witness to touch the heart of the man so that he not only changed his mind about killing her, but he became a Christian.

Another episode which she shared involved witnessing to her faith in another village.

So many people were becoming Christians that Christians were becoming a threat to Buddhism; people were no longer giving as much food to the begging monks as previously. To address the situation, the abbot of the Buddhist

monastery sent his monks to harass, beat, and make life so miserable for the Christians that they would return to Buddhism or leave the area. When she saw what was happening, Sim took the back trails around the village to the monastery and confronted the abbot. She talked about her faith and the Holy Spirit used the Gospel to change his heart. He not only recalled the monks but he and another monk became Christians. He also went on to become a Christian pastor.

Nine deaconesses such as Sim are deepened in their understanding of the Scriptures through faculty sent to Southeast Asia from Canada. She is one example of your mission gifts at work.

Rev. Dr. Norman Threinen

Response Form

We invite you to prayerfully consider your support for one of the following 2008 CLMS projects. Kindly indicate how we may direct your donation by checking off your selected mission project and returning this form along with your cheque payable to: Concordia Lutheran Mission Society. Mail to **William Andrew, 180 South Alder Street, Campbell River, BC V9W 5H8.**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0801 VBS, Nicaragua | <input type="checkbox"/> 0811 Congregational Facilities, Yalta, Ukraine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0802 Children's Christian Education, Nicaragua | <input type="checkbox"/> 0812 Rental of Facilities, Costa Rica |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0803 Children's Outreach, Thailand | <input type="checkbox"/> 0813 Property for New Church, Granada |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0804 Female Evangelists, Thailand | <input type="checkbox"/> 0814 Registration for Church Facilities, Savran |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0805 Church Roof, Krasnoperekopsk, Ukraine | <input type="checkbox"/> 0815 Youth Ministry Training, Nicaragua |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0806 Theological Education, South East Asia | <input type="checkbox"/> 0816 Property Expansion, Khok Kloi, Thailand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0807 Outreach to Women and Children, Cambodia | <input type="checkbox"/> 0817 Intercultural Church Workers' Conference, Canada |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0808 Deaconess Support, Nicaragua | <input type="checkbox"/> 0818 Ministry Van, Canada |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0809 Summer Camp, Ukraine | <input type="checkbox"/> Operating Expenses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0810 Purchase of Facilities, Pervomeisk, Ukraine | <input type="checkbox"/> Where needed |

Each gift designated toward a board approved project will be used as specified, with the understanding that when any given project is fully funded, designated gifts will be used where needed most.

Please provide the following information so a charitable receipt can be forwarded to you and so you can be kept informed on current mission projects via our semi annual mailings. If you fill in the form as "Mr. & Mrs." you will receive two ballots for mail-in elections. In this case both your first names are helpful.

Mr., Mrs., Ms., Rev. _____ First name(s) _____ Last name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____ Country _____ Postal Code _____

The following information is optional. The e-mail address can be very helpful in sharing mission news with you.

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Home Congregation _____