

Asia Ablaze! Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 2

June 2011

LCMS Visits Japan & Commits to Long-Term Relief

LCMS President, Dr. Matthew Harrison, traveled to Korea and Japan during the second week in June to visit with partners and see first-hand the human care needs caused by the earthquakes and tsunami near Sendai, Japan on March 11, 2011. LCMS partner church, Japan Lutheran Church (JLC), is part of a relief consortium which includes Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, West Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, and Kinki Lutheran Church. These four churches formed a relief organization called Japan Lutheran Emergency Relief (JLER). JLER has an office in Sendai, a city of about one million that was hit by the earthquake and tsunami. President Harrison traveled to the worst hit areas of Japan with Japanese pastors Emoto and Saito, as well as LCMS staff: David Birner, Glenn Merritt, Darin Storkson, Al Dowbnia, Naomichi Masaki, & John Mehl. President Harrison committed \$1,000,000 in immediate, additional relief funding to JLC president, Rev. Yutaka Kumei.

Training for disaster relief and deaconess training with an emphasis in disaster relief were also offered.

In addition to visiting the JLC and disaster sites, President Harrison also visited Japan Lutheran College, Urawa Lutheran School, Holy Hope Lutheran School, the Lutheran Seminary in Kobe, Japan, and met with leaders of the West Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church. In Korea President Harrison was able to meet with Lutheran Church in Korea President, Dr. Um, and visit Luther University in Korea.

Asia Lutheran Education Association Conference

“Christ, Conscience, and Curriculum”

October 21-22, 2011 in Hong Kong

Key Presenters

- **Rev. John Nunes**, President and CEO of Lutheran World Relief
- **Mr. David Begbie**, Director of Global Village Life X-perience program at Crossroads International, Hong Kong; Presenter at World Economic Forum (Davos)
- **Dr. Marty Schmidt & Mr. Mike Kersten**, Teachers at Hong Kong International School

Conference Highlights

- Learn about a variety of service learning experiences
- Explore how “Christ, Conscience, & Curriculum” can be integrated into your school
- Collaborate with teachers from local & international schools throughout Asia
- Participate in shared simulation experience at Crossroads International
- Learn more about the “ALEA: Instruments of Change” initiative

For more information or to register for the conference, please visit:

alea.lcmsworldmission.org

HONG KONG

Australia – Hong Kong Cultural Exchange

A highlight of Lutheran Tsang Shing Sui Luen Primary School's (LSL) year is a cultural exchange with Holy Trinity Lutheran School (HTLS) in Horsham, Australia. HTLS sent thirteen primary students and four chaperones to Hong Kong for ten days. During that time their students experienced Chinese culture and shared Australian culture, as well as providing English practice with LSL's 200+ students. The program focused on English and cultural exchange, but it also created wonderful opportunities for God to work through the new visitors.

HTLS and LSL students spent time together in school during the week. The HTLS students and chaperones led English lessons about Australia which prompted English conversation among the LSL students, while also giving HTSL students an opportunity to become leaders and share exciting things from a different culture with their peers. The learning continued during Australian sports classes which included an Aussie Rules Football class. This gave the students free time to learn, play and share with each other.

Another exciting result of the exchange was the extra excitement that the HTSL student's presence brought to LSL. The first day the HTSL team arrived at LSL was a Sunday. All of the students who would later go to Australia for the second half of the cultural exchange were asked to attend church with their parents. For some of them, this was their first time ever attending church.

The second half of the exchange consisted of four chaperones from Hong Kong taking 14 3rd–6th graders to Horsham, Australia. This year was different than other years because ten of the students were from LSL and four were from Lui Cheung Kwong Lutheran Primary School (LCK), which was a wonderful way to prompt closer relationships among the Hong Kong Synod schools, teachers, and students.

The Hong Kong students experienced a true taste of Australian life by living with host families from HTLS for eight days and touring Melbourne for two days. Horsham is in the country and has many farms, wild animals, and open land, all of which were very foreign to the Hong Kong students who are familiar with giant buildings and walking in crowded areas with little personal space. The time was very meaningful as they gained a broader perspective of the world and the people in it, as well as built friendships with families and students from a very different culture. It was also great because many of the Hong Kong students who are not Christians had the opportunity to spend a week living with families who shared Jesus' love through their actions and words.

During the week in Australia, the Hong Kong students shadowed many HTLS classes, including drama lessons. During the drama lessons the Hong Kong students and chaperones taught the HTLS students the song "Jesus Loves the Little Children" in Chinese. The HTLS students had fun trying to pronounce unfamiliar sounds that make up the Chinese language and it gave the leader a chance to share about God's love for all people in the world regardless of race or home country. This was just one example of how God provided opportunities for his message to be shared!

LCMS Asia CHE Meeting

Nine participants from five different countries met in Hong Kong on May 3-4, 2011 for the 2011 LCMS Asia CHE Meeting. CHE stands for Community Health Education/Evangelism.

The LCMS team in Cambodia has the most experience and has been running CHE type programs for several years. However, the health director is new to the organization. They plan to continue to expand CHE throughout Cambodia, as well as continue to expand their local partners. Thailand has carried out vision casting seminars and has done a health training in one village. They plan to carry out more health training seminars and expand their local partners. The Concordia Welfare and Education Foundation (CWEF) China staff has carried out vision casting and baseline surveys of two areas where they will implement CHE. Their first Training of Trainers (TOT) was completed at the end of May. They plan to focus on these two areas for the next few years while expanding the program to more villages in these areas. The Lutheran Church of the Philippines is planning to start a CHE program next year after a vision casting seminar led by Lutherans in Medical Missions (LIMM). They will hire a coordinator for the program in September and have already done an initial site selection.

During the CHE meeting, each group was at a different stage in CHE which led to lots of great suggestions and dialogue among participants. The group also held devotions together and thought about how God calls us to reach out to people in need with His love.

Different sessions were led by meeting participants on topics such as how to set goals and objectives, participatory methodologies, different types of assessments, and how to be a reflective practitioner. The majority of the time was spent on working together to help set goals for LCMS CHE programs in Asia.

The meeting was a success with all participants reporting that they felt that this meeting was helpful to both their understanding of CHE and their understanding of measuring goals and objectives. All participants also reported that, after the meeting, they felt better prepared to choose measurable goals and objectives for the CHE program in their respective countries and to evaluate if these goals are being met.

Many thanks to L IMM who sponsored three participants to attend this meeting (from the Philippines, Cambodia and Thailand) and to Church of All Nations in Hong Kong who sponsored two additional participants from China! L IMM sponsored the start of CHE programs in Cambodia and will sponsor the CHE programs in Thailand and the Philippines next year. Many thanks to Wheat Ridge Ministries who sponsor the CHE program in China, and to LCMS World Mission who sponsor the continuation of CHE in Cambodia and the administration for the organizations that run CHE programs in Asia.

New International School Set to Open in August

On May 11, Buena Vista Concordia International School (BCIS) held a Partnership Agreement Ceremony on its new campus in Shenzhen, China. 200 people joined to witness the signing of the partnership between the educational partners involved in BCIS. present included students, teachers, and administrators from the Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod schools, LCMS staff, Education Department Officials, and property developers. is a new project of the Lutheran Church Hong Kong that is scheduled to open for classes in August.

Easter Celebration for Filipina Women

The Filipina Prayer, Share, & Care Group (FPSC) at Church of All Nations in Hong Kong celebrated Easter this year with special guest, Pastor James Cerdeñola, President of the Lutheran Church in the Philippines, who shared the *Ablaze!* message of Christ's love for the FPSC group on April 31. The FPSC shared its dream with Pastor Cerdeñola of one day providing a service shelter and Filipino-speaking pastor to reach out to Filipinos in Hong Kong. There was a second service on May 1 which was a joint fellowship between the FPSC from Church of All Nations and Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, Kowloon Tong. Pastor Cerdeñola gave a message and helped enrich the Filipinas as they face the challenges of working overseas while helping sustain the basic needs of their families in the Philippines. LCMS's Sean Harlow, who is working with Pastor Cerdeñola in the Philippines, was also on hand and inspired the group through songs and sharing about the current work in the Philippines. The two-day fellowship gathering was one of many opportunities and activities available for Lutheran Filipina women in Hong Kong.

Fourth Annual Evangelical Meeting

Ten congregations of the Lutheran Church-Hong Kong Synod joined together for a special outreach event on May 27, 2011. event titled "Enlightening and Enriching Life" was held at Concordia Lutheran School in the North Point area of Hong Kong. 1,300 people attended, being invited from the Lutheran school community as well as from surrounding neighborhoods. most families of students attending the Lutheran schools are not Christian, this event was an important opportunity to introduce the clear teaching of the Gospel. from the ten participating congregations followed up with over 140 participants who expressed interest in connecting with a church.

Wesley Lo Honored for Social Service Work

Wesley Lo, Program Coordinator of the Rehabilitation Division of Hong Kong Lutheran Social Services, was honored for extending Lutheran social services into China. . Lo has worked with the Volunteer Association of ZhongShan, China, to develop volunteerism in this major city. his support in providing training and development of the association's supervisors over the past year, the association named Mr. Lo is one of "15 significant persons and 15 significant events in 15 years of ZhongShan City, China."

Martha Boss Center Rededicated

The Martha Boss Lutheran Community Center held a Rededication Service on May 7, 2011 after completion of renovation works. Mr. Tang Kwok Wai, the Permanent Secretary for Labor and Welfare of Hong Kong, officiated the ceremony. Martha Boss Lutheran Community Center houses the headquarters of Hong Kong Lutheran Social Services (LSS). In addition, LSS conducts senior citizen services, activities for adults with disabilities, kindergarten, after school and summer programs, community health trainings, and other social services at the Martha Boss Lutheran Community Center.

Chinese Opera Gospel Sharing

Messengers of Life and Hong Kong Lutheran Social Services cooperated to conduct a "Chinese Opera Gospel Sharing" event at the Martha Boss Lutheran Community Center on March 5. Two famous Chinese

opera performers, Man Chin Shui and Leung Siu Sum, performed traditional Chinese opera. Evangelists and pastors from the Lutheran Church-Hong Kong Synod and from the Messengers of Life organization introduced the audience to the Gospel of Christ and invited them to connect with the local congregation. 650 people attended this special event.

Singapore Exchange Tour

St. Matthew's Lutheran School held a "Singapore English Study Exchange Tour" from 29 March to 1 April, 2011. Twenty-two students and three teachers engaged in various cultural exchange and English activities.

INDIA

LCMS India Missionary Reunion

On June 11-12 in St. Louis, 108 former LCMS India missionaries and their children gathered for a reunion, representing 30 missionary families spanning missionary service from 1926 on, with participants from Australia and Canada as well. The driving force behind the historic event was three daughters of former missionaries: Beth (Grumm) Kroger, Emily (Grumm) Jeske, and Claudia Trautmann, planning in consultation with Area Director Herb Hoefer. Besides mixing informally, the first day was given largely to reports and reminiscences from the different family units, interspersed with hymn singing. A special event was the video presentation of a review of the life of Dr. Alice Brauer, last LCMS India missionary. Sunday was Pentecost, so the gathering had a festive celebration, with Rev. Hoefer delivering the message. The offering of the service was given for three India projects: Dr. Brauer's Infant Care program, the Bethania Homes, and the Otten Memorial School.

VIETNAM

Seoul Foreign School Team Visit

A group of 14 students from the Seoul Foreign School (SFS) in Seoul, South Korea, led by Mark Altmann and Cathi Wiebusch, was able to visit Vietnam as part of SFS's Discovery Week. The trip was an opportunity for students to engage in service in and outside of Seoul. It was also the third SFS team to visit Vietnam.

This year's team began its trip in Hanoi. Sarah Schaff and Hanna Hartman, volunteer English teachers at Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST), organized an outing with their English students and the SFS team. Students led SFS students on a tour of Hanoi.

The team then traveled to Tien Luong commune in Phu Tho province, where LCMS WM previously had a number of projects. While there are not any current projects, the trip did provide a chance to explore new opportunities for future work in the area. SFS focused its work at the communal health station where a new wall was being built around the health station, and the team was given the task of digging the foundation for the wall. SFS also generously gave a financial gift to support the health station at Tien Luong that will be used to help with equipment needs at the facility.

SFS also visited Hung Vuong University (HVU), where Karen and Jerry Markin serve as volunteer English teachers. The Markin's provided ample activities and opportunities that encouraged SFS and HVU students to interact. HVU is a rural university with students coming from rural areas. They have little or no interaction with native English speakers, and yet all of them have dreams of working in fields that require English. Thus, there is a need for quality English teachers and English-speaking visitors to promote interaction. SFS students not only visited classrooms, but were also able to play fun games with HVU students.

New York Team Visit

In mid-May a team from Concordia College New York (CCNY), an LCMS affiliated college, was able to visit Vietnam. They traveled about 100km northwest of Hanoi to the Tuy Loc commune in Phu Tho province. LCMS WM, in partnership with the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), has been working in Tuy Loc for the past four years in areas of health and nutrition.

In Tuy Loc the group wanted to get their hands dirty, so they partnered with locals from the youth union to work on a road project, leveling and spreading dirt for a new road. The next day the team was unable to

work on the road since it had stormed the night before, so they helped with some landscaping work around the town hall. This time the women's union joined them.

From Tuy Loc, the team traveled to Hung Vuong University (HVU) in rural Vietnam, where Karen and Jerry Markin serve as volunteer English teachers. Karen and Jerry had a full two days of activities planned to get the HVU students interacting with the CCNY students. Class time, campus and city tours, games, and meals all contributed to a very memorable time at HVU. a blessing for both sets of students!

CISH Set to Open Its Doors

This past May, Concordia International School Hanoi (CISH) teachers and staff joined Hanoi's first-ever International School Fair, hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce. Five other international schools from the Hanoi area attended and had a chance to exchange ideas and collaborate on initiatives for the coming school year.

CISH will be opening its doors for the first time this fall with classes from preschool through Grade 7 and serving children of the international expatriate community living in Hanoi. The CISH opening comes as a huge step forward in a relationship between LCMS and the people and government of Hanoi. The official grand opening ceremonies for CISH are scheduled for September 8-10.

Paving the way for this excellent relationship have been the many faithful servants of the Vietnam LCMS World Mission team, which this year will celebrate 15 years of providing humanitarian support in Vietnam via the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN). The LCMS WM and NIN partnership is a close one and has provided, among other things, much needed nutritional education for expectant mothers, livestock for farmers, and basic health care stations in some of the most impoverished areas in Northern Vietnam.

At CISH, service learning will be a big part of the curriculum. Students will spend time working in the Vietnamese community where they live and assisting with some of the LCMS WM aid projects throughout the country.

PHILIPPINES

Summer Camps

Every school summer (which begins in early April in the Philippines), the four districts of the Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP) hold summer camps for young people in each of its districts. LCP pastors from each of the districts lead studies and discussions that related to the various themes of each camp.

In the South Luzon District, which covers the Manila area, 55 young people between the ages of 9-22 attended Camp Bulallayaw "Rainbow" at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. The camp theme was "Youth and the Sacraments" which allowed the campers to review their knowledge and understanding of the catechism. Ten of the campers were invited by their Lutheran friends and came from an un-churched background.

In the Mindanao District over 175 delegates participated in Camp Mizpah which was held on the beautiful campus of Mindanao State University. This was a significant turn-out from previous years which had averaged 70-80 total campers. The theme of this year's camp was "Given and Shed for You." Other workshops included the importance of prayer, as well as daily classes on singing techniques which introduced contemporary worship songs. The highlight of the camp was the fact 14 delegates were able to travel to Mindanao from the island of Leyte. Eight of these campers are currently un-churched and were able to participate in their first Christian camp, which was made possible through an LCMS sponsored grant.

The theme for the Northern Luzon Lowland District camp was "God's Pure Doctrine Against False Teachings." 110 campers between the ages of 9-24 attended Camp Meribah held at Christ Lutheran Church in the city of Palloc, Ballesteros. District President Rey Lagadon was pleased to welcome about 10 non-Lutherans, one of which traveled many miles to come to the camp, and is quite interested in learning more about the Christian faith.

Camp Berea for the Northern Luzon Highland District was held at St. John Lutheran church in the mountainous city of Tinoc. 180 participants between the ages of 6-25 enjoyed studies and music relating to the theme, "Our God is Mighty to Save." Two churches in the Highlands with a total 17 people hiked nearly 12 hours in order to participate in Camp Berea.

Japan & Philippine Seminaries Teacher Exchange

Japan Lutheran College professor John Plagens conducted a two-week intensive course in English in academic reading and writing at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Baguio City, the Philippines, in March and April. Six seminarians participated. At the invitation of the Lutheran Church in the Philippines President James Cerdeñola, John also taught a class of upper elementary students on the weekends.

For John, the invitation to teach was a blessing in many ways. It was a homecoming for him as he spent his elementary and junior high school days on the Baguio campus as the son of the former dean. He also left for the teaching stint the day before the Great Eastern Japan earthquake struck. In consultation with his college, he ultimately stayed for an extra ten days which allowed him to attend the seminary graduation and see two of his students, Antonio Rivera and Tino Palangyo, begin their pastoral careers.

Both the Japan and Philippine seminaries enthusiastically supported this exchange and hope for its continuation.

Lutheran Seminary Graduates Two

This past April, over 100 people gathered from around the country at the Lutheran Seminary in Baguio to celebrate and give praise and honor to the Lord for two men, Antonio Rivera and Tino Palangyo, who will move on to full-time ministry as pastors in the Lutheran Church in the Philippines. The theme of this year's graduation ceremony was "Fools for Christ." Pastor Henry Paul Roa from Manila gave the message which focused on becoming a fool in the eyes of the world by sacrificing and committing our lives in order to unselfishly serve the Lord and His people. Antonio accepted a call from Christ the King Lutheran Church in Cavite outside of Metro Manila. Tino accepted a call from St. James in Danggo in Tinuc Ifugao; he will also serve 3 other congregations. Please pray for guidance, direction and blessings as these men begin a new chapter of service to the Lord.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Books for Lutheran Schools in Papua New Guinea

When members of the LCMS heard about a need for books at the Lutheran schools in the highlands of Papua New Guinea (PNG), they responded enthusiastically. Donations of reading books, textbooks, devotion books, Bibles, dictionaries, encyclopedia sets and other resource books were sent from families, churches and schools across a number of states.

Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, Nebraska graciously offered to collect the books, package them into cartons, load them into a shipping container and arrange to have them sent to Papua New Guinea.

When the 40-foot shipping container was opened, the people were amazed to see 1,000 cartons containing an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 books! For many years only a handful of the 30 schools operated by the Gutnius (Good News) Lutheran Church (GLC) in the highlands of PNG had any library books, resource books, or textbooks at all. The majority of them had no books of any kind. What a huge difference these donated books will make!

Included in the shipment were enough encyclopedia sets for each GLC school to receive 1-2 sets. Because St. Paul's Lutheran Secondary School is the largest GLC school, it will receive at least 3 sets. Each school will also get a number of dictionaries and other resource books for the teachers to use. This will be the first time in more than a decade that the students and teachers at St. Paul's and most other GLC schools will have any resource books. Because the schools have no access to the internet, these resource books will be invaluable for improving the quality of instruction in the schools.

Most of the books donated to this project can be used for general reading activities. Each GLC school will receive the same number of general reading books as the number of students in the school. Whereas the schools previously had no books, they now will have a few hundred books for the students to share.

Because education in PNG is done in English, the donated books can be used easily by the students and teachers and incorporated directly into the curriculum. In addition to the information contained in the books, they also will provide good reading practice for the students. Due to the lack of books, many students have not been able to develop their reading skills.

Although this shipment is a great blessing, to really make a significant difference in the quality of

education in the GLC schools, more books are needed. Plans also are being made to provide several in-service workshops for the GLC teachers in the coming months. A significant number of the teachers have very little training and most have limited experience using resource materials to supplement their teaching.

Without all the hard work of the people at Orphan Grain Train and the kindness of everyone who donated books, this project would not have been possible. Special thanks go to the Arnold Otten family for very generously paying the cost of shipping the container from Nebraska to PNG and to Mapai Transportation in Port Moresby for providing free transport of the books from the port up into the highlands of Enga Province.

MACAU

Volunteer Team Distributes Scholarships

In early May, LCMS volunteers and local volunteers from Hong Kong, Macau and other sites in the area had the opportunity to visit a poor area to present scholarships to students there. During their time there, the team took part in many different activities, the main one being the presentation of school scholarships to 20 local school students. These scholarships are key to ensuring these children receive a basic education.

In addition to the scholarship presentation, the team was asked by a local evangelist to visit local Christians. In this particular area, the church is very far from where some of the people live. For some, the only fellowship they have is when one of the evangelists is able to come and visit with them for a very short time. The team was very happy to show them that, no matter where you are from or where you live, we are all united in Christ.

As the team went from home to home it was amazing to see how excited and appreciative the people were of the teams short visits with them. They were so happy to see the team while the team was equally happy to have been invited into their homes. Each story touched the hearts of the team, whether it was the almost 90 year old man who only became a believer while in his 80's or a 70 year old couple who has believed now for a total of 10 years. Each person the team met left them in awe.

One of the most moving experiences for the team was at a home where some of the family members were Christian but the elderly matriarch was not. Her daughter-in-law had been sharing the Gospel with her for quite some time but the elderly woman did not yet believe in Christ. But the day the team went to visit her she asked if she could be baptized! She was so moved that the team would come so far to visit her. She saw the love she was being told about.

New Believers Reach Out

On Psalm Sunday 2011, two of the students from Concordia English Center (CEC) in Macau who were baptized last year around this time requested to host a social event at CEC. They wanted to share with the staff and students about how their lives had changed in the year since their baptism. Over 20 people attended. was a wonderful event as they talked about their faith before and after their baptisms. They shared about the struggles and joys of being a new believer. They encouraged non-believers and believers as well with their strong witness to the forgiveness of sins in Christ. of the women was even able to share how her husband noticed so many changes in her since her baptism that he became more curious about the Christian faith, and about three months ago he also became a believer.

The other student often talks about how she had searched nearly all religions in depth and that she now believed in Christianity as the truth and the means for her salvation. She wanted her son to have faith and that is why she brought him to CEC. She said her son's faith was actually stronger than hers and he was an inspiration to her faith. She shared about how he had learned to pray at the CEC and that he was so faithful to always pray the most beautiful prayers before going to sleep and sometimes at meal time. She was eager to learn from her son's prayers.

KOREA

Public Hearing on Revision of Church Constitution

On April 11, the Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK) held a public hearing on the planned revision of its Church Constitution at Central Lutheran Church in Seoul. Participants included ordained and lay members of the General Assembly who investigated the suggestions for revision given by the Church Constitution Revision Committee and made their own opinions public. The Committee was founded in October 2010 and has since studied the revision of the Church Constitution. It included opinions and suggestions made during the Public Hearing and made a final draft for the revision of the Church Constitution in May 2011. The draft will be sent to all members of the General Assembly three months before the next session of the Assembly and will be an item on the agenda of the General Assembly in October. The revision aims to adapt the 40-year-old Church Constitution to the present situation, along with improving the structural coherence and language.

LCK Board of Directors Retreat

The Lutheran Church in Korea's (LCK) Board of Directors held a retreat from March 31 to April 1, 2011 at Yangpyeong City in Gyeonggi Province. A wide range of issues were discussed including a new realistic church foundation policy, purchase policy for rented church buildings and pastors' homes, pastors' pension policy, scholarship policy for pastor's children, policy for church members' funerals and public cemeteries, and overseas mission policy. The agenda for the retreat aimed at actively reflecting the Assembly's management and mission policy. The five members of the Board of Directors are LCK President Rev. Hyun-Sub Um, Vice Church President Rev. Hyun-Gil Kang, Secretary Rev. Kyungman Hong, English Secretary Rev. Gwang-Woong Kim, and Treasurer Rev. Yeong-Seok Jin.

Faith Lecture for Lutheran Lay Church Members

On April 17 in the main lecture hall of Luther University, 150 participants gathered for the 2011 Faith Lecture for Lutheran lay church members, organized by the Educational Committee of the General Assembly. The first part was a sing and prayer meeting, followed by a worship service, special lecture, and dinner. The lecture was led by Prof. Eun-Jae Lee who spoke about "Luther's Spirituality and Prayer." Dr. Lee received his theological doctorate from Tuebingen University in Germany in "Diaconal Ministries" and presently teaches Historical Theology at Methodist Theological University in Seoul. The Faith Lectures are held annually and aim to increase unity among Lutherans and foster a higher level of their faith. Since Lutheran congregations are spread throughout the country, the Educational Committee responsible for this program is considering various alternatives, including possibly holding future faith lectures at the regional level.

Pastor Ordinations & New Church Founded

On May 1, 2011 pastor-in-training Tae-Seong Choi was ordained and installed as the new senior pastor of Daejodong Church in Seoul. 250 church members and guests attended the worship service. Rev. Choi had been responsible for the Bethel Series at the Lutheran Church in Korea's church office and later became a pastor-in-training at Daejodong Church.

On May 22, 2011, approximately 130 church members and guests attended the founding ceremony of Paju Luther Church in the city of Paju, north of Seoul. During the worship service, pastor-in-training Jae-Hoon Lee was ordained and installed as pastor of the new congregation. Rev. Lee completed his pastor-in-training education at Wangshimni Church in Seoul.

On May 29, 2011 at Open Door Lutheran Church in Gyeonggi Province, pastor-in-training Seung-Pil Yoo was ordained in a worship service attended by about 150 church members and guests. Rev. Yoo had been a pastor-in-training at the same congregation, and was called by the church to help Senior Pastor Rev. Dong-Jin Im in the field of education.

Financial Aid for Earthquake Stricken Japan

The Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK) has collected funds for earthquake ravaged Japan. In April, the LCK sent US\$10,000 in relief to the disaster area through the Japan Lutheran Church (NRK). The aid funds were collected in local LCK churches. From May 2-6, LCK's Church President, Vice Church President, and Pastor for Mission Education participated in the NRK's regular General Assembly meeting in Tokyo and discussed concrete matters of both churches' mission programs including the exchange of pastors and students of both churches graduate schools of theology.

Short-term Team Visits Korea

Seven high school students from Orange Lutheran Church in Orange, California made a service trip to Seoul, Korea. Led by Taiwan volunteer teacher alumni Ben and Robyn Strohschein, the group participated

in several outreach events as well as learned about some ways the church is working in Korea. On one day, the group traveled to a Lutheran church in Taejeon, where a soup kitchen is operated daily to serve meals to homeless individuals in the community. The Gospel was shared through prayer and song as well as the testimony of these young students' willingness to get involved in serving many.

TAIWAN

Taiwan Schools Reach Out to Joplin, MO Tornado Victims

On May 22, 2011 a powerful tornado ripped through Joplin, Missouri and devastated the community, including Martin Luther School. On hearing about the disaster, the administrators and students of Concordia Middle School (CMS) and Concordia English Language Academy (CELA) in Chia-Yi, Taiwan, worked to give back and help their fellow Lutheran educators and students in the U.S.

Teachers and students at the school prayed for the people of Joplin, especially those from Martin Luther School. Several classes decided to write letters of encouragement and support to families who lost houses, property, and friends. At CELA, over a 160 students in grades 3-6 took time in their classes to make cards and letters to help encourage the people. At CMS, 30 tenth grade students also wrote letters of encouragement for the people at Martin Luther School.

CMS was also able to offer financial support to help get the people of Joplin back on their feet. On June 8, Rick Hong, Dean of the CMS Religion Department, presented US\$1,000 on behalf of CMS to be used to help the people of Martin Luther School. Rebekah House, LCMS missionary in Taiwan, will work with Martin Luther Principal Jeremy Schamber in Joplin to use that money to buy gift cards and get those gift cards and letters of encouragement to families in need.

Praise God for the willingness of CMS and CELA students and administrators to support the people of Joplin. Please continue to pray for the people of Joplin as they recover from this horrible incident. May God comfort them, heal them, and work through this terrible event to bring more people closer to Jesus.

Easter in Taiwan

Concordia English Language Academy (CELA) celebrated its second annual Easter carnival on April 30. Over 65 students and their families came to celebrate the Savior's glorious resurrection through story telling, games, an Easter egg hunt, egg dying, crafts, a photo booth and fellowship. Praise God that these students and their parents were blessed with an opportunity to experience God's love through the gift of Easter!

Outdoor Worship

On Sunday May 29, Salvation Lutheran Church in Chia-Yi, Taiwan joined with Glorious Grace Lutheran to celebrate an outdoor worship service in Ji-Ji, Taiwan. The day featured a service outdoors with Pastor John Wan of Glorious Grace giving the message. In addition to the worship service, the group traveled to a playground and an historic train station and shopping district.

The occasion provided a unique opportunity to travel and interact with fellow church members in a setting outside of the regular worship service. It was also an outreach event to include the parents of the children who participate in these churches' Saturday School programs but do not attend Sunday worship. Furthermore, the event provided a special time for the youth to build on relationships that had started from a previous district-wide youth gathering.

CMS Receives Generous Donation

Concordia Middle School recently received a gift of US\$1,055 through a generous donation in memory of Taiwan and China missionary alumna Ms. Phyllis Rowold. The gift will be administered by the Robert Zimmer Foundation for international mission. This foundation is deeply involved in various ministry and outreach programs that have not only reached out with the Gospel, but have equipped others in remote areas of Asia to do the same.

Taiwan Missionary Spring Retreat

LCMS missionaries in Taiwan took time out of their busy routine to travel to Ali Mountain in central Taiwan for a time of rest, study, and service. The short weekend was full of opportunities to encourage fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who reach out to the communities in this area of the country. On one

morning, the team spent a couple of hours cleaning the multi-storied activity center that is used by local congregations in their outreach events.

INDONESIA

“Get on BASE!”

After the 2004 tsunami devastated Banda Aceh, doors were opened for relief organizations to assist in the region for the first time. Teachers at Sekolah Pelita Harapan (SPH) or “School of Light & Hope” in Jakarta hoped to provide a unique opportunity to put the theme for the academic year, Saved2Serve, into action. After some brainstorming, several teachers came up with the idea of BASE or Banda Aceh Service Event, and began promoting the trip among SPH high school students, challenging them to, “Get on BASE!”

Eventually, eight students’ hearts were led to get on BASE. It was decided to stick with an educational theme, dividing the students into an “inside team” and an “outside team” so that the group could teach a physical education type class outside and a creative English class inside at the same time. To help the students gain experience and confidence as “teachers,” practice teaching opportunities were arranged with the 5th and 6th graders at the SPH elementary school.

In addition, a member of the Ministry of Education in Banda Aceh was able to open even more doors. With his help, the team was able to make a stronger and more official connection with local schools in the city as they became official guests of the Ministry.

The doors the Lord opened for the BASE team led to amazing experiences, which included English lessons in and out of the classrooms, and an opportunity to perform a drama in front of the whole student body at two separate middle schools. This drama included a message centered on answering the call to use skills and talents for the benefit of others, allowing gifts to multiply through service. In addition, the Head of the Teacher’s Association in Banda Aceh hosted the team for a dinner at the Ministry of Education where they were able to share the purpose of BASE.

The team returned to Jakarta with hearts full of gratitude. The BASE students returned with the knowledge that service is much more than a weekend away. It is a way of life! The call to serve means trusting Him with each door faced in life so that ultimately service becomes a natural part of each person’s character.

CHINA

Team Assesses Needs in Rural China

LCMS World Mission staff Kevin Foley, James Rush, Petrea Schwahn, Andrew Schaff, Rachel Sekki, Ben Riley, Amy Riley, Matt Wasmund, and Rev. Steve Kosberg, pastor of International Lutheran Church in Seoul, South Korea, had the opportunity to form two groups, travel to China and collaborate with local Concordia Welfare and Education Foundation (CWEF) staff in determining the demographics and potential needs of two small Miao villages in Yunnan, Province.

The teams were able to assess needs of the villagers for CWEF who will in turn carry out a health program there. In all, over 20 homes were surveyed regarding health status, health knowledge, food availability, and other relevant information.

Cultural Exchange & Service Learning Day

June 2, 2011 was International Children’s Day in China, and 5th Grade students from Concordia International School Shanghai (CISS) participated in a Cultural Exchange & Service Learning Activity Day with students from Ling He Elementary School in Pudong, Shanghai. The three goals of the cultural exchange were to have a Christian outreach to the Shanghai community, to share the two cultures, and for CISS students to practice their Mandarin and Ling He students to practice their English. The results went beyond the goals and students from both schools were impacted.

The CISS students and Ling He students started the day as strangers, but finished four hours later as friends with all 200 students enjoying popsicles in the hot sun on CISS’s sports field. The day was packed

with learning and language practice as students shared with their partners about their families, asked questions about their lives, and laughed their way through the challenges presented by overcoming communication barriers. The day's physical activities included a wheelbarrow race and Frisbee, as well as games of kickball and basketball. Play is understood across all languages and the students cheered each other on throughout these activities to bridge gaps and build friendships. During the course of the day, they shared lunch together, experienced each other's classrooms, played together, and communicated. But most importantly, through the joy of giving, every student was changed by the experience.

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