



## Concordia Lutheran Mission Society

An auxiliary organization of Lutheran Church – Canada

website: [www.concordiamissions.org](http://www.concordiamissions.org)

email: [partners@concordiamissions.org](mailto:partners@concordiamissions.org)

November 27, 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we draw near to the end of 2024 we are so very grateful for both the financial and prayer support CLMS has received for our various mission projects around the world! As we see familiar names on donations we are reminded of the faithfulness of God's people. We are humbled to partner with you. Through the work of CLMS we are all "missionaries" as we enable our fellow church workers to minister in their own communities. Thank you!

*"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland...to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I have formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise."*

*Isaiah 43:19-21*

We are trusting the Lord to do a new thing, not only in the midst of the postal strike but in all hearts, in all cultures and all nations. He desires to provide what is needed for His people. As the Gospel continues to be shared through our mission projects more people are proclaiming His praise. Due to the postal strike we are forwarding our mission update letter only through email and on our website. We are in the process of setting up e-transfers to receive donations, however this will take a bit more time to be available. In the meantime, donations to CLMS may be made through Canada Helps. Details are provided on our website noted above. Currently we have received just over 60% of our 2024 goal of \$218,700.00. We pray this disruption will be ended soon as December is usually our busiest time for donations.



Marilyn Witte following the Power Point

## Thailand Mission Update

In October the Thailand Lutheran Church celebrated their 20th year. To commemorate this occasion they hosted Lutheran pastors and church workers from South East Asian countries - Cambodia, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Myanmar and others - for a week long celebration. Lutheran Church-Canada was also invited, as was CLMS. We were fortunate to have two board members, Marilyn Witte and Anita Dagge, who included this destination into their trip to visit another overseas country. They presented our Power Point and shared about the work CLMS has done.



## Report from Anita Dagge CLMS Financial Secretary

I was very privileged to attend the 20th anniversary of the Lutheran Church in Thailand. It was a humbling and faith strengthening experience.

The keynote message of the conference was, **“We are saved only by God’s grace.”** A number of the pastors and church workers I met are first generation Christians, coming out of a Buddhist or Muslim background. It was clearly evident to see God’s grace at work in the lives of these new Christians. Their request of CLMS was to keep funding Theological Education so that they can more effectively bring the Lord’s message of salvation to many in SE Asia. Please know that your generous donations do indeed make a difference in the lives of others.



Marilyn, Anita, Esther & Rev.  
Temsakun and Rev. Mark Smith LCC



In this photo of a Thai pastor and his family we see the respect the Thai culture has, to remove outdoor shoes and to enter the church humbly in bare or sock feet.

In summation of this special occasion, Marilyn commented that in attending the anniversary she could see it as a reflection of how heaven will look, a great reunion of the saints with so very many darker faces and not so many white. This is opposite to how we often view God’s kingdom here in Canada.

May the Lord continue to bless the church in Thailand and all our SE Asian brothers and sisters!

# Ukraine Mission Update

## Prison Ministries

Rev. Sasha Yurchenko has been reelected as Bishop of SELCU, willing to serve even though battling lung cancer. He continues to bring God's Word to the prisoners as well as healthy food, medicine, toiletries and warm clothing.



## Ministry in Nikolaev, Ukraine

Rev. Oleksei Navrotskyy is very thankful that despite the effects of the war, his Church Services, Confirmation Classes and Bible Studies are well attended. Many previously unchurched people are coming out to hear the Good News and find hope in this terrible time for Ukraine.



## Ministries in Zoria and Bashtanka Regions



Pastor Navrotsky delivers drinking water



The Gospel message continues to be shared in these regions through the faithful work of Pastor Sergey Bevz and others. As well as church services and Bible studies, humanitarian aid is distributed. Please keep our ten Ukrainian pastors and their congregations in your prayers.



## Nicaragua Mission Update

The Pastors and Deaconesses continue to serve in their communities, presenting God's Word. Although the present government is keeping a watchful eye on churches, there has been no interference other than demanding paperwork be supplied. Our church workers are very conscious that at any moment the government could demand our churches shut down, as has happened with other denominations in Nicaragua.



Christian Education at the Somotillo church



Music Program, children preparing for hymn singing



Pastor Geronimo and Pastor Angel lead singing at Monte Olivo church



Deaconesses at Continuing Education seminar at the Mission Centre, Chinandega

A note of thanks from Nicaragua – nearly all of the \$24,000 has been received for the “new” vehicle for the Mission Centre. Due to the watchfulness of the government, it was decided to wait before purchasing a vehicle as they do not want to focus attention on the ILSN as having large amounts of money for this purchase. Our church workers there are very thankful for the money being provided and look forward to replacing their old truck soon.

## Costa Rica Mission Update



Rev. Edmundo Retana is looking forward to holding services in their new church building. Property has been purchased and preparations are under way. Previously the church in Cartago has had to move several times as they had used rental properties.

Soon Advent will begin. And then comes the joyous celebrations of Jesus' birth!

*“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland...to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I have formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.”*

*Isaiah 43:19-21*

These are difficult times, for our overseas brothers and sisters, and for our church in Canada. As we step out in faith endeavouring to keep our projects going forward, we are trusting the Lord to make a way in the desert and provide streams in the wasteland. We thank you all for partnering with us and for your generous donations throughout the year!

May the Lord bless you and keep you today and throughout the Christmas season,

In Christ,  
Pastor Mark Lobitz  
President, CLMS

Any monies received for 2024 projects that have been fully funded will go to similar projects that still need funds. Tax receipts will be mailed early in 2025. By including CLMS in your will you can be a blessing to these missions in the years to come.

**If you would like to donate today there are easy online payment options found on our website:**

**[www.concordiamissions.org](http://www.concordiamissions.org)**

Or, if the postal strike ends you can mail your donation to:

**Concordia Lutheran Mission Society  
PO Box 455  
Water Valley, AB, T0M 2E0**

## **Our Vision**

Empowered by God’s own mission to save the world, the mission of Concordia Lutheran Mission Society, is to enlist the prayers, gifts, and energies of God’s people in Lutheran Church-Canada to share the gospel of Jesus Christ wherever God provides opportunity.