

# Asia Ablaze! Newsletter

## China & Myanmar Disaster Relief

In Acts 11, St. Luke reports on a famine in Judea and the response of the Christians in Antioch who were determined to help. We read, "The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for their brothers living in Judea. This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul."

We live in a world that becomes increasingly flat. Our eyes see desperate need in the short time it takes for a radio wave to reach our televisions or computers. As God's children, we have the privilege of helping those in need as His hands of mercy. Luther says that we become the "masks of God" when we show His love to our neighbor. While we can't help everyone, we can make a difference.

There are many Christians and non-Christians alike who are suffering greatly in Myanmar and in China after natural disasters. They desperately need help restoring their broken lives. In this issue, you will find options for how you can help in both China and Myanmar. We hope those opportunities are a blessing to you.



Rev. John Mehl

LCMS World Mission Asia Regional Director

### LCMS World Mission Responds to Sichuan Earthquake

A month after the Sichuan earthquake, the people of China continue to mourn their great losses and attempt to recover from this national tragedy. On May 12, a 7.9 magnitude earthquake hit Sichuan province in southwestern China. The initial tremor was felt throughout China, but the hardest hit areas were in Sichuan. The

destruction in these areas was rapid and devastating. All told, official figures currently indicate more than 69,000 are confirmed dead, 374,000 injured, and 17,000 missing. Furthermore, the earthquake has left at least five million people homeless.

LCMS World Mission staff in Hong Kong and Macau have been in contact with students, friends, and colleagues with families in the earthquake-affected areas. Rev. Carl Hanson, East Asia Area Facilitator, visited with one such student. Ms. Nie is studying in Hong Kong and waited several nervous days before finding out that her family was safe. She could not help from crying as she shared that her family and friends were left homeless and were sleeping in tents in a local park.

Rev. Carl Hanson and Henry Rowold recently traveled to China to meet with leaders of the China Christian Council (CCC) in order to learn how the LCMS can best respond to this terrible tragedy.

In early June, Rev. Hanson was also able to lead a team to Sichuan to assess the needs that are being met

### LCMS Works with Local Partners to Help Myanmar Cyclone Victims

On May 2, Cyclone Nargis made landfall in Myanmar, causing massive destruction to the coastal regions of one of Asia's poorest countries. To date, the death toll is estimated at 78,000 with another 56,000 reported missing. In addition, the U.N. estimates that 2.4 million people are dealing with hunger and homelessness.

LCMS World Mission area facilitators Rev. Ted Engelbrecht and Rev. Carl Hanson recently visited Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) in Hong Kong to talk and pray with several students from Myanmar. Blute, an LTS student whose family is from the Irrawaddy Delta region hardest hit by the cyclone, shared that her family was

spared but that her community had been devastated by the disaster. Many of the region's 6.5 million people are Christian. Blute shared that in the city of Labutta, 40 of the 60 churches had been completely destroyed, and 40 Christian pastors had been killed.

Recent news reports about the relief efforts in Myanmar are giving the impression that foreign aid is not being allowed into the country. These reports seem to be having a discouraging effect on the flow of donations from many people who are touched by the destruction that has occurred in Myanmar and would like to help. While Myanmar's junta have placed restrictions on aid from gov-

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Disaster relief team visits local school in Sichuan assessing needs

## China Earthquake Relief Myanmar Cyclone Relief

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locally and also those in need of further support. The team was able, through a local organization, to visit a school in one of the disaster areas. "We are proud to say we were able to get all our kids out of the buildings before anyone got hurt. Other schools were not so lucky, just a few kilometers away a school collapsed and



**CISS Head of School, Dr. Koerschen, makes a donation towards the earthquake relief fund at Jinqiao's Green Villas compound.**

over 400 students and teachers died," Dean Lueng shared. "We are running but with over 900 kids in our school now we have to rotate classes because classroom space is not enough. We need fans, and a photocopier machine. We are doing everything by hand." His story could be repeated a hundred-fold. "Striking at midday, the quake was devastating," Hanson said. "You can really see the government and local community coming together but they are still in need of support, especially our prayers. Our plan is to work with these local organizations and government agencies to fill in the gaps." LCMS World Mission will work together with its partner, The Lutheran Church-Hong Kong Synod, to provide assistance to the CCC as it begins relief efforts in the areas of counseling for survivors, and rebuilding churches and training centers destroyed by the earthquake, along with a host of additional humanitarian projects.

You can help support this work by responding to an appeal for donations issued by LCMS World Mission, along with LCMS World Relief & Human Care and Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Checks can be sent to LCMS World Relief and Human Care,

P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861, making sure to mark the check "China Church Earthquake Response," or call toll-free in the U.S. at 1-888-930-4438.

### CISS Gives Back

Teachers, parents and students across the bustling campus at Concordia International School Shanghai (CISS) are still shocked with the recent earthquake in China. Concordia's Head of School, Dr. James Koerschen, together with Middle School Principal, Mr. Mark Lewis, and High School Assistant Principal, Mr. Patrick Frerking, attended an official earthquake relief rally hosted by Jinqiao's local government on May 16. All CISS representatives gave generously towards the cause. On May 17, the CISS National Honor Society held a garage sale on the school campus with funds raised (20,000 RMB or about \$2,900) distributed for relief efforts via the Yunnan Education Program (CISS's flagship service program), the Concordia Welfare Education Foundation ([www.cwef.org.hk](http://www.cwef.org.hk)) (its partner NGO), and Care for

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ernments and international aid organizations, smaller charities and faith-based groups have been able to make a significant impact in the cyclone-affected areas.

For example, LCMS partner organizations Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and Action by Churches Together have been able to provide assistance to approximately 100,000 people affected by the cyclone using funds donated by Lutherans in the U.S., according to Emily Sollie, LWR's director for communications and media relations, in an interview with *Reporter*, the official newspaper of the LCMS.

On May 23, LCMS World Mission, along with LCMS World Relief & Human Care and Lutheran Hour Ministries, issued an appeal to donors for financial donations to be used toward relief efforts in Myanmar. The appeal reports that in

Myanmar "there are Lutheran congregations in the affected area and local people who can purchase food and other items in-country for immediate distribution. These congregations and individuals have long-standing relationships with Lutheran Hour Ministries, and at least one congregation has worked with LCMS World Relief and Human Care in the past." The appeal urges LCMS members to prayerfully consider responding to this disaster by supporting the cyclone relief efforts of LCMS World Mission and its partners.

Please visit [www.lcms.org?13516](http://www.lcms.org?13516) and click on the 'Give Now' button on the right-hand side. Checks can be sent to LCMS World Relief and Human Care, P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861, making sure to mark the check "Myanmar Cyclone Relief," or call toll-free in the U.S. at 1-888-930-4438.



**Myanmar students studying at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong talk and pray with LCMS facilitators.**

Children (an association that is directly assisting orphans affected in Sichuan province). Donation boxes have also been placed around the school campus with funds raised being channeled through Care for Children. The CISS community is also supporting outreach programs like the "tent drive" at the Community Center Shanghai where 2,500 RMB (about \$360) in do-

nations are being collected to purchase much needed tents for displaced persons in Sichuan. Clothing and toiletry items that have been donated will be airlifted to areas of need through a local organization that works with the Red Cross.

# Cambodia Ablaze!

## CWEF Team Visits Cambodia

During the Chinese New Year vacation in February, a team from the Concordia Welfare and Education Foundation (CWEF) traveled to Cambodia for a retreat of service and devotion. The CWEF team was made up of long term volunteer English teachers, long term volunteer development workers, and LCMS WM

leaders. The team joined Volunteer Coordinator for Cambodia, Ms. Jeanette Groth, and CWEF Cambodia Manager, Mette Pacho.

During the retreat, the team conducted a VBS event at Bethel Church in Siem Ream, Angkor, with Pastor Vuthy Prak handling the arrangements. Classes were held in the mornings with children

at the church's elementary school, and in the evenings with community English classes. During the VBS event, the team told the story of Epiphany and the message that Christ came for all people. Pastor Prak expressed his joy that the team was able to personally witness Christ to all of the participants.

## Blazing Trails for Ablaze!

A Cambodian refugee in Finland became involved with the Lutheran church there, and after some time wanted to reach out to his family back in Cambodia so they would also have the opportunity to learn what being a Lutheran is all about. He contacted LCMS missionary Charles Groth about Lutheran work in Cambodia. Groth worked through Pastor Hun Kosal from Trinity Lutheran in Battambang, and together they invited the interested family members from one of the most remote

provinces, Rattanakiri. These family members visited Groth's leaders' training and asked for a visit to their home area for a discussion about Lutheran training.

This would normally be a simple request, but due to the remoteness of their home province, it became more of an adventure. Pastor Kosal, the Groths and their Khmer assistant Phin Narin began the trip, and despite difficult travel conditions, arrived safely. Eight church leaders traveled two hours on motorcycle for the discussion. They shared their desire to "blaze" new ground for sharing the Gospel, as well as their prayer for more Lutheran training. Pastor Kosal volunteered to take the lead in getting government permission to work in the area. At least one leader will continue to come to leadership trainings and will then become a teacher in his home area.



A CWEF team member works with young students on a recent trip to Cambodia.

# Indonesia Ablaze!

## More Than 3,000 Attend Easter Egg Hunt

On March 29 at the Universitas Pelita Harapan (UPH), university students held an Easter egg hunt for nearly 3,000 underprivileged children living in the city of Jakarta. For many of them, it was the first time they learned about the true meaning of Easter. They sang songs, watched a play called "The Greatest Super Hero" put on by the students, and collected eggs. Finally, they sat with their student chaperones, opened their eggs, read the verses inside and prayed with them while they ate the candy. This was truly a wonderful opportunity to share and be involved with so many children. Matt Myers, a lecturer at UPH, was on hand to help supervise and

encourage the students.

## Teacher Training Workshop in Banda Aceh

The Ninth Teacher Training Workshop for middle school English teachers in Banda Aceh was held over the weekend of May 31 - June 1. More than 80 teachers attended the event.

John Plagens and Linda Deines have helped lead the workshops which have been held three times per year since 2005. For this most recent workshop, they were reunited with Matt Myers, who was a part of the first two workshops in 2005 shortly after the tsunami devastated the area. Upon his return to help with the ninth workshop, Matt noted the differences between 2005 and 2008 in that "the



Children race to find their eggs in the Easter Egg Hunt.

roads and the town in general look greatly improved. The people are still very eager to spend time with us, to learn our language and become

better teachers. It was great to see the same number of teachers, with the same faces attending three years later!"

## Japan Ablaze!

### Japan Lutheran Church Holds 14th Convention

On May 5-6 the fourteenth regular convention of the Japan Lutheran Church (JLC) was convened in Tokyo, Japan. Rev. Yutaka Kumei was elected and installed as the new president of the JLC, and, though he will continue to serve as pastor of Center Lutheran Church in Sapporo, Japan, he has already begun his term of service. Along with the newly elected and appointed members of the JLC board of directors, he is joined by Rev. Shinri Emoto, JLC vice-president, and Rev. Jun Yamato, JLC mission secretary. JLC members celebrated the three-year term and service

of president emeritus Kimio Takano as new initiatives submitted by the former board of directors were approved, including a recruitment effort for new pastors, and a reconfigured program for Luther House (the JLC seminary student dormitory).

### Shirone Lutheran Christ Church Welcomes Long-Awaited Pastor

When Rev. Gakkei Wakabayashi was sent to the pastor-less Shirone Lutheran Christ Church in April 2004, members rejoiced that their prayers for a pastor had been answered. Since he had already received an M.Div. degree from an American seminary, it was hoped that he would receive certification as a pastor of the

Japan Lutheran Church (JLC) right away. But it seemed that the Lord had other plans, and the certification of Rev. Wakabayashi would take four years. Finally, on March 30, 2008, JLC President Takano helped the congregation celebrate the ordination and installation of Rev. Wakabayashi. Over 50 people, including guests from the Niigata churches and Rev. Wakabayashi's family, along with guests from Korea and VYMers from Tokyo, honored the church by attending the service.

*The original, Japanese version of this article was written by Ms. Motoko Makiguchi for the Japanese publication "Kyohkai*



**Rev. Wakabayashi**

*Dayori." It was translated by Rev. Blanke for use in this newsletter.*

## India Ablaze!

### Educational Missionaries Arriving in India

Dave and Beth Hoepfner have accepted the call to serve as educational missionaries in India. They are expected to arrive in January 2009. Their arrival will be in response to a long-standing request from the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC).

The Hoepfners previously served from 1990-2004 at the Hong Kong International

School, and will now bring their educational expertise and Asia experience to serve as Educational Consultants with the IELC.

The IELC has 82 schools, including eight high schools, serving about 4,000 students. The church also has eight institutions for the handicapped. This work is key to much of the church's *Ablaze!* goal to reach 20 million souls by 2017.

The Hoepfners will be working with IELC leaders to improve both the quality of teaching, as well as the condition of the school facilities. There are many opportunities to expand the existing institutions and to start new ones. Many are in old buildings that need to be renovated or replaced. The Indian government provides on-going support for approved schools, but the church is responsible for providing facilities.

### Golden Jubilee

The India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC) will be celebrating its Golden Jubilee as an independent church body on June 19. LCMS Fifth Vice-President Rev. David Buegler will be the featured LCMS representative. The event will be part of the annual Pastors Refresher Course, to which pastors from the Lanka Lutheran Church in Sri Lanka will also be attending.

India was the first mission field for the LCMS in 1895.

Now the IELC has approximately 50,000 members, with over 200 active pastors and deaconesses. The church works in six states of India and in six different languages. The IELC is on schedule to meet its *Ablaze!* goal of reaching 20 million new contacts with the Gospel by 2017.

### Indian Altar Donated to LCMS Headquarters

India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC) President Rev. J. Samuel and Mr. P. Selvaraj participated in the dedication of a new granite altar donated to LCMS by the IELC on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the LCMS International Center in St. Louis in May. Mr. Selvaraj has a granite business and has long desired to express gratitude on behalf of the Indian church for bringing them the Gospel. This expression of gratitude and partnership fittingly comes during the 50th anniversary year of the IELC.



**Dave and Beth Hoepfner**

# Taiwan Ablaze!

## China Lutheran Seminary Dedicates New Building

China Lutheran Seminary (CLS) in Taiwan has completed the largest building project ever undertaken in its 40-year history. An April 26 service of thanksgiving and praise accompanied the dedication of the new eight-story seminary building. The service brought leaders from Lutheran church bodies around the world. LCMS World Mission Asia Regional Director, Rev. John Mehl, brought greetings on behalf of LCMS.

The building construction was completed in late 2007 and parts of the building have been in use since that time. LCMS Fan into Flame gifts provided \$200,000 toward construction. The building includes an underground parking lot, library, cafeteria, auditorium, classrooms, offices and dormitories.

The seminary started as a small mission station, grew to a training center and then became the present seminary. Located in Hsinchu, Taiwan's bustling silicon valley, CLS offers Master's programs in Luther studies, Divinity, and Counseling, along with a Bachelor's degree in Theology. The seminary sends a number of outreach teams each



The new eight-story China Lutheran Seminary Theological Education and Church Resource Center.

year to serve throughout Taiwan, Asia, and other parts of the world. The seminary also offers branch courses in five locations throughout Taiwan and evangelism training for laymen in 14 locations also in Taiwan.

New technology available in the building includes virtual internet teaching, which allows students to take courses from CLS around the world merely by connecting to the Internet. They can see and hear the teacher and fully participate in class.

The total number of students served in all of these programs is about 375, all of whom also serve in local congregations.

## U.S. Musical Troupe Visits Concordia Middle School

New Dawn, a Lutheran musical troupe from the U.S., traveled to Taiwan to join ministries in and around Concordia Middle School. This group of five talented and energetic youth utilized song, drama, testimony and relationship building to share

the Gospel with individuals, groups, and communities. Having ample opportunities to team up with LCMS World Mission long-term missionaries, New Dawn was able to connect with over 3,000 people throughout their four week trip.

## First Ever Easter Program

Concordia English Language Academy celebrated its first ever Easter Program for over 200 people in April. LCMS World Mission long-term missionaries teamed up with their Taiwanese co-workers to prepare their young students to share the message of Christ's death and resurrection with the other students and their families. It is hoped that this will be the first of many Easter programs and will serve as an instrument for sharing the love of Jesus with the many individuals who do not know Him.

## Taiwan Welcomes Dr. Robert Kolb

Dr. Robert and Pauline Kolb arrived safely at China Lutheran Seminary in Taiwan on May 28. A Concordia Seminary (St Louis) professor, missionary and author of many works, Dr. Kolb has come to Taiwan to serve for a month.

## Dr. Greg Sawyer Returns to the U.S.

After seven years of service in Hong Kong, Dr. Greg Sawyer, along with his children Brittany and Kerrick, will return to Michigan this summer. Greg has accepted a call to be a pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Rochester, Michigan. Greg's talent and passion for ministry will be greatly missed, not only by LCMS World Mission, where he has served two years as Strategic Education Developer for the Asia region, but also by Hong Kong International School, where he served five years as high school counselor and principal, and where his late wife Cynthia also served as a primary school teacher. The Sawyer family has also been very active at Church of All Nations in Hong Kong. LCMS World Mission prays for God's richest blessings on the Sawyers as they continue to serve Him.



Greg Sawyer (2nd row, 3rd from right) is surrounded by friends and co-workers in Hong Kong as they bid him farewell.

## Hong Kong Ablaze!

### Touch the Bug

"When working with kids, we need to reach the parents. When working with parents, we have to be engaging the kids." These were the sentiments of Rev. Dr. Allan Yung, President of the Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod (LCHKS), regarding the combination of two call-in programs

which are now run by the LCHKS.

"Touch the Bug," a call-in program of the Lutheran Hour in Hong Kong which receives 25,000-30,000 calls a month, officially came under the management of the LCHKS for its ongoing operation in June. Dr. Yung noted that this is a great opportunity for the LCHKS to

combine the two programs into one. As part of the *Ablaze!* effort in Hong Kong, the LCHKS launched a call-in program for parents of students in its schools in Hong Kong. It has been a growing program and continues to expand. By adding the "Touch the Bug" program, the LCHKS hopes to connect with more

kids and youth. Dr. Yung has set a goal of 60,000 calls a month and hopes that this new connection between the "Touch the Bug" children's program and the LCHKS parent's program will also help in the follow-up with both parents and children.

## Philippines Ablaze!

### New Dawn Visits LCP

The Lutheran Youth Encounter (LYE), popularly known as "New Dawn," visited the Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP) again this year. They arrived in the middle of January and spent close to three months going to towns and villages with Lutheran congregations. LCP clergymen accompanied them when they performed and proclaimed the wonderful message of the Gospel through their songs, skits, puppet shows, and other activities. The LYE team, together with pastors and some members of the congregations, performed for about 50 localities and villages to a total of 30,000-32,000 individuals from all walks of life.

### More Than 500 Attend Youth Camps

The four districts in the Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP) held their annual youth camps at different dates in April, and a total of 550 young people joined this important youth ministry event, with most being first time attendees. This year's camp theme was "Empowering Youth Toward Church Involvement, Spiritual Fitness, and Involving Ourselves in Building up the Body of Christ." Youth camps are fertile grounds for preaching the Gospel among young people who are sometimes reluctant to attend church. Three young men were recruited at the camp and are now enrolled as first year students at the Lutheran Theological Seminary



New Dawn performs at one of the LCP youth camps

in Baguio City. Almost all of the LCP clergymen attended these youth camps in the different districts. They served as devotion leaders, Bible Study teachers and lecturers.

"Youth camp encourages us young people to be in church and motivates us to get involved in the ministries of the church," said one camper.

## Thailand Ablaze!

### Hmong Mission Continues to Reach the Un-reached

In April, LCMS missionaries Rev. Dr. Fungchatou Lo (Indonesia) and Rev. Robert Hedtko (Thailand) led a team to visit five Hmong villages in rural, northern Thailand. The trip was one of many in a series coordinated by the Hmong International Mission in Thailand to reach the un-reached Hmong of Thailand. Throughout the

trip, the team met with interested Hmong villagers in groups ranging in size from a few people to groups of 20-25. One highlight of the trip was a showing of the Jesus movie in the Hmong language. Dozens of villagers came during the showing and by the end of the event 50 people remained to close with prayer and Benediction.

Another highlight of the trip was when Ms. Chaiboua, one of

the Christian Hmong women who had met with a team back in October 2007, handed a small LWML mite box to Ms. Kalia Lo, one of the team members, and said, "Please take this to do the Lord's work." The box contained 117 Thai Baht (about \$3.90) in coins which the Hmong women had been collecting since October. The entire team was very moved by this gesture, as the Hmong villagers so willingly and lov-

ingly give of the little that they have to further the Lord's work. For it was not the amount given that was important, but rather, that they gave all that they had to the Lord.

For more information about the Hmong International Mission in Thailand, contact Rev. Dr. Fungchatou Lo at [Hlegacy66@gmail.com](mailto:Hlegacy66@gmail.com).

# Korea Ablaze!

## Activities for Spreading the Gospel by LCK President Um

Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK) President Hyun-Sub Um has been especially dedicated to *Ablaze!* and the spread of the Gospel since the spring of this year. In one case, he preached at Kangnam University and reached some 1,000 listeners, and in another, he spoke at Luther University to an audience of about 400 people. Together with activities like the Bethel Bible Introduction Seminars, speeches and sermons at graduations, ordinations, and special activities of Lutheran congregations, he has worked to spread the Gospel to a total of about 3,000 people. Additionally, he attended a breakfast prayer meeting hosted by the President of the Republic of Korea, along with a Protestant joint Easter vigil worship service, a retirement worship service for Rev. Dr. Yonggi Cho of Yeouido Full Gospel Church, and meetings by the Korean Bible Society, representing the LCK and promoting the spread of the Gospel.

## Korea Bethel Series Exceeds Expectations

Korea Bethel Series, an institution affiliated with the Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK), has published the results of its activities for the first quarter of 2008. Introduction courses in several areas were attended by 107 pastors from various denominations. The Korea Bethel Series started in 1969 when the founder of Bethel Series, Rev. Dr. Swiggam, held its first introduction course in South Korea. By 2005, 10,446 pastors and about 400,000 church members had participated in the Bethel Series, which has become a leading Bible Study program in Korea. Through the Bethel Bible Series, the LCK plans to con-

tinue to spread the Gospel not only in South Korea but also throughout the region.

## Church Library Opens in Incheon City

On May 22 in Incheon City west of Seoul, the Guweol Lutheran Church opened a library for people living nearby called the Majungmul Library. Among the 70 guests at the opening were LCK President Um and his wife. The library is available for students as a place to learn, as well as do their homework.

“Majungmul” literally means “priming water,” or pumping water, and reminds one that an investment first has to be made in order to harvest good results. Pastor Yeong-Seok Jin of Guweol Lutheran Church expressed his hopes that the library will help foster a closer relationship between his congregation and the neighborhood.

## 2008 Lectures on Liturgy for Lay Church Members

On May 11-12 the Worship Committee of the General Assembly of the Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK) held lectures in Seoul for lay church members on the liturgy. The 150 participants were from Lutheran congregations throughout South Korea. The lectures aimed to develop a better understanding of the traditional Liturgy practiced in the LCK. The program included three lectures: “LCK’s Book of Common Worship Service,” “Sermon and Eucharist,” and “Lutheran Understanding of Sacraments.” Through the lectures, participants gained a deeper understanding of the Lutheran liturgy and were motivated to protect and develop its precious liturgical tradition.

## 2008 PLI Conference

From May 26-29, the Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI) in



Children make use of the new library at Guweol Lutheran Church in Incheon, Korea.

Korea held its annual spring conference. The theme was “Missional Teaming.” Lectures were given by Rev. Dr. Norbert Oesch, Rev. Allan Doering and his wife, and Rev. Dr. Scott Rische and his wife, all from the LCMS. The PLI conference, attended by about 30 Lutheran Church in Korea pastors and spouses, is part of a series of conferences which started in 2002 with the support of PLI International and will conclude in 2009.

## INTERESTED IN KOREA?

For more articles & photos from Korea, visit the *Asia Ablaze!* Extras website at [www.asiaablaze.org/extra.html](http://www.asiaablaze.org/extra.html).

## Sprayers Shipped to North Korea

On May 26–27 LCMS missionary Patrick O’Neal traveled to visit a factory where 400 agricultural sprayers were assembled, labeled with the LCMS logo, and boxed for shipment. The container was then driven to the South Korean port of Incheon, where it set sail for a port in China, before its final leg to North Korea, where the sprayers were delivered to four farms that LCMS World Mission is working with in

the Ryong-Yon joint venture. The project is in partnership with Agglobe Services International, Inc., a US based non-profit organization focused on improving food security for underprivileged members of the global community. This is done through agricultural productivity improvement and environmentally friendly, sustainable community development. The sprayers will enable farmers to apply the needed chemicals and pesticides at the right time, and should help the farms realize a larger harvest than they would have had without them.

Through the generous support of individuals from the Church of All Nations in Hong Kong, LCMS World Mission was able to forward \$11,000 to provide over half of this shipment. LCMS World Mission is excited about this continued involvement in North Korea. It is working on ways to help with immediate needs, as well as longer term projects that will help the farms generate enough income to become self-sufficient. For more information about these projects, interested parties can contact Patrick O’Neal at [Patrick.ONeal@LCMS.org](mailto:Patrick.ONeal@LCMS.org).

## Papua New Guinea Ablaze!

### Lutheran Churches in Asia Address AIDS Epidemic

The Gutnius Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea is aggressively seeking avenues to strengthen the Body of Christ as it lives with AIDS. Other Lutheran churches must also recognize the critical role they play in assisting the people of God to proclaim the Good

News of Jesus Christ in the face of HIV and AIDS.

In Papua New Guinea LCMS Missionary Liz Neuf is launching a home-grown local publication called *The H.I.V. (Hope Inside the Virus)* to share ideas and information, and to offer encouragement to one another in a world with HIV and AIDS. She would be

pleased to hear from churches and individuals throughout Asia who are responding to the HIV and AIDS complex, or to hear the struggles which have made it difficult to respond up until this time. The publication will seek to highlight ways in which Asian Lutheran Churches are responding to

the great need, as well as ways in which they learn from and work with one another. It is hoped that through shared experiences and resources, there will be a source of hope, a light in the darkness of HIV and AIDS. For further information or questions, contact Liz Neuf at [lizneuf@online.net.pg](mailto:lizneuf@online.net.pg).

## Asia Ablaze! Online Resources

### LCMS World Mission Blog

The new LCMS World Mission blog is up and running! At this site, viewers can see recent photos, videos, and "Good News from the Field" reports from LCMS missionaries around the world. Ministry updates from congregations across the U.S. are also available. The blog is a great new way for people to connect, learn, and celebrate God's worldwide mission of bringing the message of Jesus Christ to all people. It is available at:

<http://blog.lcmsworldmission.org>

### Asia Ablaze! Partner Websites

See below for the websites for five LCMS Asia partners. Just click on the links to learn more about these partners.

Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod  
[www.lutheran.org.hk](http://www.lutheran.org.hk)

Japan Lutheran Church  
[www.jlc.or.jp](http://www.jlc.or.jp)

Lutheran Church in Korea  
[www.lck.or.kr](http://www.lck.or.kr)

Lanka Lutheran Church (Sri Lanka)  
[www.lanka.lutheran.tk](http://www.lanka.lutheran.tk)

Lutheran Church in the Philippines  
[www.lutheranphilippines.org](http://www.lutheranphilippines.org)

### IS YOUR WEBSITE MISSING?

Contact us at [editor@asiaablaze.org](mailto:editor@asiaablaze.org) to have your church, organization or school website included in upcoming editions of the *Asia Ablaze! Newsletter*.

### CONTACT US

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