

## Our Missionary in Ukraine

**M**y name is Aleksey Navrotskiy. I was born in Mikolaiv, a shipbuilding city in the south of Ukraine with a population of 500,000. At the age of 12-13 my mother took me to the Lutheran Church, as my grandmother is Lutheran from early childhood. In church, I understood how the Gospel is important for me. I was confirmed at the age of 14 and became a member of the Lutheran Church because of the conviction that the confession of this denomination was faithful to God's Word.

After graduating from school, I finished the sea college and entered the National Technical University of shipbuilding. At this time, I started going to the Lutheran Church. After finishing the first year of studying, I left the university and entered Concordia Seminary, which was opened in Odessa under the leadership of the mission board of Lutheran Church-Canada. I left university because I felt the call to the ministry of preaching.

Following the first year at the seminary, I was invited to serve in a small village not far from Odessa as a youth leader and mission worker. In this village a Lutheran congregation was started. After finishing the



*Navrotskiy family*

seminary, and following a year of vicarage, I was ordained into the pastoral ministry. I was 23 years old. I was not married. In this congregation I met a young lady—Victoria—who became my wife a year later. We have a wonderful son, who is three years old. His name is Nikita.

After serving as a pastor in this village for two years, I

accepted a call from Lutheran Church-Canada for the ministry in Dnepropetrovsk. (Ed. This is where LCC missionary, Rev. Roland Syens, had previously served for thirteen years.) In August 2005, our family moved to the new place of ministry. In Dnepropetrovsk we work with the Student Youth Center "Alpha and Omega", which unites nearly 300 students from different educational institutions.

My ministry in Dnepropetrovsk involves preaching to students, leading discussion groups in the Student Centre, working with orphans, leading the Ukrainian-Canadian summer Bible camps for children, (Ed. LCC Young Adult Short Term Ministry teams), Bible study in one of the village schools, and Bible groups for adults and youth.

During the past two years, a new Lutheran congregation was organized. Its Sunday services are usually attended by 15-20 people. Ten of these people take part in the Lord's Supper. We are planning for a new group of seven to ten people to be confirmed this autumn.

*Rev. Alexey Navrotskiy  
Lutheran Church-Canada  
missionary*

## *Special 10th Anniversary Edition.*

The purpose for which Concordia Lutheran Mission Society was organized was to "undertake, promote support and encourage Christian mission activity and provide mission and stewardship education opportunities for the members of Lutheran Church Canada." In this special 10th Anniversary edition of the Mission Advocate, CLMS is pleased to feature the missionaries working on behalf of Lutheran Church-Canada outside of Canada, namely, in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Honduras, Thailand and Ukraine. While only those missionaries directly called by Lutheran Church-Canada are featured in this edition, there are many other missionaries, both clergy and deacons, working in these mission fields who also need financial support to carry out their ministries. CLMS is one way in which you may channel your support to them. See the different ways in which you can become a personal mission supporter through CLMS in the articles featured in this issue.

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visit our web site at <http://www.concordiamissions.org/>

## Still on the Mission Field

During the summers of 2002 and 2003, God gave me the opportunity to travel to Ukraine as part of LCC's Ukraine Summer Mission Team. Both these summers were spent travelling to cities and villages where LCC and CLMS support local Lutheran churches. We spent a week in each place organizing vacation Bible school, holding a youth night for the church's older children, developing friendships and acting as mentors.

Many children who attended the VBS had never heard about Jesus and His great gift of salvation. Some parents, not always aware their kids had wandered into our VBS, often showed resistance when they realized what their children were attending.

But seeing the joy on these kids' faces as they received our love and attention, that was sometimes lacking at home, was very moving. More powerful than our connection with these



*Lauren Bugbee and friend.*

children was watching as they began to understand the even greater love the Father has for them, always reminding them that His love remains even after our team leaves.

After returning from Ukraine in 2003 I began attending college to obtain my

Ontario Funeral Director's License. Now I can daily help and minister to people in a different way. My summers are no longer free, but I am thankful I heard God's call and followed Him to Ukraine when He opened the door.

Eventually the question

came, "How can I still serve the people in Ukraine with my time?" God answered my question and I was elected to serve on the CLMS Board of Directors. CLMS supports the churches and programs in many of the same places I visited in Ukraine. If you are a young

person who has served in either Ukraine or Nicaragua, there are many ways to continue serving through CLMS. We covet greatly your prayers for our projects. Financial support, no matter how small, can do great things. And while being young and sitting on a board may seem intimidating at first, the Lord will sustain you, just as He did during your time abroad.

*Lauren Bugbee  
Secretary and  
Assistant Director of  
Development*

## Nominations Wanted

Each year, CLMS members elect three of the nine-member volunteer Board of Directors of the Concordia Lutheran Mission Society. All the society's work is accomplished by its nine directors and a small group of volunteers assisting them. Offices include president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary. Portfolios include director or assistant director of the various departments. The board elects officers and makes appointments to portfolios. Elections occur in late fall so that officers can be ready for the annual meeting held in early February.

The ability to use e-mail and standard office computer programs is very helpful for all positions on the board since most of the board's business between annual meetings is done via e-mail. Strong communication skills are also an important quality in doing the work of the society. If you know of someone who could serve on the board, please forward their names, the congregation they attend, e-mail, address and telephone number to: [ihpudrycki@sasktel.net](mailto:ihpudrycki@sasktel.net).

*Irwin Pudrycki, chairman,  
CLMS nomination committee*

## Nicaragua Mission Building Opportunity

CLMS is planning a mission building project and tour of mission projects in Nicaragua as a part of our 10th anniversary celebrations. Dates are tentatively planned for leaving about Nov. 16, and returning about Dec 3. The project would be assisting a contractor constructing a dormitory at the Mission Centre in Chinandega. The dormitory will be used by seminary students or visiting professors.

While in Nicaragua the group would tour some of the projects CLMS has funded over the years and attend Sunday services at local congregations. One or two visits to the ocean could also occur.

Volunteers need a passport and would cover their own travel and meal costs. Work tools are

provided. About eight volunteers are needed. No experience necessary. Gender is not an issue. Teens are welcome. For an information package on this

short-term mission e-mail Jody Haberstock at: [quitsawingthetable@hotmail.com](mailto:quitsawingthetable@hotmail.com) or phone her at 250-549-4406.



*One of the dormitories in Nicaragua.*

## The challenge! The joy!



Bill Andrews

As the newest member of the Board of Directors of Concordia Lutheran Mission

Society I have been undergoing a steep learning curve since joining the board in February 2007.

I am a Chartered Accountant and, after a 40-year career, I had decided to retire in 2007. Looking toward retirement I started

thinking about where I could use my talents and experience volunteering in my community. Many non-profit organizations approached me looking for a volunteer treasurer or accountant. They were all very worthy and needed help, but accepting an executive position didn't appeal to me.

Like many of you I had read the occasional item about Concordia Lutheran Mission Society and I had a vague idea about what it was doing but I had no real knowledge about it. Going back to my early days in Sunday school I have always admired missionaries and frequently wondered, what could I do to help the Lord's work?

In the April 2006 edition of *The Canadian Lutheran*, the Concordia Mission Advocate supplement included a small item that caught my eye. The society was looking for someone with accounting experience to join the board to serve as treasurer. I believe our Lord directed me to read that item and I realized that the reason other organizations didn't appeal—the Lord had plans for me.

Although I felt CLMS would be right for me, before I put my name forward I researched the Society's website ([www.concordiamissions.org](http://www.concordiamissions.org)) and Canada Revenue Agency ([www.cra.gc.ca/charities](http://www.cra.gc.ca/charities)). The more I learned about CLMS, the more impressed I became with their work and the more convinced I became that God was calling me to add my talents and experience to the board.

Concordia Lutheran Mission Society is run entirely by volunteers. The directors

receive no remuneration and do not use any paid fund raisers. Each year CLMS increases its goals and for 2007 the goal is to raise almost \$100,000 to support projects in Ukraine, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Cambodia, Thailand, Mozambique and Canada. By the end of June, we had received donations totalling \$47,000. Four of the 2007 projects have been fully funded (see page 40, items 705, 710, 713, 714)

Although CLMS provides donors the option of directing their donation to specific projects, almost half the donations are marked "where needed." The board appreciates the confidence shown by those donors in giving us the ability to ensure all projects receive a share of available funding.

CLMS also receives donations to support other mission work. These "donor initiated" projects are in addition to specified projects. In 2006, CLMS received and disbursed more than \$63,000 in donor initiated funds. By the end of June we had received more than \$40,000 in donor initiated funds for 2007.

All members of Lutheran Church—Canada congregations can join Concordia Lutheran Mission Society in supporting LCC's worldwide missions by your prayers; by becoming a "hands-on" mission volunteer and going into "the field" for a short time; by putting your name forward for nomination to the CLMS Board of Directors; or by giving your financial support. (A response form is on page 40.)

CLMS appreciates greatly your continued support of our church's mission efforts.

*William (Bill) Andrew, treasurer*

## PRESIDENT

Mission-minded people have hearts longing for the Gospel to reach all those who are unsaved. We seek to accomplish that through vehicles like our home congregation, Synod, and organizations such as CLMS, LLL Canada, LWML—Canada, LAMP, LBTC and the like. The Great Commission is at the heart of these organizations. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19).

Our Lord, speaking through the apostle Peter, also encourages us to be mission-minded on a personal level. "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15).

In today's society Satan has erected a number of roadblocks to make this more difficult. One of these roadblocks is our fear of not knowing what to say, or of saying something wrong. Peter's encouragement says that we should be prepared. Being prepared includes taking the time to learn how to share your faith. What you say does not have to be perfect. God will quicken what you say.

Another roadblock is the unwritten ban on speaking in public about anything to do with your Christian faith. It is too controversial, it is not politically correct, your faith is a personal matter, and so on. Also the zealous

outreach tactics of the cults have turned people off. In dealing with this on a personal level we need to keep in mind where this roadblock is originating. From our catechism we learn that the world and its values are controlled by Satan, and the world is an enemy of the church. Are we to listen to the world, or to the direct commission and encouragement of our Lord? We understand that we do not need to mimic the door-knocking tactics of the cults. Peter said to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks. My personal experience is if you are willing to witness, the Lord will send people to you who ask.

What if you share your faith and get a negative or no response? Our society is fixated on success. Whether in school, on the job, or in sports, success is expected and failure is feared. This can create a mental roadblock that prevents some from sharing their faith. We need to remind ourselves that the success of sharing our faith is wholly accomplished by God. Jesus said in John 6, "no one can come to me unless the Father draws him" and later says "no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him." Conversion is wholly a work of God. We share our faith—the result is in God's hands. When we share our faith we are totally successful.

As a fellow mission-minded Lutheran, I join with Peter in encouraging you to "be prepared."

*Blessings, Terry Goerz*

*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.*

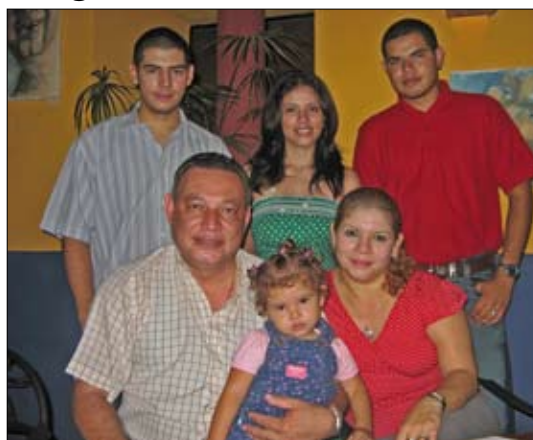
## LCC Mission in Nicaragua and Central America

In July 1997, Lutheran Church–Canada accepted the invitation from a group of people to send a missionary to proclaim the Gospel in Nicaragua. Rev. Sandor Arguello (a graduate from CLTS, St. Catharines) his wife Digna and three children (Rosschell, Sandor Israel and Ariel Antonio) moved to Chinandega, Nicaragua after living 12 years in Canada. Since then, our gracious God has blessed this LCC mission with much fruit. He also has blessed the missionary’s family with another beautiful baby girl named Arrianna Esther who was born on Dec. 22nd. 2006.

Thanks to the work of the Holy Spirit there are twenty-three established Lutheran congregations in four major provinces. Fifteen pastors serving full-time in those congregations. Three missionary pastors and three deaconesses

serving in three different provinces in Nicaragua (Leon, Granada and Matagalpa). Three pastors and four deaconesses from Nicaragua serving abroad (Costa Rica, Honduras and Panama); thirty-two deaconesses serving the church as Christian educators to more than seven hundred and fifty children. More than fifteen thousand people have been blessed by listening to the proclamation of the Gospel through evangelism and mission campaigns. Over three thousand baptized members are worshipping in our new Lutheran Church–Nicaraguan Synod every weekend.

Our Lord gave us the chance to build the LCC mission headquarters in Chinandega



*Pastor Sandor and family*

where there are facilities like offices, dormitories, classrooms and a beautiful chapel named Martin Luther. From this place the mission serves the purpose of the

Gospel in Nicaragua and the rest of the Central American area.

Next year, January 11-13, 2008, the new Lutheran Church–Nicaraguan Synod will have its founding convention where more than 120 voting members will gather to elect their first church leaders.

We are so thankful to our Lord for the many blessings He has bestowed upon this

His LCC mission in Nicaragua and Central America. We thank CLMS for the great support our LCC mission and missionaries receive.

### LCC Mission in León, Nicaragua

Rev. Máximo Román Urroz was called by LCC through the Christian Mission in Nicaragua to serve as a missionary among the people of the province of León. On August 2005 he moved with his wife Yeril Mejía and a daughter named Máxyeril. His wife Yeril is also a consecrated deaconess serving the church as a Christian educator. Since they moved to León, both are

serving four different mission stations at different towns and rural communities. There are over 350 new believers worshipping every week in four different congregations.

The mission in León is lacking an office to use as headquarters. There is also a lack of printed material to use for outreach and Bible classes.

### LCC Mission in Honduras

Rev. Douglas Aguilar, an ordained pastor from Chinandega, Nicaragua was called to serve as a missionary to the people in Honduras on June 14, 2005. The mission started in a rural community on the Atlantic coast called Olanchito, Yoro.



*Rev. Douglas Aguilar*

The Lord used Paul Loeff, a Canadian doctor who came to Honduras with a medical team to assist the people after Hurricane Mitch in 1998, as the pioneer of this new mission. Dr. Loeff and his wife met with several people to teach Bible classes and do some devotions. After a while the group showed much interest in forming a congregation and extended an invitation to LCC to assist them.

Over these past two years of mission work Douglas has had the joy of seeing the establishment of the first congregation where over

65 people worship God every week. He also has the chance to proclaim the Gospel in some public schools where he has been invited to serve the youth. At this moment he is teaching catechism to nine children who would be the first

Lutherans confirmed in the congregation. On December 17, 2006 missionary Douglas baptized eight children from the same community and congregation.

The major challenges are: people are very much involved in witchcraft and other occult sciences; the lack of assistance from other church workers; the lack of financial support and biblical materials for Bible studies.

He has been requesting us to support his ministry with printed material like Bibles, booklets or any other material to use for outreach and Bible classes.

Pastor Douglas is single.



*Rev. Maximo Roman Urroz and family*

**LCC Mission in Costa Rica**

After receiving an invitation from a group of people living in Heredia, Costa Rica, Lutheran Church—Canada, through the Christian Mission in Nicaragua, called Rev. Pedro Adolfo Quintero to serve as missionary-at-large. He moved from Nicaragua to Costa Rica with his wife Fátima and his daughter Becky Siclanis on March 17, 2006. Six months after their arrival a baby boy was born to them. His name is Isidro José.

Pedro was blessed to begin his mission assignment with the assistance of three deaconesses who had moved to Costa Rica previously

to work in different areas. Among them was Pedro's sister (Antonia) who has been a great support to the mission. The other deaconesses are: Zulema Torres, Mercedes Espinoza and Lizaibeth Martinez.

Thanks to the Lord and the great support we received from CLMS there are many responses to the proclamation of the Gospel. There are now 87 new believers who are involved in Bible classes, devotions and



*Rev. Pedro Adolfo Quintero and his family*

many other activities the mission does to reach more souls for God's kingdom. Most of these

people have expressed already their desire to worship our Lord Jesus Christ, gathering as a congregation.

According to missionary Quintero one of the major challenges this mission has is the lack of a building to serve as the headquarters. They have been meeting in different homes to plan their mission tasks, outreach and do their devotions and Bible classes.

Pedro and the deaconesses have done over 600 personal visits especially to those who have shown interest in this new church

**LCC Mission in Granada, Nicaragua**

Rev. Rufino Quintero Lainez was called to serve as a missionary to the people in Granada, Nicaragua on July 1, 2005. He moved with his wife Mariana Castillo and four children: Marco Antonio, Yolanis, Jaryeris, and Jarsley. Last month, Jaryeris (18) got married to a boy from the same town in Granada. This was the first wedding celebrated in this new mission and church.

Mariana is also a consecrated deaconess serving the Lutheran Church as a teacher to 45 children.

There are three different congregations formed by Pastor Rufino and his deaconess wife. Since their arrival in this town they have had some challenges and inconveniences due to the presence of a very strong conservative Catholic church. For the first months of mission this couple received many rejections because of the negative propaganda against Luther and his reformation which the Catholic Church has done for many years. Thanks be to God, they never gave up and continue proclaiming

God's Word to many people. Some approached them by curiosity with many questions. Now there are over 200 people getting together to worship God in those three different congregations.

This mission is also lacking a place to use as office. Rev. Quintero thinks the mission urgently needs to rent a house to be used as the headquarters for the mission.

**LCC Mission in Matagalpa, Nicaragua**

Rev. Hector Morales was called by LCC to serve as a missionary to the Province of Matagalpa, (some 135 km north from the capital city of



*Rev. Hector Morales and his wife*

Managua). Hector moved with his deaconess wife, Cristina López, and their two daughters, Blanca Solieth and Juana Yomara. In June 7, 2002 they arrived to meet with those who were eager to listen to God's Word. Thanks to God and the blessed support of CLMS, Hector and Cristina had the chance to proclaim and teach the Gospel to more than 800 people

through different evangelism campaigns and mission activities. Now Hector is preaching in two new congregations formed in Matagalpa and Jinotega where there are over 200 worshippers.

Hector considers that one of the major challenges of the mission is the lack of another full-time church worker to assist him in his ministry.



*Rev. Rufino Quintero Lainez and family*

# Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (CLMS)

An Auxiliary of Lutheran Church-Canada

## Celebrate — 10 years of supporting missions

New organizations demand time, energy, thought and much prayer. Ten years ago Concordia Lutheran Mission Society came into being “to undertake, promote, support and encourage Christian mission activity and provide mission and stewardship educational opportunities for members of congregations of Lutheran Church-Canada.”

The first four mission projects chosen in 1997 complimented and reflected LCC’s established work in Ukraine and in Thailand. By the grace of God we reached our mission goal of \$9,700.

Through the generosity of CLMS supporters over these ten years, workers on the mission field have been able to purchase property, motorcycles, vans; rent suitable places for worship;

assist in building schools, churches and dormitories; and cover transportation costs for deaconesses in Nicaragua. Their gifts have provided local translations of Bibles and other books for India, French-language countries, Nicaragua and Bolivia. The Society has provided transportation costs to send LCC pastors and teachers to various countries requesting theological training for their church workers. Opportunities have been provided for children to attend school and vacation Bible schools. Generous gifts have supported healthcare



projects in Africa and Brazil; helped fund publicity campaigns for our LCC mission in Nova Scotia and covered transportation costs to allow CREW teams to minister to LCC congregations across Canada.

Throughout the years, our goal has increased. Each year

as CLMS chooses projects and distributes money we are excited, humbled and thankful for God’s blessings. Within the past few years, opportunities for work parties to travel to Ukraine and to Nicaragua have been proposed and eager and willing workers have answered the call.

New ventures; new projects; new challenges are ever before us as we go forward with the mission of Jesus Christ. With dollars, cents and our prayers we are in the mission field. We have much to celebrate! What a joy! What a privilege to be “partners in mission”!

*Anne Taylor, Assistant Director of Mission Education  
(Ed. Anne is one of the founding directors of CLMS)*

### Response Form

We invite you to prayerfully consider your support for one of the following CLMS projects for 2007. Kindly indicate how we may direct your donation by checking off your selected mission project and 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 Dormitory for Mission Centre, Nicaragua (\$12,000)<br>Fully subscribed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 702 Vacation Bible School, Nicaragua (\$3,000)                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 711 Mission Station in Granada, Nicaragua (\$6,000)                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 703 Heating System for a Church in Ukraine (\$8,500)                           | <input type="checkbox"/> 712 Church Building Rental, Thailand (\$2,500)                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 704a Friends Club Centre, Ukraine (\$3,750)                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> ** 713 Mission Vehicle, Mozambique (\$5,000) Fully subscribed                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 704b Friends Club Camp, Ukraine (\$1,250)                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> ** 714 Van for Mission Outreach, Ukraine (\$5,000) Fully subscribed           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ** 705 Children’s Christian Education, Nicaragua (\$5,400)<br>Fully subscribed | <input type="checkbox"/> 715 Crew Ministries Bus Passes (\$6,400)                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 706 Support for Deaconesses, Nicaragua (\$4,800)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> 716 DVDs for Lutheran Open House (\$3,500)                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 707 Pastoral Education, Cambodia (\$10,000)                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Operating Expenses  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 708 New Mission, Thailand (\$5,000)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Where needed  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 709 Mission Station in Costa Rica (\$4,000)                                    |  |

Please provide the following information so that a charitable receipt might be forwarded to you and to keep you informed on current mission projects via our semi annual mailings. If you fill in the form as “Mr. & Mrs.” you will receive two ballots for mail-in elections. In this case both your first names are helpful.

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

The following information is optional. The e-mail address can be very helpful in sharing mission news with you.

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

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Home Congregation \_\_\_\_\_