

### World stats answer question: Where shall we go?

*Lutheran Church-Canada president, Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan, gave the keynote address to mark the tenth anniversary since its founding of Concordia Lutheran Mission Society at the annual meeting hosted by Redeemer Lutheran Church, Winnipeg. President Mayan invited those in attendance to evaluate their personal and corporate mission priorities. Because his thought provoking and challenging presentation is of benefit to all the members of Lutheran Church-Canada as they examine and set their priorities for missions, CLMS requested President Mayan, and he has kindly consented, to provide a summary of his address.*



Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan

The interesting global diagram (lower right) was published in *World Christian Trends* by David Barrett and Todd Johnson. It directs us to look at the world through different glasses and reflect on where the Gospel has been shared, where it has taken root and where

those millions are who have not yet heard or come to believe in Jesus Christ. Such reflection helps us answer the above questions.

The Christian world {C} encompasses 141 countries and approximately 33 percent of the world's population. More than 60 percent of the population in these countries belong to a church and well over 95 percent have at one time or another heard the glorious Gospel message. There are some 2 billion Christians living in these countries, each having the opportunity to give witness to the hope they have in Jesus Christ.

The Evangelized Non-Christian World {B} encompasses 59 countries and approximately 40 percent of the global population. Barrett and Johnson in their research suggest that more than half the population in these areas have had some contact with the Gospel, but less than half confess Jesus as their Saviour. This part of the world includes Thailand and Viet Nam, India and Nigeria.

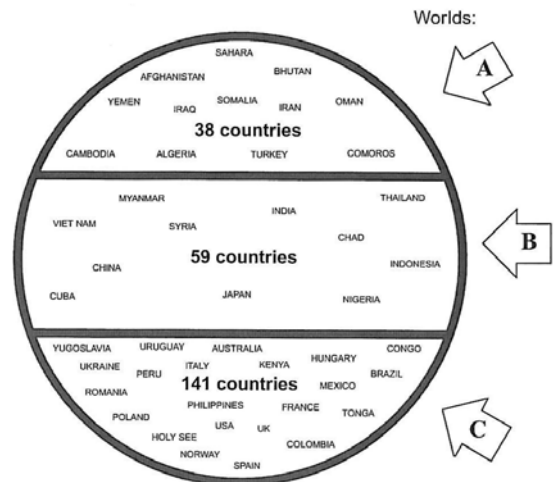
The Unevangelized World {A} encompasses 38 countries and approximately 27 percent of the world's population. Less than one half of this group have ever heard the name of Jesus and only a small portion have come to confess Him as their Saviour. Included in this world area are most of the Muslim countries where Christians face tremendous difficulties and, interestingly, Cambodia where Lutheran Church-Canada is just beginning to do some work.

As you reflect on these demographics, where do you think the church should be going and how do you think the church should set its priorities as it responds to God's call to make disciples of

all nations? The authors of the study indirectly tell us what most Christians must be thinking as they analyze the way they spend their money. Ninety-nine is spent on themselves and their world; .09 percent on the Evangelized Non-Christian World and 0.01 percent on the Unevangelized World!

But what do you think? Where do you think the church should go and how should she prioritize her mission program. Indeed something to reflect upon!

May God give to our leaders great wisdom as they provide direction to our church as she takes up the mission given to her by our gracious God.



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## HANDS-ON MISSION

**H**aving members from our Lutheran Church-Canada congregations embark on “hands-on missions” in places such as Nicaragua, Mexico, Ukraine or Haiti is no longer rare. Every year more individuals, spanning the generations from youth to retirees, are doing it.

Hands-on mission isn't for everyone. There may be any number of valid reasons why individuals who would be happy to do so are unable to go due to health, family or work considerations. Yet they too can be, and often are, vital partners to those who actually go on such hands-on mission tours. They contribute their prayers, encouragement and financial support beyond their regular support of missions carried out through their congregation or in partnership with districts and synod.

What good comes from going to build chapels in Nicaragua, a seminary building in Ukraine; from active and retired pastors and seminary professors offering up their time to teach future pastors in Thailand, Ukraine and Nicaragua, or young adults giving up a summer of gainful employment to finance their next school year and instead teaching vacation Bible school in Ukrainian villages?

The answer to that question will not be determined by statistical reports, but by the One who undertook the ultimate hands-on mission, our Lord Jesus Christ. Talk about cross-cultural ministry! The eternal and omnipresent Son of God, assumed human flesh in the womb of a virgin. The Creator of and Ruler over things in heaven and earth took on the form of a servant. The holy and sinless One took on our sin and became the vilest of sinners in



*Hands-on mission in Chinandega, Nicaragua, December 2006. Workers from Faith, Grand Prairie, Good Shepherd, Valleyview and Redeemer, High Prairie worked on two dormitories. \$23,000 was raised by the above congregations and St. John's, Wembley to fund the construction.*

our place. This hands-on mission project didn't just call for Him to endure the discomfort of blisters from swinging a hammer, or splinters from handling rough lumber. He allowed His hands to

be pierced by nails and fastened to the rough timbers of a cross. Nor was this hands-on mission project undertaken with great enthusiasm and good intentions, but ultimately left unfinished because the cost of the project was miscalculated. “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will” (Matt 26:39). No shallow enthusiasm here, only humble submission to the Father's will. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matt 27:46).

No failure to calculate the cost of His mission. He willingly let Himself be rejected by the Father in order that we might be accepted by Him. He paid the ultimate price and with His last breath was able to declare: “It is finished” (John 19:30). The sins of every person of all time had been paid in full. His rising from the dead was the Father's seal of approval that this hands-on mission had been accomplished. Forgiveness of sin, life and salvation had been secured for all who turn from sin and trust in Jesus. Because of this, hands-on or missions supported by the prayers and finances of God's people, that in any way serve to make known Christ's hands-on mission, will never be in vain but will be used by Him to fulfill His  
*continued on next page*

## PRESIDENT

### *Hi! I'm back.*

**A**fter my term ended in February 2006, and I could no longer run for the board, I enjoyed a one-year “recess” from CLMS's Board of Directors. I thank our Lord for leading our voting members to re-elect me to the board, and leading the directors to elect me as president.

As I return, I find all areas of our activities have continued to grow under the Lord's blessings. Our mission society fulfilled all our commitments for our 2006 projects. Dr. Edwin Lehman did an admirable job steering our ship for the last year. Sadly, Dr. Lehman has resigned as a director, but will continue to serve the society in other ways. He served on the board for nine years and was our founding president.

We held our annual meeting at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Winnipeg this year. Winnipeg has a reputation for cold, but that must have been a record for recent years—temperatures approaching

–40C and wind chills approaching –50C the whole weekend. Thanks to all at Redeemer who hosted us very well.

At our board meeting we chose a very challenging project goal of just under \$100,000 for this year and divided up the work we planned for the year amongst the directors. As time passes the work load for our small group of volunteers continues to grow. Dr. Lehman, in his president's report to the board, noted dealing with more than 1,000 incoming and outgoing e-mails last year, up considerably from my last year as president.

Raising our projects goal from \$72,965 in 2006 to \$98,100 in 2007 (a 35% increase) involves a considerable leap of faith. However, we try hard to be led by God in the process we use. After reviewing all the project proposals and sleeping one night on them, we prayerfully prioritize all the projects by individually prioritizing them,



*Outgoing President, Dr. Edwin Lehman passes gavel to incoming President, Terry Goerz.*

and then adding up all the scores. Each director then, individually and with an ear to the Lord, writes down their estimate of our project income for the year. These totals are averaged and this becomes our project goal. The list of prioritized project proposals is approved from the top down until the project goal is met.

Our whole board has enthusiastically accepted the project goal, and looks forward to your continuing support in this our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

*Blessings, Terry Goerz*



On the occasion of its tenth anniversary, the CLMS Board of Directors adopted \$99,100 in projects—the highest amount ever. As in years past these projects will be funded through the generous support of our “Mission Partners,” the men, women, congregations and Sunday schools of Lutheran Church—Canada that is above and beyond their regular offerings to their congregations, District and Synod missions and ministries.

Some of the projects continue from previous years, either because their size was beyond the capability of CLMS to support in one year or because they were deemed essential to LCC’s ongoing mission commitments. Some projects are carried out in partnership with the other two

*Hands-on from page 30*

promise: “I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it” (Matt 16:18).

Concordia Lutheran Mission Society counts it a privilege to have served our synod, congregations, partner churches and individual members over the past ten years in support of specific mission projects including hands on missions in various parts of the world, and looks forward, by God’s grace, to enter its second decade of privileged service.

*K. Hahn,  
director of mission*

**Hands-on Mission Opportunity in Ukraine**

CLMS is looking for volunteer workers to work on the Seminary and Mission Centre in Ukraine during the first three weeks in July. For information please contact Rev. Dr. Norman Threinen at: 6108 Austin Street, Summerland, B.C., V0H 1Z1 Phone: 250-494-9459 e-mail: threinen@shaw.ca.

auxiliaries, Lutheran Laymen’s League and the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League—Canada.

**2007 CLMS PROJECTS**

**0701 – Seminary and Mission Centre, Ukraine** – New seminary building being constructed near Odessa to provide classrooms – \$12,000.

**0702 – Vacation Bible School, Nicaragua** – VBS materials to enable 2,400 children in villages throughout Nicaragua to learn about the love of Jesus in January 2008. Excellent project for Canadian Sunday schools and VBS – \$3,000.

**0703 – Heating System for a Church in Ukraine** – A heating system for a vibrant, mission-minded congregation in the Crimea which is renovating a building with volunteer help to serve its church and Sunday school needs – \$8,500.

**0704a – Friends Club Centre, Ukraine** – Rent on an apartment in Dnepropetrovsk where rejected children gather to study Lutheran doctrine and the Bible. A nucleus for the future congregation of Missionary Alexey Navrotsky – \$3,750.

**0704b – Friends Club Camp, Ukraine** – Opportunity for these rejected children to gather with other students in a camp experience where they can grow in their faith and fellowship. Excellent project for youth or seniors groups – \$1,250.

**0705 – Withdrawn by Project Manager** – \$0.

**0706 – Children’s Christian Education, Nicaragua** – One of the chief outreach tools of the mission in Nicaragua. A donation of about \$100 enables a child to attend school and receive ½ day of tutoring and catechism. Project goal is to support 50 children – \$5,400.

**0707 – Support for Deaconesses, Nicaragua** – Support for five deaconesses active in Christian

education, social ministry and family ministry who otherwise have no means of support and must personally pay for transportation and work-related expenses – \$4,800.

**0708 – Pastoral Education, Cambodia** – Travel for four instructors from Lutheran Church—Canada to south-east Asia to provide theological training for the emerging new mission field in Cambodia – \$10,000.

**0709 – New Mission, Thailand** – Rent and start-up costs for a new mission to reach Thai people serving in the resort areas of Kao Lak in southern Thailand which was heavily damaged by the 2005 tsunami – \$5,000.

**0710 – Mission Station in Costa Rica** – Rent in Heredia, for a facility from which Missionary Pedro Aldelfo Quintero and his deaconess sister can bring the Gospel to their area and serve the more than 70 people who gather for worship and study – \$4,000.

**0711 – Dormitory for Mission Centre, Nicaragua** – A dormitory to house the professors and students while attending seminary classes. This is one of eight projected; others are being built by other groups – \$12,000.

**0712 – Mission Station in Granada, Nicaragua** – Rent in Granada for a facility from which Missionary Rufino Laines and his deaconess wife can bring the Gospel to their area and serve members

who now meet for worship and Bible study in homes – \$6,000.

**0713 – Church Building Rental, Thailand** – Rent for three Lutheran communities of faith in Thailand which are too poor to purchase or buy a facility to provide a place out of which pastors and church workers can work in their communities to serve the Gospel – \$2,500.

**0714 – Mission Vehicle, Mozambique** – Assistance to aid in the purchase of a vehicle for Missionary Joseph Alfazema to enable him to visit people in various villages so that they might hear the Word of God – \$5,000.

**0715 – Van for Mission Outreach, Ukraine** – Funds to supplement a grant from the LWMLC to purchase a van to be used in mission outreach and development of new mission congregations in north Crimea – \$5,000.

**0716 – Crew Ministries Bus Passes** – Bus passes for eight Crew Ministries summer team members as these young people travel for seven weeks across Canada, sharing the Gospel in music, drama and interactive relationships – \$6,400.

**0717 – DVDs for Lutheran Open House** – Seed money for a large-scale production of *The Story of Jesus for Children* which members can purchase to share with neighbours, friends and family. (LLL-Canada is also providing an Open House grant) – \$3,500.

**CLMS Board of Directors for 2007**



(Back, l-r): William Andrew, Terry Goerz, Dr. Norman Threinen, David Schick, Rev. Konstantin Hahn; (front): Anne Taylor, Rev. Irwin Pudrycki, Jodie Haberstock, Lauren Bugbee.

*Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS)*

An Auxiliary of Lutheran Church-Canada

**Thank you to those who serve as God's instruments**

“Great is Thy faithfulness... Morning by morning new mercies I see” we sing in the old Gospel hymn. How fitting are those words when we think of God's blessings upon the work of CLMS! Fresh from His abundant goodness last year, we once again look forward to new opportunities and new challenges. At the same time, we are confident that God will continue to provide new partners in carrying out the Lord's mission. Elsewhere in this *Mission Advocate* you can read about how generously God has blessed us this past year, and what our hopes are for the future. But the mission society can accomplish nothing



*Construction of Seminary and Mission Centre in Ukraine – Current project supported since 2003*

of itself. It is only an instrument God uses to receive the generous contributions of ordinary men, women and children from across Lutheran Church-Canada and apply them to the expansion of His kingdom.

As you look at the list of projects adopted for 2007, we hope you will be moved to lend your support once again. For our part, we are honoured that you trust us with your gifts. We promise to be good stewards of those gifts, and to use them to further our Lord's mission mandate.

Thank you, and God continue to bless you!

*Ed Lehman*

**Response Form**

Thanks to the generous support of CLMS members, all fourteen adopted 2006 mission projects were fully funded.

We invite you to prayerfully consider your support for one of the following CLMS projects for 2007. Please indicate how we may direct your donation by returning this form along with your cheque made out to Concordia Lutheran Mission Society and forwarded to

**William Andrew, 180 South Alder Street, Campbell River, BC V9W 5H8**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 701 Seminary and Mission Centre, Ukraine (\$12,000)     | <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Mission Station in Costa Rica (\$4,000)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 702 Vacation Bible School, Nicaragua (\$3,000)          | <input type="checkbox"/> 711 Dormitory for Mission Centre, Nicaragua (\$12,000) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 703 Heating System for a Church in Ukraine (\$8,500)    | <input type="checkbox"/> 712 Mission Station in Granada, Nicaragua (\$6,000)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 704a Friends Club Centre, Ukraine (\$3,750)             | <input type="checkbox"/> 713 Church Building Rental, Thailand (\$2,500)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 704b Friends Club Camp, Ukraine (\$1,250)               | <input type="checkbox"/> 714 Mission Vehicle, Mozambique (\$5,000)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 705 Withdrawn by Project Manager                        | <input type="checkbox"/> 715 Van for Mission Outreach, Ukraine (\$5,000)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 706 Children's Christian Education, Nicaragua (\$5,400) | <input type="checkbox"/> 716 Crew Ministries Bus Passes (\$6,400)               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 707 Support for Deaconesses, Nicaragua (\$4,800)        | <input type="checkbox"/> 717 DVDs for Lutheran Open House (\$3,500)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 708 Pastoral Education, Cambodia (\$10,000)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Where needed   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 709 New Mission, Thailand (\$5,000)                     |   |

Mr., Mrs., Ms., Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ First name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Home Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Recent legislation requires your authorization to collect this information. CLMS has a privacy policy in place to protect your personal information. Please sign below authorizing us to use this information in accordance with our privacy policy.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**CLMS SUNDAY**

**May 27, 2007**

Watch for further information and resources on our website.  
<http://www.concordiamissions.org/>

*Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS), an auxiliary of Lutheran Church Canada, serves the church by promoting and supporting our church's missions and keeping the members of our synod informed of mission work carried out both on a corporate and individual basis.*