

Asia Ablaze! Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 3

September 2011

Concordia International School Hanoi Opens Its Doors

On August 24, 2011 Concordia International School Hanoi (CISH) opened its doors for classes for the first time. With nearly fifty students from ten different countries, the school hosts children from Preschool through Grade 7. The long anticipated school opening comes after sixteen years of humanitarian work in Vietnam by LCMS World Mission, that laid the foundation in relationship building for the school to become a reality. Concordia is now the first 100% American-owned school in Hanoi.

To celebrate the occasion, CISH hosted an impressive Grand Opening Ceremony on September 9, complete with some traditional Vietnamese dragon dancers, a "Building Community" video made by the middle school, and a performance by the all-school choir. Attendees to the grand opening ceremony included parents, LCMS representatives from Asia and the USA, educators from sister schools in Hong Kong and Shanghai, as well as the new US Ambassador to Vietnam, Mr. David Shear. The Ambassador spoke about how he welcomes CISH as a partner to the Embassy, not only in education, but also in building a firmer foundation for US—Vietnam relations.

For more information visit www.concordiahanoi.org.

Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod Opens School in Shenzhen

Buena Vista Concordia International School (BCIS) opened on August 19, 2011 with 41 students. BCIS, operated by the Lutheran Church-Hong Kong Synod (LCHKS), is an English medium school that accepts both expatriates and local Chinese in Shenzhen, China, across the border from Hong Kong. Seven full-time teachers join the support staff composed of local Chinese, Hong Kong Lutheran educators, and expatriates. LCHKS President Allan Yung says, "BCIS is an innovative model to meet the educational needs of a developing China."

For more information on BCIS, please contact President Yung at: <mailto:hksynod@lutheran.org.hk>

Darin Storkson Appointed South Asia Regional Director

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Office of International Mission announced on August 9 that Mr. Darin Storkson has been appointed as the regional director for its newest region, South Asia, which includes Australia, Bangladesh, East Timor, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

Darin served with LCMS World Relief and Human Care since 2005, helping to coordinate LCMS emergency relief efforts in the aftermath of the December 26, 2004 South Asia tsunami. He most recently served as LCMS World Relief and Human Care's regional director for Asia, until taking this post. Darin currently resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

The work of an LCMS regional director includes leading the development of all LCMS witness and mercy ministries and programs in the region, managing all LCMS and locally recruited personnel in the region, maintaining positive, dynamic relationships with partners and collaborating with Lutheran partners in support of new and existing mission initiatives, Lutheran evangelism and church planting.

Prior to his service with the LCMS, Darin served as the executive director of the Bali Tourism Board, as a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross and as a business development consultant. While in Bali, Darin and his long-time sending church, Resurrection Lutheran Church in Boron, California had been conducting small-scale educational and medical ministries in the remote villages of Bali. Darin's family includes his son, Francis.

"The position represents an expansion of our ability to connect the resources of the LCMS to mission opportunities around the world," shares Dr. David C. Birner, interim co-executive director, Office of International Mission, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. "With the addition of the South Asia region, we will build and further extend the global reach of our church body.

Darin joins the international regional team, which includes Dr. Mike Rodewald, regional director for Africa; Rev. John Mehl, regional director for East Asia; Rev. Dr. Brent Smith, regional director for Eurasia; and Rev. Ted Krey, regional director for Latin America.

Korea

Korea Visit of LCMS Church President

LCMS Church President Matthew Harrison, together with a team of delegates from the LCMS International Center, visited Korea on June 11-12. President Harrison held talks with members of the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK), preached at Central Lutheran Church in Seoul, and visited Luther Tower and Luther University. President Harrison said that he was impressed by the growth the LCK experienced in various aspects. LCK President Hyun-Sub Um expressed his gratitude to LCMS for its deployment of missionaries to Korea who founded the LCK and for the steady and broad financial support of the LCK. Um also stated that as LCK had received aid by Lutheran partner churches in the U.S.A. and other countries, the LCK wants to pay back by actively doing mission for other countries in the world that need support by LCK.

Regular 2011 Assemblies of Lay Associations

The Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK) has various lay associations including the Elders' Association, Men's Association, Women's Association, and Youth Association. These LCK Lay Associations are independently organized and are active in evangelistic and diaconal work. This summer, each had their 2011 regular assemblies, giving reports on their organization and activities and planning future activities. The Women's Association met on August 9 at Wangshimni Lutheran Church in Seoul, electing Mrs. Seung-Mee Lee of Central Lutheran Church in Seoul as its president. The Men's Association convened on August 27 at Central Lutheran Church in Seoul and elected Mr. Seung-II Baek of Wangshimni Lutheran Church as its president. The Youth Association also convened on August 27 at Luther University and elected In-Cheol Hong from Central Lutheran Church in Seoul as its president.

LCK Summer Retreats

This summer, the Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK) organized various summer retreats. On June 26, a lecture and training was held at Central Lutheran Church in Seoul for some 40 LCK Sunday School teachers from all over South Korea. From July 25-27, a joint Children's Summer Camp for 141 children from 12 Lutheran local churches took place at the campus of Luther University in Yongin City, Gyeonggi Province under the theme "We are the light and salt of the earth." From August 22-26, some 110 Lutheran pastors' family members spent time at a pastors' families retreat in Hoengseong in Gangweon Province under the theme "Family with an Emotional Story." The Lay Associations organized their own summer retreats independently. About 50 members of the Women's Association met on August 9 at Wangshimni Lutheran Church in Seoul, some 30 members of the Men's Association met at Central Lutheran Church in Seoul on August 27, and 35 youth held their retreat at the campus of Luther University in Yongin City, Gyeonggi Province.

LCK Board of Directors' Retreat

From August 15-17, the Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK) organized a retreat for its Board of Directors at Yangpyeong in Gyeonggi Province. Prayers and workshops were held. Agendas for some 40 proposals and reports for the upcoming General Assembly were discussed and prayed for. Members of the Board include LCK President Rev. Hyun-Sub Um who belongs to Daejodong Lutheran Church in Seoul; Vice President Rev. Hyeon-Gil Kang, Senior Pastor of Pyeongtaek Lutheran Church in Pyeongtaek City, Gyeonggi Province; Secretary Rev. Kyungman Hong, Senior Pastor of Nambu Lutheran Church in Seoul; English Secretary Rev. Kwang-Woong Kim, Senior Pastor of Wangshimni Lutheran Church in Seoul; and, Treasurer Rev. Yeong-Seok Jin, Senior Pastor of Somyoung Lutheran Church in Incheon City.

New Congregational Program

LCMS missionary Peter Pfaff arrived in South Korea in June to be the first volunteer to serve in a new congregational based program. Peter is assigned at two congregations, Malgeunsam Lutheran Church and Joyful Lutheran Church, just outside of Seoul. Peter formerly served in Japan with the Volunteer Youth Ministry program. Through the English classes he teaches and the youth events in which he participates, these two congregations are becoming more visible in the communities, opening up doors for the Gospel to be shared. Peter's parents, Rev. Rick and Kim Pfaff, served as LCMS missionaries in Korea from 1983-1989.

Short-term Team to Seoul

Seven students from the University of Iowa traveled to Yongin City, South Korea to join in the ministry of the Lutheran Church in Korea by serving at a Bible Camp at Palbok Lutheran Church. Approximately 40 students from the surrounding communities participated in the camp. This student-led team proved a big blessing for the Lutheran congregations in these communities by creating awareness of these places of active ministry. The team was extremely flexible and did a wonderful job of preparing and implementing their instructional materials to teach about God's word using English.

Announcement of LCK's 41st General Assembly

The Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK) announced that its 41st General Assembly will be held from October 6-7 at Somyoung Lutheran Church at Incheon City under the theme "A Church living only by faith" (Romans 1:17).

Thailand

Community Health Project

The Concordia Welfare and Education Foundation—Thailand (CWEFT), working in partnership with Lutherans in Medical Missions (LIMM), was able to lead a Community Health Training project in two Hmong communities in northern Thailand. These types of training are important to local communities because of problems with inadequate health and wellness resources and limited education and health facilities among rural hill tribe populations. The trainings were held on July 7-11, 2011 at the Baan Khun Khuay Kai village in Chiang Rai province and the Baan Mae Sa Mai village in Chiang Mai province. Attendees received training in community health care.

Attendees were then able to share what they learn about disease prevention and basic health and wellness with their neighbors. In addition to providing much needed medical care and wellness information, this project was also a great tool for the church to share the Gospel and demonstrate God's love to the community. Church member attendees then followed-up and coordinated with other community members to share what they learned at the training, as well as *why* they care so much. In addition to helping strengthen and build relationships, church members also demonstrate the love of God and are able to share the gospel with their neighbors. There were also nine non-Christian villagers who attended the training along with local church members who were able to hear the Good News and see it in action.

HIM Training in Tak

Pakamai Lutheran Church in Tak Province welcomed Hmong International Mission (HIM) Missionary-at-Large Rev. Suphan in August for basic Christian doctrine training in Luther's Small Catechism. Pakamai Lutheran Church is officially registered with the Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church (TCLC). Pray for Rev. Suphan and local Christian leaders training to be pastors and teachers to reach out to this community.

Into Light Center Outreach Continues

In January 2000, the Light Center (formerly Concordia Gospel Ministry Center) was founded in Bangkok. The center is a part of the local Journey Into Light (JIL) Lutheran Church and has reached thousands of students over the last decade through English classes and outreach activities. Several LCMS missionaries have served at the center over the past 11 years, and Ms Robin McCoy and Mr. David Pfeifer currently teach English courses at the center, lead regular outreach activities, and provide evangelism opportunities. Amarita Patthanaprasitchai has also been with the center since it opened and coordinates the center administration along with teaching many of the children's classes.

A team from JIL also comes weekly to lead a time of songs, games, and object lessons with English students. This has been a valuable opportunity to foster relationships between the local church and the more than 80 English students currently enrolled at the center.

Macau

Deaf Fellowship Grows

Macau Concordia English Center (CEC) has become home to a number of Lutheran outreach activities. Recently, a fellowship for the Macau Deaf Community has made CEC its home. The participants enjoy biweekly Bible Studies and fellowship activities. Several local people lead the fellowships and enjoy the regular teaching from CEC missionaries and Vicar Ho from LCHKS.

New Macau Church Plant

The Lutheran Church-Hong Kong Synod (LCHKS) and LCMS are cooperating on a new project of church planting in Macau. Currently in initial steps, the process has been to connect with interested students from Bible Studies at the Macau Concordia English Center (CEC). Together, the LCHKS and LCMS have sent Vicar Ho to engage in discipleship ministry and lead fellowships such as the deaf fellowship, a Bible Study for new Christians, and a fellowship for students from the English center. One fellowship member, Sophia, expressed an interest in baptism. After catechetical

instruction with Vicar Ho, Sophia was received into Baptism on August 28, 2011 at the regular English Language worship service held at the CEC. Sophia said, "I feel so blessed to be baptized today, and I feel blessed to be able to share Jesus with others."

Hong Kong

Special U.S. Military Guests Kick Off Youth Fellowship

Hong Kong is a regular stop for U.S. Navy ships, but in early September, the visiting ships also brought a blessing to some local Lutheran youth. A team of 16 sailors and marines, led by LCMS Chaplain Marc DiConti of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, visited the Amazing Grace Youth Zone which is the Saturday Youth Fellowship at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church and MCDH Memorial College (a secondary school of the Lutheran Church – Hong Kong Synod). The sailors and marines joined the fellowship by sharing Christian songs and a homily during the chapel service, with Chaplain DiConti preaching on Romans 5:20: "Where sin increased, Grace abounded all the more." They also added to the fellowship through small group discussions in English and joining in a time for sports. The fellowship on September 2 was the first of the school year, and the sailors and marines were an added draw for the students. Over 80 students joined the fellowship and will continue to be connected to Amazing Grace Lutheran Church through the school year.

Cultural Exchanges Around the World

Hong Kong Lutheran Schools are preparing students for engagement in the world. During the summer break, individual schools sent students and teachers on cultural exchange trips to Australia, Singapore, Taiwan, and the United States. In addition, a cooperative effort from all of the high schools of the Lutheran Church-Hong Kong Synod sent a youth team to Nebraska, USA. The team included three students from each high school for a total of 18 youth and four teachers. The team assisted with VBS at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Omaha, engaged in social service activities in the inner city, and visited Mission Central in Northwest Iowa. The students gained cultural insights, heard the Gospel, served others, and returned to Hong Kong with a new sense of connection in the Lutheran school system.

Summer VBS Reaches Thousands

Even during the summer break, four Lutheran primary schools came alive in July with Vacation Bible School. Savior Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska brought a team of 40 youth and adults to lead a week-long VBS camp at Sharon Lutheran School, Holy Cross Lutheran School, Liu Cheung Kwong Lutheran Primary School, and Lutheran Tsang Shing Siu Leun School. 2,000 children were touched by these VBS camps. In addition, the team was able to assist with the Youth Fellowship at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church where over 140 students and 100 parents were reached. 18 Hong Kong Lutheran school students who had previously traveled on a cultural exchange trip to Omaha also joined in assisting with the VBS camps.

Filipino Prayer Share Care Retreat

Members from the Filipino Prayer Share Care (FPSC) Group Church of All Nations in Hong Kong participated in a retreat held at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church on August 4, 2011. The Sunday afternoon retreat was especially inspiring for many of the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) who attended. Two previous OFWs shared their testimonies on how the Lord touched their lives through their most difficult experiences while working abroad. Conference speakers expanded on the meaning of the Ten Commandments and their relationship to the Gospel. Small group discussion sessions provided opportunities to pray and counsel the OFW attendees.

Lutheran Social Services Begins New Mentoring Program

Hong Kong Lutheran Social Services (HKLSS) developed its Little Kid Project to reach out with meaningful quality assistance to students from low income families throughout Hong Kong. The Little Kid Project continues to evolve each year to add new components to enrich the program. Participating primary school aged children enjoy taking part in character building, financial planning, and faith development education in addition to volunteering, joint activities between multiple after-school centers. The program also includes education sessions for parents.

For the 2010-2011 academic year, a group of 120 children participated in the program from five after-school centers. In addition, 60 high school students volunteered as mentors to the younger students. The Concordia Welfare and Education Foundation (CWEF) partnered with HKLSS to begin the financial planning portion of the program this year. Parents commented on the blessing that the Little Kid Program is to their families in helping develop their

child's character as well as provide tutoring and other school support for successful learning outcomes. Congratulations to all of the graduates of this past year's program who celebrated together with a boat ride in Hong Kong on September 3rd.

In addition to its partnership with CWF, HKLSS received a grant from the Hong Kong Child Development Fund to help disadvantaged children in the ShamSuiPo district of Hong Kong. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Wong also generously provided matching funds to inspire students to achieve their personal saving goals. Interested in mentoring or supporting this project can contact Ms. Annissa Lui at HKLSS: <mailto:annlui@lutheran.org.hk>

Myanmar Students in Hong Kong

In June of 2011, 16 students from Myanmar gathered in Hong Kong for the second annual Dr. James Rimbach Memorial Dinner. Four of these students have finished their degrees and are returning to Myanmar to continue their roles as teachers. These students are coming from throughout Myanmar to study at Lutheran Theological Seminary and Chung Chi College in Hong Kong. The sisters of Dr. Rimbach established these funds as a way to continue to support and encourage the students that come from Myanmar to Hong Kong for Theological training. "For many of these students this is the first time they have a chance to interact with Lutherans," notes Rev. Hanson, LCMS World Mission Area Facilitator for Korea, Japan, and Greater China. "Having had a chance to visit their country the last two years, has given me a profound appreciation for what they are doing and the sacrifice they are making for the sake of the Gospel." Each student was given a set of the easy to use "Bible Teaching Series" from Multi-Language Publications in English, as much mission work in Myanmar includes the use of English language teaching.

Hong Kong Mission Teams

Hong Kong Lutheran Churches were very active in sending short term mission teams this summer. Sharon Lutheran Church sent 27 people to Malaysia, Burma, Macau, and China. Amazing Grace Lutheran Church sent over 40 youth and adults to Taiwan. Concordia Lutheran Church sent 32 members to China in conjunction with members from the Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in San Francisco, California.

Taiwan

Matching Grant to China Lutheran Seminary

In support of China Lutheran Seminary, the China Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC) – Legal Corporation, in consultation with President Andrew Miao and the CELC administration, voted to match "dollar for dollar" donations made to the

CELC-Legal Corporation for the seminary, up to 500,000 NTD (17,000USD) in donations.

As the CELC moves forward in expanding the church in Taiwan, "the seminary will play a vital role," according to Rev. Miao. Already student interns are being given an opportunity to be a part of this exciting new work of the CELC.

The new semester is just getting started at China Lutheran Seminary. Students and faculty just finished a pre-class retreat with 65 faculty, staff and students in attendance, including 16 new students.

CELC mission trip to Myanmar

From July 4-11, 2011, Eternal Life Lutheran Church in Taipei sent its fourth team to Northern Myanmar. The goal for this eight-day trip was to follow-up with the preaching station that was opened last year, as well as to visit the surrounding communities to see what they could do in terms of making a significant impact in the daily lives of the people in these Chinese-speaking areas of Myanmar.

Rev. Chu led this year's group of six people to the remote villages of Northern Myanmar on this his fifth trip. "For me it was important that we connect with Evangelist Li Wen Sheng, who serves the simple congregation there, and to help him in his ongoing training as a Lutheran preacher. The highlight of the trip was the special joy of baptizing Mr. Chen," noted Rev. Chu. Mr. Chen was someone they had met the previous year. In addition, the team held six family worship services and one evangelistic service for the entire community.

In impacting the community, clean water was one of the needs quickly identified the year before and so this year's team was excited to see the donated well was serving the whole community. Another area of interest has been to support the ongoing educational needs of the community as a whole. They were able to visit the homes of all 15 scholarship students and their families.

CELA Summer Camp

God's amazing love, willing servants, and a summer camp theme dedicated to exploring the world helped the Concordia English Language Academy (CELA) Summer Camp "take off" with amazing results. Students were able to enter a "plane" located on the campus of Concordia Middle School in Chiayi, Taiwan. mock setting stretched across two classrooms and was created by the talented CELA staff. The plane, along with organized lessons and activities, helped children to use their imaginations as they pretended to go through ticketing and baggage check-in. Eventually, campers went out into the world to places like India, Scotland, and Mexico.

Helping CELA's Taiwanese teachers were three short-term LCMS volunteer missionaries, Ryan Voelkern from Nebraska, Rebecca Kehe from Missouri, and Cana Lasa from Wisconsin. They came to work and helped carry out the lessons, watch the students, and share their faith. In a short time, strong relationships were built and God guided conversations, allowing for a true witness to the Gospel.

Outreach to Thai Workers in Taiwan

LCMS missionary Rev. Carl Kaye and wife Grace (currently serving in Thailand) visited China Lutheran Seminary (CLS) in Taiwan and met with Rev. Dr. Immanuel Scharrer who coordinates an outreach ministry with overseas Thai workers in Taiwan. There are currently 18,000 Thais working in factories and on construction projects in Taiwan. CLS Vice President Joseph Lu and seminary faculty support Rev. Scharrer's ministry which reaches Thai, Vietnamese and Burmese laborers with the hope of Jesus. In Taiwan there are very few churches reaching workers from Southeast Asia. Rev. Scharrer has become their advocate, speaks Thai fluently and tirelessly works for the needs of these workers while sharing the love of Jesus with them. LCMS plans to further support this outreach by providing Thai language materials.

Harvester Visits Taiwan

During the first 2 weeks of August, Taiwan welcomed Harvester, a special short-term music mission team from America. The band consisted of Doug Larson, Jacob Larson, and Doug Peterson all from Fairmont, Minnesota. During their intense two weeks in Taiwan, the group performed 51 shows in 16 days, at a variety of places and for a variety of ages including elementary students at the Concordia English Language Academy, students in Junior High and High School at Concordia Middle School, students at Chia Yi Vocational School, and the Chia Yi Girls School. Harvester also played an outdoor concert by the apartments near Salvation Lutheran Church, songs at special Father's Day service at Salvation Lutheran Church, an evening concert at the church, and a six song performance at Eternal Life Lutheran Church in Taipei.

These men came to uplift and support Taiwanese Christians, as well as share the Gospel with unbelievers. At each show, everyone who came received a free bracelet and CD. The CD was recorded by Doug Peterson and his family, and features many of the same songs sung at Friday Night Bible Studies. Meanwhile, the bracelets helped explain God's love through Jesus. It featured five colors, with a Bible verse imprinted above each color telling the story of Salvation.

Vietnam

Ted Engelbrecht Receives Prestigious Award

On September 8, LCMS World Mission personnel Ted Engelbrecht, while on a brief trip back to Vietnam, received the Peace and Friendship Award from the Vietnamese government. award, given by the Director General of the People's Aid Coordinating Committee (PACCOM), honors those who have made positive contributions towards relationships between foreign NGOs and the Vietnamese government.

Representatives from the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) and LCMS World Mission were in attendance, along with PACCOM. PACCOM Director General Phong began the ceremony praising Ted Engelbrecht's service in Vietnam, during which time he set up and administered rural development and nutrition projects in partnership with NIN and facilitated long-term volunteer teachers of English. then spoke, remembering with fondness and affection his 15 years in Vietnam. a blessing this is for Ted and the entire NIN and LCMS World Mission team in Vietnam, a testament to the great impact they have made over the years.

Construction in Phuong Vy and Dieu Luong

Chi Van Le and J.P. Cima with LCMS World Mission in Vietnam visited current human care projects recently in two communes.

They first travelled to Vy, where LCMS has bathroom projects under construction at one of two local elementary schools. school welcomes some 350 students, and until now never had adequate bathroom facilities. , through the project the school is getting not just one, but two bathroom facilities. will be designed for teachers and the other for

the students themselves. construction projects are well on their way towards completion.

Chi and J.P. then travelled to Dieu Luong, another commune in which LCMS has been working for a number of years. the students were not yet in school at this location, they were able to meet with the Vice President of the commune who showed them that construction in Dieu Luong was completely finished. In Dieu Luong there is only one elementary school of about 250 students, but here, too, there are not adequate toilet. Like Phuong Vy, the project calls for two toilets, one for teachers and the other for students.

The wonderful thing about these toilets is that they are connected to underground wells and have water pumped to them. greatly enhances the ability to keep toilets clean and the overall environment more, while also encouraging students to wash their hands properly. thanks to the National Institute of Nutrition and partners in Phuong Vy and Dieu Luong for facilitating these much-needed projects.

Library in Phuong Vy

There has recently been impressive progress made on a library project which has been designed to help alleviate costs associated with school materials. Traditionally parents pay for brand new books which is often a big cost burden for many rural families. World Mission has responded by implementing a library project to encourage instead of buying, have been supplied with plenty of books for the students, with the understanding that these books will be well-labeled and then loaned out to students. students who return their books at the end of the year in good shape pay nothing. costs down is one way to allow more children the opportunity to attend school. It is anticipated that this project will be a blessing to the school and especially to the children's families.

Philippines

Missionary Reunion

On July 12, 2011 sixty-four former and present missionaries and children of missionaries to the Philippines gathered at the St. Malo Retreat Center near Estes Park, Colorado for a three-day reunion. The group was inspired by the majesty of their surroundings and even more by the wonder of God's Word and their unity in Christ.

Each day's group events began and ended with hymns and devotions. Past and current missionaries and Missionary Kids (MK;s) were interspersed as leaders. Attendees commented on how special it was to hear such varied generational competence in sharing the "story." More MK's attended this reunion than previous ones: 18 in total. MK spouses fit right in and soaked up a lot of missionary culture and community. They also joked that they needed a support group of their own to better understand their MK wives and husbands. Current LCP President James Cerdenola was touched to hear how much MK's loved the Philippines and how hard it was to "go home" to the U.S.

The closing worship service, "In Memoriam: Joy at Journey's End" took place at St. Catherine of Siena Chapel, a stone fortress built on a huge granite rock. Leadership was shared by missionary alum Rev. John Scholz and missionary-kid Rev. Richard Mayer. The names of those departed since 2007 were read and a Mindanao gong sounded for each: Arnold "Spud" Strohschein, Herman "Hub" Mayer, Juraine Hornig, Karl Rutz, and Martha Plagens.

Annual Summer Sports Festival in the North

This year nearly 300 young adults and youth from around the island of Luzon came together to compete in various sporting competitions at the Luzon Annual Sport festival, held in Pangasinan province in the town of Binalonan. In the morning and evening the group came together for Bible study and worship.

The festival is aimed at strengthening the relationships of young people within the three districts on Luzon Island through sports activities and spiritual enrichment.

Service Team from Guam

This past June a team of 16 youth, young adults and adult chaperones from Guam came to serve in Metro Manila. The team was able to raise over US\$1,000 which was given to Concordia Children Services (CCS) in Manila. They also donated many other items including clothes, supplies for CCS, sports equipment for Gloria Dei School, and many books for both the school and the orphanage. The Guam team spent two days serving at CCS, interacting with the infants, toddlers and street children, playing games, reading stories, singing songs, and doing arts and crafts.

The team also had an opportunity to spend two days at Gloria Dei Lutheran School just down the street from CCS, leading chapel time with songs, skits and devotions, teaching English classes and leading sports activities in the afternoon.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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