

# Asia Ablaze! Newsletter

## Papua New Guinea Ablaze!

### Dedication of New Testament in Ipili Language

The Ipili language translation of the New Testament was dedicated and launched on Aug. 13. The launching marked the culmination of many years of work. Rev. Terry Borchard with Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) was the primary translator, working with Ipili colleagues Rev. Mandita, Kanda Opopo, and others. The LBT, LCMS, and Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) supported the translation project. Rev. Borchard's contribution was especially ap-

preciated; a fellow missionary said, "Terry is a blessing to the GLC, the Ipili people, the broader translation community, the LBT, and the LCMS."

The launching took place in Porgera, Enga Province, Papua New Guinea, with 3,000 in attendance. The program was organized by the 11 churches in the Ipili Council of Churches. Bishop David Piso of the Gutnius Lutheran Church conducted the rite of dedication. Rev. Harvey Kath and Rev. Ron Rall, former LCMS missionaries to the Ipili people, along with Rev. Borchard, each shared words of thanksgiving

and encouragement.

When Rev. Mandita read several verses from the New Testament, people were visibly moved to hear the Word in their own tongue.

Following the dedication, copies of the Ipili language

New Testament were distributed to representatives of the Ipili churches and hundreds of other copies were sold.



Rev. Terry Borchard (center) & Bishop David Piso (right) present a copy of the Ipili language New Testament to a member of the local Ipili-speaking community

The 26,000 Ipili speaking people live in the western portion  
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## Korea Ablaze!

### 50th Anniversary of Lutheran Mission in Korea

2008 is a very special year for the Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK). In 1958, three missionar-

ies sent by the LCMS started a mission that led to the foundation of the LCK. To commemorate its 50th anniversary, the LCK is putting together a large-scale celebration. Part of the commemoration is the construction of the new Luther Building which will be called "50th Anniversary of Mission Building - Luther Hall". The LCK has chosen October 26 as the 50 Years of Mission Memorial Day when Lutherans from throughout the country will come together for a large-scale celebration including a joint worship service, music performance, and a scholarly conference. Leaders from the LCK's partner churches—the LCMS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, and the Lutheran Church Canada, have also been invited to participate. The slogan for the anniversary is Luther's famous quote, "Here I stand."

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## India Ablaze!

### IELC Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC) commemorated its 50th anniversary as an independent church body during Golden Jubilee celebrations held June 18-20 at Concordia Theological Seminary in Nagercoil, India. The Golden Jubilee coincided with the annual Pastors' Refresher Course and brought together hundreds of church leaders, pastors, and lay people from across India. The three-day celebration was an opportunity for the IELC to share its exciting vision for the future while taking pause to honor past leaders.

"It has been a very important event," said Rev. Dr. Herb Hoefler, area facilitator for India and Sri Lanka with LCMS World Mission. "They wanted the whole church

to come together, to celebrate the Lutheran heritage they have, and to see the opportunities for outreach in the coming years." Hoefler is one of many LCMS missionaries who have served in India, the first of which arrived in 1895, making India the LCMS's first overseas mission field. IELC President Dr. J. Samuel and his fellow church leaders are seeking to emulate those first missionaries by fostering a renewed focus on evangelism and outreach.

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IELC President Dr. J. Samuel (r) thanks Rev. Dr. Herb Hoefler (l) for his service.

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## India & Sri Lanka Ablaze!

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The church body is also taking steps to improve its capacity for growth by expanding educational options at Concordia Seminary in Nagercoil through the inauguration of a Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) program. The new undergraduate degree will attract students and faculty from across India and has even garnered interest from other Asian countries. President Samuel shared that the seminary had overcome many hurdles to get the B.D. program started and that its inauguration was the fulfillment of years of prayer and planning.

### New Sites Purchased

There have been mass baptisms in one area of the India

Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC), thus IELC leaders have given priority to purchasing a site so that these new congregations can erect a shed for worship. The funds (\$17,500) to purchase nine sites have come from both the Jesus Is Lord Mission Society and a private donor. With such a permanent presence in the village, people are much more willing to consider the faith.

### New LLC President

The Lanka Lutheran Church (LLC) in Sri Lanka held a special election and called Rev. G. Nadaraja as their new President. Over the past two years, the church has brought in a new administration, with Rev. S. Devanesan as the LLC Treasurer.

### Spoken English Workshop

Seven LCMS volunteers conducted a two-week Spoken English Workshop for 30 seminary students and young people in the Lanka Lutheran Church in Sri Lanka. Each year in the first two weeks of August, LCMS World Mission sends volunteers to provide this training. Through English, the church workers are able to reach the educated and the Sinhalese populations around the tea plantations, where the church operates. The young people have much better employment possibilities if they have this English language skill.

### Incomplete Chapels

The India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC) has dozens of incomplete chapels. As the church expands, both through congregational growth and new church plants, the need has greatly increased. LCMS World Mission has raised some private funds to help complete these chapels. The policy is that the congregation erect the building up to the roof-level, and the IELC Trust Association will then help complete the building. The needs have far outstripped the resources, however, and the custom is that congregation members contribute one month's income above their regular tithe until the building is complete.

## Vietnam Ablaze!

### A Special Start to the School Year

Tuy Loc is one of the new communes receiving projects from LCMS World Mission Vietnam and their partner, the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN). The Nutrition Program for children attending the Early Childhood Centers (ECC) is one of several projects supported by LCMS in the commune; other projects include the Poverty Alleviation Project, the Communal Health Station, and the Cow Project. It is anticipated that the new Nutrition Program will make the new school year extra special.

Several months ago an LCMS team visited the commune, and Mrs. Hai, president of the ECC, indicated that only 42 of the 150 children were eating lunch at the ECC, despite hopes that most if not all of the children would eat at school. During the visit, the team also learned that the children were getting just one or two snacks per week due to the school's limited finances.

On a recent visit to the commune, Mrs. Hai said the number of children having lunch at the school had increased to more than 100. This increase is due to training courses held by LCMS – NIN and local partners to make parents more aware of the benefits of eating at school. Another reason is that the parents are more aware of the LCMS – NIN nutrition program at the school, and believe in its merits. These parents are witnessing the benefits of that nutrition program because, beginning this school year, their children also get an afternoon snack every day of the week. This is possible thanks to the additional support of 10 cents per child per day.

### Northern Vietnam Flood Relief

In mid-August, northern Vietnam experienced flash floods after a dyke along the Red River broke. To date, 133 people have died, and in one province alone, at least 35 people were killed after land-

slides buried them while they slept. Countless more will feel the effects for months to come as their family rice stores, the staple of the Vietnamese diet, have been washed away. In addition, rice crops that were recently planted for the year's second harvest have now been lost.

LCMS WM has community development projects in Phu Tho where it has been estimated that 19,000 people are facing housing problems. One of the health stations providing medical care to all of the residents of a commune was destroyed and seven more are badly in need of repair. Sanitation is also a problem, with 30,000 children and at-risk people likely to be affected by water-borne diseases. Education will also suffer as 11,000

children are now out of school. People have lost their cattle which are used to transport rice and plow fields, as well as chickens raised for food and sale. In addition, many roads and bridges were damaged, making it difficult to reach remote areas with relief.

This month, LCMS WM, in partnership with the National Institute of Nutrition is working to coordinate relief for the people of Phu Tho. For more information about the LCMS flood relief efforts in Vietnam, contact J.P. Cima at [John.Cima@lcms.org](mailto:John.Cima@lcms.org).



**Residents in northern Vietnam suffer the on-going affects of severe flooding**

# Taiwan Ablaze!

## Taiwan Reunion

Begun in Taiwan and transported to the United States, Chevanurch, a gathering of missionary families who formerly served in the China Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC), celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> annual gathering this past July. Over the years those families have grown through births and marriages, and a few non-CELC missionaries have also been granted honorary status.

This year Chevanurch met at Heit's Point Lutheran Camp, Missouri in July, with upwards of fifty people attending, including many three-generation families. The Winter family (Taiwan 1966-83) served as hosts and coordinators for the gathering, with Cliff Winter continuing to serve as president. Events at the gathering included worship, at which some \$650 was gathered in support of the ongoing volunteer ministry in Taiwan, an annual volleyball game, family updates for those families present and those absent, and the continuing growth of the

Chevanurch song (new verses are added annually, totaling now several hundred). Time was also spent in updates on the church and mission in Taiwan, as well as in the wider China region, with particular input from Dr. David Kohl, former history professor at Concordia University Portland, who is in the process of writing the history of the LCMS mission in the China region.

## New School Year Underway in Taiwan

Record enrollment for LCMS partner Concordia English Language Academy greets part of this year's team of LCMS World Mission's long-term missionaries to Taiwan. Established in 2000, this after-school English program also incorporates Bible lessons to teach its student body of close to 200 students. The rest of the long-term missionary team serves through English teaching and Bible instruction at Concordia Middle School, reaching over 1,500 national students weekly with the Gospel. Taiwan also welcomes four new LCMS missionaries this year: Ben & Amy Riley, Petrea

Schwahn, and Beka House. They are welcome additions to the team, bringing a wide variety of experiences as well as new excitement for the service opportunities that abound both on and off campus.



Concordia Middle School missionary teachers at a recent team building event

## CLS Students Embark on Summer Mission Trips

China Lutheran Seminary (CLS) students went on short mission trips to three different Asian countries this past summer. Because of the Chinese dispersion, almost every Asian country has groups of Mandarin speaking Christians that welcome encouragement, fellowship, and other help such as service projects, ministry, visitations, caring for and teaching children and youth, and evangelistic outreach. CLS students learn and serve in Mandarin, so they have a natural connection with these groups scattered throughout

Asia. Each time they return, they share moving stories with the whole CLS community, including ways in which their own lives and view of ministry and serving have changed. At CLS, while one of the graduation requirements is to participate in two mission trips, many students participate in many more. The students who do not participate in mission trips are involved in service and learning at their fieldwork churches in Taiwan, and some participate in Clinical Pastoral Education (C.P.E.) in Taiwan hospitals.

# China Ablaze!

## CISS Scores a Perfect 10!

On Sept. 1, students, parents and faculty came together to kick-start the 2008-09 school year at Concordia International School Shanghai (CISS). This year is especially exciting as it also includes the CISS 10-year anniversary celebrations. With regular monthly events planned throughout the coming school year, the CISS community has much to look forward to, in particular, the year's main celebratory event, scheduled for April 25, 2009, which promises to be an elegant gala celebration. And on Oct. 11, 2008, CISS will be the proud host to American Christian song artist

and performer, Don Wharton.

CISS was founded in 1998 with just 22 students, 14 teachers and 10 administrative staff in what was then a new section of Shanghai, the residential Jinqiao neighborhood of Pudong. Today, the school has more than 1,000 students representing nearly 30 different passports taught by more than 130 teachers in four purpose-built facilities. This academic year CISS will celebrate its eighth graduating class with graduates continuing to enroll in the world's finest universities. CISS, as a co-educational day school, serves those in the international community who desire an



CISS campus in 2008

facilities, program offerings and student educational opportunities. No

American, college preparatory education in a Christian context. A self-perpetuating Board of Directors operates the school on behalf of LCMS, which provided the initial funding to start CISS.

Since 1998, CISS has witnessed phenomenal growth, not only within the student and faculty bodies, but also through the expansion of

longer a one-building campus, CISS's 10-acre campus now boasts four new purpose-built facilities, two of which opened at the start of the 2007-08 school year. Construction of a new High School facility began in June 2008 with completion slated for the start of the 2009-2010 school year.

## Myanmar Ablaze!

### Taiwan School Partners with Myanmar School and Community

Beginning as a partnership with a local middle school in Myanmar almost a decade ago, LCMS World Mission partner Concordia Middle School (CMS) in Chia Yi, Taiwan has continued to support not only

this school but those in the surrounding community as well. This July, two Taiwanese Lutheran churches joined with CMS to send over 30 teachers, pastors, and missionaries from Taiwan to Lasu, Myanmar. The large group, led by Rev. Aaron Chu, split into three teams upon

arrival and served hundreds of people in the community through Sunday school training, curriculum development, medical visits, visiting the elderly, caring for the local Lutheran congregation and taking books, scholarship funds and other supplies to support ongoing

ministries of the community and school. This year marked a special addition to the Taiwan mission team – students. Nine high school students from CMS made their first trip to Myanmar, working alongside their local peers in and out of the classroom.

## Japan Ablaze!

### Japan LCMS Missionary Reunion

Every three years, former LCMS Japan Missionaries gather in St. Louis. This past summer, about 40 former missionaries, their wives, children and widows, several POPVers (Prince of Peace Volunteers), several military men and a chaplain and his wife gathered at the St. Louis Mercy Center Retreat. The time was spent renewing friendships, reviewing experiences, and rejoicing in their many blessings. Several of the former missionaries had recently been to Japan and shared their experiences and observations of modern day Japan.

The first missionary family arrived in Japan in 1948, sent by LCMS in answer to General McArthur's plea for 1,000 missionaries to be sent to Japan following World War II. One of the last missionary families sent to Japan recalled being #42 on the roster of all those who answered the call of the LCMS Japan mission. Several of those present had begun their missionary work some 60 years ago in China.

In spite of the passing years and great distances of travel from east to west coast, there is much effort put into getting to St. Louis because there is much joy in sharing and rejoicing in all the blessings the Lord has showered upon the



Attendees at the recent Japan LCMS Missionary Reunion

group, and they are all looking forward to the next reunion in another three years.

### JLC Holds 3-College Japan-Korea Seminar

On August 2, Japan Lutheran College (JLC) hosted the 4th annual 3-College Japan-Korea Seminar together with Luther University, Korea, and Pyongtaek University. The seminar is designed to promote an exchange of ideas between JLC and its sister schools in Asia on current topics related to Christian Studies and Social Welfare. The day-long session began with a keynote address by President Shiroh Abe, president emeritus of the Health and Welfare College of Kanagawa, Japan, on the topic "The Road to Reconciliation." President Abe's presentation summarized the desire on the part of all schools represented at the seminar to work together, despite the lingering historical context of World War II that can some-

times make exchanges between people in different parts of Asia difficult. In the area of Christian Studies, Professor Chul Hwan Kim, representing Luther University in Korea, presented a talk entitled "Central Issues in Proclaiming the Gospel to Korean Shamanists." Associate Professor Jonathan Blanke, representing JLC, presented an essay on the Gospel of John. The day concluded, in traditional Japanese fashion, with gift-giving and speeches, and in traditional Lutheran fashion, with a meal shared by all.

### Summer English Camp a Success

In June, Carol Becker helped to lead an English Camp at Okutama Bible Chalet in the mountains of Japan. The theme of the weekend was "Laughter," as joy is a much-needed message in Japan where many people suffer from loneliness and depression. Many of the attendees

were businessmen from the same company and because their boss was also there, they initially interacted as they would at work. However, by the end of the camp and after all of the activities (which included hiking, games, stories, devotions, worship, and the like), the men were more at ease with each other and truly enjoying the fellowship.

One big blessing of the camp was that there were four missionaries and six students who attended, so students had the opportunity for one on one interaction. During the final worship, everyone shared what had brought them joy over the weekend. One student who is not a Christian shared that his favorite part was spending time alone in the chapel because he felt so at peace.

# Thailand Ablaze!

## CWEFT Honored with Government Recognition

Concordia Welfare Education Foundation-Thailand (CWEFT) has been active in Thailand as a human care foundation for 20 years. Over the last few years CWEFT has been extremely busy and has been singled out by the Kingdom of Thailand for special recognition. In fact, for the past two years, CWEFT has received this special citation. With a great deal of pride, representatives of CWEFT received the latest plaque in a public ceremony. An official from the Thai Ministry of Labor recently visited the CWEFT office and was impressed with CWEFT which, according to the official, has produced beneficial results to Thai people. In addition, within the last two years CWEFT has received plaques from the Office of Education in Phang Nga province, Southern Thailand, and the Thai Ministry of Education has also honored CWEFT for the benefits it has provided to the education of Thai children. This recognition has helped to increase awareness of the work CWEFT does throughout Thailand.

## Thai Hmong Pastor Ordained & Missionary Commissioned

On Aug. 17, a group comprised of members from LCMS, Concordia Welfare and Education Foundation-Thailand (CWEFT) and the Hmong International Mission (HIM) made the trek to Baan Khun Heuy Krai village in the mountains of northern Thailand to celebrate the ordination of local Hmong deacon Phongsak, as well as the commissioning of Suphan as a missionary-at-large to the Hmong of Thailand. In addition to more than a hundred local Hmong congregants, other representatives hailed from America, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia to join in the celebration. The service was followed by a meal enjoyed by all.

## Thailand Welcomes Two New Interns

God has blessed Thailand with the addition of two new deaconess interns to the field. It has always been a challenge to properly “stoke the fires” with limited workers. God has answered that need with the arrival of missionaries Ms. Betsy Karkan and Ms. Sarah Long-

mire.

Betsy and Sarah are presently working on language acquisition and will shortly join the Thailand LCMS team full-time. Betsy will be supplying some much needed help to the Concordia Welfare Education Foundation – Thailand (CWEFT) in areas of coordination and implementation of programs and

projects, along with fundraising.

Sarah will be assisting with the *Ablaze!* outreach program at the Concordia Day Care Center (CDCC) in the slum area of Bang Na, Bangkok. Working with children ages 3-6, Sarah will be functioning in outreach, teaching English and general education.



(l-r) Suphan (newly commissioned missionary), Rev. Phongsak (newly ordained), and Rev. Bob Hedtke (LCMS WM)

# Indonesia Ablaze!

## Pelita Harapan Update

The Pelita Harapan Education Foundation in Indonesia was founded on the vision of “True Knowledge, Faith in Christ, Godly Character” and the mission of developing “Leaders with a Biblical Christian Worldview.” The foundation serves over 18,000 students on 16 campuses in Pre-K through University. There are four different branches of the Foundation: the Universitas Pelita Harapan (which opened its second campus in Surabaya on July 1), Sekolah Pelita Harapan with 4

campuses, Sekolah Dian Harapan with 4 campuses, and Sekolah Lentera Harapan with 6 campuses. In addition, the Pelita Harapan Foundation plans to open an additional twelve campuses throughout Indonesia by the start of the 2013/2014 school year.

The Sekolah Dian Harapan system continues to grow and lead the way in educational reform for Indonesia. These schools cater to middle class Indonesian families, teaching in both English and Bahasa Indonesia. This June and July, Darrell and Sue Van Luchene, expatriate teachers in the Dian

Harapan system, worked with 28 Principals and Curriculum Coordinators to further develop Educational Leadership. Working together with principals and curriculum coordinators, Sue worked at all four faculties, and with over 470 teachers in all, to develop Faith Integration into lesson plans being used this school year. This is a challenge when most teachers are not “teacher trained” and have no background in Christian Education.

In addition, Tom & Debi Goings, Michael & Sarah Weider and Elaine Chen (from Con-

cordia Middle School in Taiwan) have all joined LCMS teachers Matt & Kim Myer, Philip & Carrie Hedemann, Darrell & Sue Van Luchene, and Eric & Karen Semler on the Indonesia team. Pray as the Foundation seeks to replace Darrell Van Luchene, retiring Dian Harapan System Coordinator, Sue Van Luchene Dian Harapan Curriculum Coordinator and Teacher Trainer, and Phil Hedeman, Pelita Harapan teacher and Grade 8 Team leader.

# Korea Ablaze!

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celebration, the LCK is planning to become a leading church in the field of world mission, laying the foundation for its 100th anniversary.

## **Summer English Camp Ablaze! in Korean Congregation**

Joyful Lutheran Church held its second "Joyful English Camp" outside Seoul on August 4-8, at both its church facilities and Luther University. LCMS World Mission recruited former career missionaries to Korea (1983-1989) Pastor Richard Pfaff, his wife Kim and son Peter, along with Ryan Kuddes, as short-term missionaries to teach at the camp.

Twenty students and five mothers participated in the Joyful English Camp. Activities included English practice through a variety of fun, active lessons. There were also morning devotions and Bible lessons throughout. Sixteen of the students and all of the mothers were non-Christians, and the camp had a large impact on them. Three people decided to begin attending the Lutheran Church on the campus of Luther University, and five parents have since visited to learn more about the Gospel.

Joyful Lutheran Church has a long-range vision of opening an English academy and eventually a full elementary school using English as the main language of instruction.

## **Worship Service Kicks Off Start of Construction of New 'Luther Building'**

On June 10, the Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK) held a thanksgiving worship service celebrating beginning of work on the construction site of the new Luther Building in Seoul. The worship service and groundbreaking ceremony

was attended by some 200 church members and guests. The new office building will have 24 floors above ground, five floors underground, and a total area of nearly 36,000 square meters. It commemorates the 50th anniversary of the beginning of Lutheran Mission in South Korea in 1958. Construction is expected to be completed by 2010.

The new Luther Building will generate rental income that will be used to start new local churches, support overseas mission work, enable the establishment of a pension fund for retired pastors, and support the LCK's work in various fields. The Luther Building is located in one of the most important business districts in Seoul. As a high value project, the construction of the new building has drawn attention from churches throughout South Korea.

## **2009 International Lutheran Council General Assembly to be Held in Seoul**

The Executive Committee of the International Lutheran Council (ILC), which convened on July 17 in Seoul, decided to hold its next General Assembly in Seoul from August 26 to September 1, 2009. Some 100 participants are expected, including Church Presidents and General Secretaries from Lutheran Churches around the world. The ILC Executive Committee meeting was attended by eight members from five continents, including President Kieschnick from the LCMS and President Hyun-Sub Um of the hosting Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK). The Executive Committee decided to look for theological common points



**Rev. Peter Weigand (l) preaches while Rev. Malte Rhinow (r) translates during a recent visit to Korea by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria**

with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and assigned Prof. Jin-Seob Eom from Luther University in Korea as a delegate to the Asian Executive Committee of the Theological Conference. LCK President Um said, "Next year's ILC General Assembly will be an opportunity to introduce the activities of the LCK, which has served the Korean Church for 50 years, to leaders of Lutheran Churches all over the world."

## **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria Makes Official Visit to Korea**

From June 28 - 31, Director Rev. Peter Weigand and East Asia Secretary Rev. Thomas Paulsteiner of "Mission One World" (formerly Missionswerk) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria (an LCK partner church), came for an official visit to Seoul. They visited and encouraged the "House of Sharing" at the Social Welfare Center, which is run by Bethel Lutheran Church in Daejeon and supported by "Mission One World." On Sunday Rev. Weigand preached at Nambu Lutheran Church in Seoul, and both delegates extended greetings and met with church members. In talks with LCK President Um and other LCK rep-

resentatives, they looked for ways to develop the partnership of both churches in the diaconal work and other areas of cooperation. "Mission One World" cooperates with churches within Germany and abroad and has sent some 70 missionaries to 22 partner churches worldwide. Rev. Malte Rhinow and his wife Rev. Jeong Ae Han-Rhinow are "Mission One World's" missionaries in South Korea.

## **2008 Summer Bible School and Establishment of Summer Curriculum**

On July 6, some 80 teachers from Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK) congregations attended an annual workshop for teachers as part of the 2008 Summer Bible School at the Lutheran Church Center in downtown Seoul. The LCK General Assembly published materials for use in leading singing and praise worship, a collection of hymns, as well as books and CDs with Bible Study materials. The theme of this year's Summer Bible Camp was "The Holy Spirit and Society." After receiving instructions through the workshop, local churches went on to organize their own summer programs at the congregational level. About 1,000 students participated in LCK congregations' summer programs.

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## Korea Ablaze!

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### 2008 'Bethel Series Korea' Summer Workshops

In 2008, the Bethel Series Korea, an organization affiliated with the Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK), has organized and held a number of summer instruction workshops in the following cities: Incheon (June- Bible seminar, Life seminar), Gwangju (July- Bible seminar), Muju (July- Life seminar), Seoul (August- Bible seminar), and Chuncheon (August- Bible seminar, Life seminar). These workshops were attended by about 300 church leaders from various Christian denominations, all of whom received certificates of qualification to hold Bethel Series seminars.

### Seminar on Computer Technology for Korean Lutheran Pastors

In July, the Information Communication Committee of the Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK) organized a seminar for pastors on how to use computer technology in ministry. Some 20 pastors participated in the seminar at Luther University, which included workshops on the use of Excel for bookkeeping, the application of

presentation programs, and other ideas concerning the use of computers in ministry. The seminar is offered every year to promote pastors' computer skills. The committee also assists local churches in developing and improving their websites, consults with pastors in the field of internet technology, and is responsible for the development of the LCK internet presence in general and for groupware for the General Assembly office and other Lutheran institutions.

### 2008 Retreat for Pastor Couples

From September 1-4, this year's "Retreat for Korean Lutheran Pastor Couples" took place in Yangyang City on the Pacific

coast of Korea. 25 pastor couples from all over the country participated in the retreat offered by the General Assembly of the LCK under the theme "Sabbatical and Rest for Couples." Participants also included three retired Lutheran pastor couples. One of the features was an auction of items donated by participants. The generated income is planned to be the initial cornerstone for the creation of a retirement fund for LCK pastors.

### Lutheran Church in Korea Starts Two New Congregations

On August 31, Cheongdam Lutheran Church was established in an opening worship

service led by Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK) President Um and other representatives. The new church's pastor, Pastor Yu-Seong Kim stated, "It is my desire that Cheongdam Church members and I become crazy for Christ and spread the Gospel."

September 21 will mark the opening of the Church of the Word in Pyeongtaek City, which is a harbor area on the western coast of the Korean peninsula. Rev. Yeon-Sik Choi will be pastor of the church. This congregation will be the third LCK congregation in Pyeongtaek City.



Clergy and distinguished guests at the opening worship service for the newly established Cheongdam Lutheran Church

## Cambodia Ablaze!

### Youth Ablaze!

Seventy per cent of the population of Cambodia is under the age of 30. Pastor Chad Hoover, a youth leader, and four young people from Traverse City, MI came to Cambodia to encourage Christianity, empower young Christian leaders, and develop global Christian caring. Fifteen youth from Trinity Lutheran Church in Battambang came to Sihanoukville to attend a youth leadership retreat with the U.S. team. They studied God's Word together, presented Sunday Worship, learned new songs,

and enjoyed fellowship and recreation time. As these youth return to their respective congregations, they have new perspectives on ministry and great opportunities to use the skills they have learned to set other youth *Ablaze!* for work in God's Kingdom to reach the vast number of people under 30 years of age in Cambodia today.

### Keep the Fires Burning

Flames of Christian learning which were begun by a ladies retreat on the topic of God's peace seem to keep bringing

new developments and support for fellow Christians. Participants at the retreat learned about banner making, and the message and skills they learned has resulted in new banners to enhance worship at Trinity Lutheran Church, Battambang. The team of U.S. ladies who led the retreat compiled a wonderful book of photos from the retreat as a gift for the members of Trin-



Women from Trinity Lutheran Church in Cambodia smile as they look through a book of photos from a recent retreat led by a U.S. team.

ity. As the Battambang ladies viewed the pages they also reviewed their prayer commitment and the message of the retreat.

# Philippines Ablaze!

## Ablaze! Seminar Inspires Congregations

Lay Leaders Jack Bandiwan, Samuel Sinak-ey and Roberto Ehican of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Apapid, Tinoc Ifugao attended the *Ablaze!* Seminar of the North Luzon Highland District. When they returned to their congregation they gathered members of their congregation and shared what they learned during the seminar. Right then and there, they made a strategic plan for how to reach out to the community, and formed groups to visit different areas of the village with some visiting people at home and others visiting people on their farms. The Lord has since blessed the preaching of the Word to these people and church attendance has doubled. In July, Rev. Jerry Lomicio, the congregation's supervising pastor baptized five children and one adult.

## North Luzon Highland District Conducts Ablaze!

Forty-five lay leaders, Sunday School teachers, and members of Jordan Lutheran Church in Huhlukan, Tinoc Ifugao attended a three day *Ablaze!* Seminar, with some walking up to three hours to attend. De-

spite no electrical power, the seminar continued into the evening with nothing but moon and starlight. Attendees returned to their respective congregations and the churches are having new souls being added to the church.

## Former Philippine Missionary Reunion

More than 90 people came to an LCMS missionary reunion in Rapid City, SD in late July to remember, to thank God for, and to celebrate the work of Lutheran missionaries in the Philippines. The group met to consider Christian outreach now and in the future, as well as to tell stories about Lutheran missionary life and work in the Philippines in days gone by.

Under the leadership of former missionary Juraine Hornig, the reunion included a lineup of mission speakers. Dr. Jose Fuliga, former President of the Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP), spoke about ministry then and now in the LCP. Dr. Robert Newton, former Philippine missionary and cur-



Attendees at the recent Philippine Missionary Reunion

rent president of the LCMS California-Nevada-Hawaii District, challenged the group to ask relevant questions to the church of today and tomorrow. Mr. Gary Theis enthusiastically presented the current ministry activities going on at "Mission Central," in Western Iowa. Rev. David Birner, from LCMS World Mission, shared current thinking on missionary work, bringing insights that he had shared and gathered at a reunion of Japan Lutheran missionaries earlier in that same week. Additional speakers led de-

votions, shared reports of current mission projects, and led the group in songs, games, and reminiscing. On one of the evenings, there was also a banquet, featuring Philippine decorations, costumes, food, and talent from the group.

As a postscript to the gathering, on August 16, Chairman Hornig sent out a message of greeting and appreciation sent to him by Philippine Ambassador to the USA, Mr. Willy C. Gaa, an unexpected sign of the Philippine government's recognition of the work of Lutheran missionaries in the Philippines!

# Papua New Guinea

(Continued from page 1)

of Enga Province in the central highlands of Papua New Guinea. The only major town, Porgera, is dominated by a gold mining company, while other Ipiili people live in remote communities scattered throughout the rugged jungle. Literacy programs have been in place for several years in anticipation of people needing to be able to read the New Testament in their own language.

## Reconciliation Efforts in the Gutnius Lutheran Church Bear Fruit

A program to work reconciliation in the Gutnius Lutheran Church (GLC) in Papua New Guinea has seen positive results in bringing about unity and peace among the pastors and leaders. These improvements started at the congregational level and have grown to also include meetings at the district level; pastors have come back together after many years of opposition. At a recent meeting of the GLC Executive, several pastors who were leaders in the

"Reform Movement" returned to seek brotherhood again with the GLC and were welcomed back with much joy. Rev. Daniel Tambuaka from the Lyagam District and Rev. Lyangala Rai from the Mt. Hagan District each represented significant constituencies that had been at odds with the GLC administration. Their willingness to reconcile with their brothers in the GLC is wonderful news indeed! May



Bishop Yoko Yapata (l) & Rev. Daniel Tambuaka (r) from the Laigam District

God bless these renewed relationships and may He use the example of these men to bring full reconciliation in the church in the days to come.

## Macau Ablaze!

### Macau Welcomes Short-Term Team

In June, the Concordia English Center in Macau welcomed a short-term team from Trinity Lone Oak Church in Minnesota. During their visit, the team taught a free English Bible camp at the local Lutheran church. For a number of the participants, this was their first contact with the church or English center. Since then, several have been regularly attending free English Bible classes at the church and English center.

### Summer VBS in Macau

In July, both short- and long-term missionaries worked together to hold a month long English summer camp and VBS for kids aged 7-14. The camp opened the doors of the Lutheran church in Macau to 42 children who otherwise would never come. Through songs, games, English lessons and Bible stories, the teachers shared truths about God and Jesus to children who had never heard before. Several parents have already requested to have the program

next summer and promised to bring their children.

### Concordia English Centers Welcome New Teachers

This August Concordia English Center Macau and its sister center welcomed four new long-term volunteers from the U.S. These volunteers will teach ESL classes, provide free ESL and Bible lessons to the com-



A Trinity Lone Oak team member working one-on-one with a student studying the Bible

munity, and build relationships with the local people, sharing their faith through these friendships.

## Hong Kong Ablaze!

### CAN Welcome Weekend

For the third year in a row, Church of All Nations, Hong Kong, hosted a *Welcome Weekend*. The weekend activities begin on Saturday afternoon on the Hong Kong International School Upper Primary campus with a traditional Asian lion dance, children's games, and picnic for all new families that have moved into the neighborhoods surrounding the church and school. The fun, food and Christian fellowship continued on Sunday with a hot breakfast before a special celebratory wor-

ship service designed for all ages. Following worship, the weekend activities concluded with a time for fellowship time. This year's *Welcome Weekend* was attended by more than 200 people, many of those new to Hong Kong.

### Church of All Nations Expands Worship Ministry

*The Journey* began at 8:45 a.m. on August 31<sup>st</sup> for Church of All Nations (CAN), in Hong Kong, with more than 80 people gathered to worship at a new contemporary style worship service being added to the

Sunday celebrations. Reaching out to those in the community who are not regularly attending worship services today, the new worship experience offers a praise band, vocalists, a worship leader, and an engaging sermon.

Following *The Journey* each week, will be a newly enhanced Christian education hour called *Dunamis* (which is pronounced DUE-nah-miss), which is Greek for "power." *Dunamis* is time set aside to experience the power of God found in God's Word and

in sharing with other Christians.

Following the Christian education hour, CAN continues with its traditional worship service, newly named *The Gathering*. This is a thematic worship with preaching based on the lessons of the day, blended music with familiar hymns and special music, and weekly Holy Communion. Please pray for God to use *The Journey*, *Dunamis*, and *The Gathering* to His glory and to reach the unreached and uncommitted in Hong Kong!

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