



A Mission Society ~

Supporting the World Mission of the
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

...“that every knee may bow and every
tongue confess that **JESUS CHRIST IS
LORD....**”

Quarterly Publication

Nov. 2011

“Enter Into His Presence with Thanksgiving”

Thanksgiving! The word evokes pleasant memories and, usually, eager anticipation of the upcoming holiday. **JILM** supporters can add the words “excitement” and “joy” to our Thanksgiving celebrations as we read about the wonderful things the Lord is doing in mission areas supported by our members. Specifically, we focus on the India Probationers (to be assisted with \$22,000 this fiscal year), the Sri Lanka Probationers (to receive \$2,500), and the Jonathan Ekong Memorial Seminary in Obot Idim, Nigeria (to receive \$5,646). The Seminary is an institution of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria (LCN), a partner church of the LCMS. In addition to a description of the JILM-sponsored project at the Seminary, in this issue are photos of the celebration for the LCN's 75th anniversary in September, 2011--truly a cause for praise and thanksgiving. Remember these ministries in prayer as we give God thanks for what He enables us to accomplish as we work to expand His kingdom of believers.

"By Your Word You formed creation filled with creatures large and small;

As we tend that endless treasure may our care encircle all.

Heavenly Father, may our caring bear the imprint of Your grace;

With the Son and Holy Spirit, Praise be Yours in every place!

Lord, we pray that we, Your people who Your gifts unnumbered claim,

Through the sharing of Your blessings may bring glory to Your name."

*--"Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings," stanzas 2 and 4
Lutheran Service Book #782*



**Jonathan Ekong Memorial Lutheran Seminary
at Obot Idim, Nigeria, Africa \$5,927**

The LCMS began work in Nigeria in 1936. The Lutheran Church of Nigeria is LCMS's oldest partner church in Africa, with a presence in 19 of Nigeria's 36 states. Many of the remaining states are in northern Nigeria, where an estimated 60 million Muslims live. The Lutheran Church of Nigeria has a baptized membership of more than 100,000 in 410 congregations and preaching stations, with a national staff of 260 pastors and lay preachers.



Seminary Faculty with New Pastors

The seminary in Obot Idim trains both evangelists (two-year, junior minister program) and pastors (three-year, leading to ordination program). Currently 67 students are enrolled. The women of the churches help the seminarians by providing food throughout the year.

The seminary also conducts lay training workshops offsite, with more than 70 congregations participating in four week-

Continued on page 2

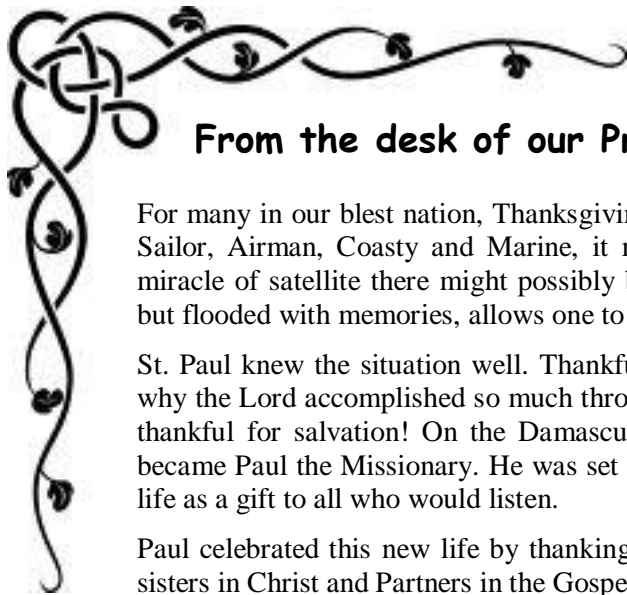
Training People to Reach Their Own People

long training sessions. In addition, Concordia University Minnesota partners with LCMS World Mission and LCN to provide a master's degree in Christian outreach to Lutheran leaders in Nigeria and other West African countries. More information on these programs is at <http://lutheranchurchnigeria.org>.

Funding provided by JILM will be used for salaries for seminary staff, food, materials, medical supplies and other general expenses.

Pastor David Erber, Area Facilitator for Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, writes to JILM: "On behalf of the seminary, we are most grateful for your support! Your assistance will be greatly appreciated! May God continue to bless your great labors and the dedicated sacrifices of His people."

Pray for the students participating in outreach, and for the students who travel to Nigeria from other countries and must be away from home for long periods of time. Pray for the women of the local congregations who minister by providing food for the seminary students.



From the desk of our President:

For many in our blest nation, Thanksgiving is a time of turkey, family and football. For the Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Coasty and Marine, it might be some turkey on a remote outpost. Through the miracle of satellite there might possibly be some football, but the family is far away. Being alone, but flooded with memories, allows one to count blessings or curse the isolation.

St. Paul knew the situation well. Thankfully we have his personal letters to give us a glimpse into why the Lord accomplished so much through this missionary example. In letter after letter, Paul was thankful for salvation! On the Damascus road his life abruptly changed and Saul the Persecutor became Paul the Missionary. He was set free from earning salvation by his works to sharing eternal life as a gift to all who would listen.

Paul celebrated this new life by thanking God for people! He thankfully saw them as brothers and sisters in Christ and Partners in the Gospel. He was happiest when he could see them face to face, but always held them close to his heart and treasured their friendship.

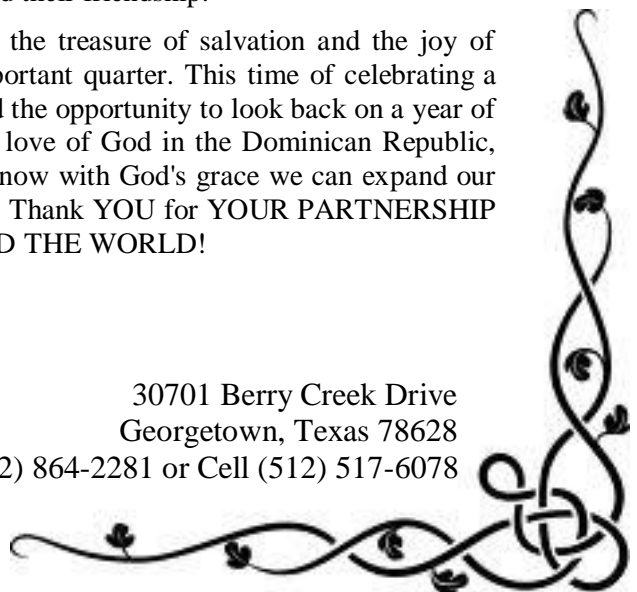
Together we share this same bond in Christ as we have the treasure of salvation and the joy of sharing. October - December is our second and most important quarter. This time of celebrating a National Day of Thanksgiving, the joy of Christ's birth and the opportunity to look back on a year of God's grace is a great time for a special gift to share the love of God in the Dominican Republic, French Speaking Africa, Nigeria, India and Sri Lanka. I know with God's grace we can expand our opportunities to share the GOOD NEWS in a dying world. Thank YOU for YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL as we share JESUS AS LORD AROUND THE WORLD!

Your Brother in Christ,

Paul

Paul F. Howe
Chaplain (COL) US ARMY (Retired)
paulfhowe@aol.com

30701 Berry Creek Drive
Georgetown, Texas 78628
(512) 864-2281 or Cell (512) 517-6078





Thousands of worshippers celebrate at service on Sept. 11.

Lutheran Church of Nigeria 75th Anniversary Celebration

The LCN celebrated its 75th anniversary September 5-11 at the church's headquarters in Obot Idim. On Sunday, September 11, about 6,000 people gathered for a six-hour worship service and celebration that included the Lord's Supper. Many of the participants were dressed in clothing made from special cloth provided for the anniversary celebration.

Several guests from the LCMS and President Robert Bugbee of the Lutheran Church of Canada were guest speakers at the event. One of the special invited speakers was Rev. David Reed, pastor of one of the LCN's supporting congregations in Auburn, Michigan.

During the anniversary week, the LCN dedicated a new national headquarters building that was built with funds raised entirely within Nigeria.



L-R, David Erber, Timothy Quill, LCN Pres. Rev. Christian Ekong, David Reed, Michael Rodewald, Robert Smith



Sixteen bicycles that the International LWML donated to the Lutheran Bible Institute in Nigeria in 1961 to be used by the students in doing field work on weekends in the Southern Anang District where the Bible Institute was located. Pastor Alvin Meissner was principal of the Institute.



Beautiful Nigerian Women



Nigerian Mother, Son and Grandmother

EYES OPEN

(another example of God at work in one of His own)
by Dalton Noack

God led my wife and me to serve the Lord in many places over the years and still does. (Details on Google at Google "Dalton J. Noack.") This story is not about us, but about someone whom we observed as we had our eyes open. During the years 1992-1994 we were blessed to serve with God's people in the Lanka Lutheran Church in Sri Lanka. My main focus for LCMS World Mission was in the area of Theological Education by Extension (TEE). Praise the Lord that some of those young men who were selected for this training are now pastors.



Devanesan Family

Continued on page 4

Who was this person we observed with eyes open? He was a young man, not in the TEE program, but with eyes open, very active in the Lanka Lutheran Church Youth Program. His name is Devanesan. Watching his involvement as a committed and humble youth leader was noteworthy. In recent days I learned that he was ordained in 2007 and is now a pastor and family man in Colombo, Avissavwella and Yatiyantoto with additional responsibility as the treasurer of the Lanka Lutheran Church. Since JILM adopted the Lanka Lutheran Probationer project of LCMS World Mission, I have been blessed to have e-mail contact with Pastor S. Devanesan. He has provided updates on the program via pictures, names, family status and locations of the probationers (vicars) serving as Christ's representatives throughout Sri Lanka. Recently he wrote: "In Sri Lanka a new outreach program has started among the rubber plantation areas. I am so happy that my Church selected me as 'In Charge Minister' for this new church planting ministry. God gave me this wonderful opportunity so that I could share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who do not yet know Him." Rejoice in the way God works through His people to accomplish His purposes in you, me and people on the other side of the world like Pastor Devanesan!

Gifts to Jesus Is Lord Mission
August - September 2011



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Austin, TX Redeemer Lutheran Church LWML*
 Myrtle Beach, SC, Risen Christ Lutheran Church

*Indicates new member

In Honor Of

Bettie Horn **Bendewald** (for dedicated support of JILM)
 Howard **Lacey** (birthday)
 Faith **McKinney** (birthday)
 Ryan and Faith **McKinney** (21st wedding anniversary)
 Al and Lee **Miller**
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JILM Financial Report, July-September, 2011

Balance on hand, 7/1/2011	9,641.91
Funds received 7/1/2011-9/30/2011	90,505.00
Interest	9.87
Project Support (all to CLET)	-29,000
Non-project designated funding	-5,775
Expenses (1.8%)	<u>-1,606.73</u>
Ending funds on hand, 9/30/2011	63,775.05

Contributed to date (since 2002): \$1,517,635.96



Stipends for Probationers-as-Church Planters in Sri Lanka \$2,625



Probationer Raja visits Sri Lankan family

The LCMS began working in Sri Lanka in 1927 due to its proximity to India. Missionaries worked in central Sri Lanka among the Tamil-speaking Hindus. The last LCMS resident missionary left in 1998. LCMS consultants visit annually to conduct leadership training among the church workers.

The Lanka Lutheran Church (LLC) became a partner church with the LCMS in 2001. There are 17 congregations, two in Colombo, and the remainder on tea plantations. As in India, "probationers" spend three years as church planters, primarily at distant tea plantations. Most probationers commute from their homes daily by bus and on foot, sometimes staying overnight when buses are not running. The plan is to build mission stations in the remote tea plantations where they are serving. Currently eight men serve full-time as church planters.

The LLC's goal is to start new ministries on 200 of the 500 tea plantations. To date, approximately 20 new churches have been planted. At present, eight young men are serving as church planters.

Funding from JILM provides the probationers with a monthly stipend to cover their travel expenses.

Pray that the probationers are able to endure the long commute to the tea plantations. Pray that the Lord will continue to bless their efforts as they plant new churches. Pray for the Holy Spirit to strengthen the faith of Lutheran Christians in Sri Lanka who may be persecuted for their faith.

Stipends for Probationers-as-Church Planters in India \$23,100

From 1895 until the 1980's, the LCMS had a strong missionary presence in India. Since 1959, the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC) has been an LCMS partner church. After the last LCMS career missionary retired in 2003, LCMS began sending consultants to India each year to conduct leadership training seminars.



Probationers in India

The IELC operates Concordia Seminary in Nagercoil. New seminary graduates are assigned to un-churched areas for evangelism and church planting for three years before ordination and receiving a call to a regular ministry or congregation. These "probationers," as these graduates are called, are expected to establish at least one congregation during

this three-year period, and must account for all evangelistic activities to their supervising pastor. They return to the seminary each quarter to report and receive guidance. In the past three years, 42 probationers have planted 62 mission stations where 135 of the members are newly-baptized Christians. Currently there are 20 probationers serving the three synods of the IELC. They are often challenged by resistance to the Word from local communities and opposition from other religious bodies. The married candidates must care for their own families even though some of them are gone for long periods of time while working in distant locations.

JILM funds will provide a minimum stipend for the probationers, along with support for worship and housing rental and program expenses.

Pray for the probationers who are beginning their three-year evangelistic program, and pray for the new congregations that God is raising up through their work. Many of these new believers face a great deal of pressure to reconvert. Pray that many new Christians will be brought into the family of Christ through baptism.

From the JILM Volunteer Coordinator Dalton Noack

Things for which I am especially THANKFUL:

- 1) The blessing of many who take advantage of computer access to look at and tell their dear friends and relative about JILM's history and fresh information on current projects including videos, audio supportive of mission hymn history, etc. at www.jilmission.org
- 2) Missionary Glenn Fluegge, former missionary to Togo and now at the Seminary in South Africa, for the video relating to CLET (Lutheran Center for Theological Studies) celebration men and women trained for service this past year. It can be found in three places on the JILM website referenced in 1. above: on the main page, under projects and under resources.
- 3) Our administrative team serving you in the name of JILM for opportunities to share the JILM story with LWML groups, congregations, the Professional Church Workers Conferences and one on one with family, friends or other referrals to become friends and participants in God's mission.
- 4) Those who are receptive to the message and respond immediately or soon thereafter as God leads them.
- 5) Big hearts who write words of encouragement along with their love gifts. Three examples of the many that blessed our membership in writing:
"We are sending a gift to 'JESUS IS LORD', our favorite mission society of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, where all the gifts are used to benefit the cause of Jesus all over the world."
"Attached is our Annual Membership gift of \$1,000.00."
"Thank you to all the staff, officers, and volunteers [that's you who pray and give also] for promoting this very important work of spreading the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ."
- 6) Pastor Devanesan from Sri Lanka and Ravi Jesupatham from India for names and pictures relating to the Probationers and ministries we support.
- 7) All new members as partners in God's mission.
- 8) A JILM DVD for the use by all members. We'd be thankful for the opportunity to give you one if yours has been given away, lost or perhaps mistakenly not received. You can preview it or share it with others on our JILM website at www.jilmission.org

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Contact JILM

PO Box 11
Walburg, TX 78673
Paulfhowe@aol.com

JILM website: www.jilmission.org



Acknowledgements

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Current Projects



Togo, West Africa
Nigeria
India
Sri Lanka
Dominican Republic

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



Pastor Udofia, Nigeria

In Thanksgiving
"Every time we think of you, we thank God for you. Day and night you're in our prayers as we call to mind your work of faith, your labor of love, and your patience of hope in following our Master, Jesus Christ, before God our Father. It is clear to us, friends, that God not only loves you very much but also has put his hand on you for something special. When the Message we preached came to you, it wasn't just words. Something happened in you. The Holy Spirit put steel in your convictions."



1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (The Message)

