

**Grant Report for:
The Lutheran Women's Missionary League**

**Deaconess Training
Grant Award: \$90,000
Reporting Period: November, 2016 through April, 2017**

The purpose of this grant was to provide training support for Deaconess students in both Office of National Mission field (\$40,000) as well as Office of International Mission field (\$50,000).

The Deaconess "as a servant of God" shares the good news with those whom God brings. She teaches children in Sunday School, adult bible study, witness within the community, the poor, the needy and underprivileged.

For domestic purposes, grant funding provided educational and financial support for students at our Lutheran Seminaries and institutions.

- For the Fiscal year 2016-2017, a Deaconess Internship was awarded to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Cincinnati for a St. Louis student. In this position, a Deaconess will serve the homeless and working poor, build relationships through trust, and provide spiritual care and provide works of mercy.
- Wollaston Lutheran Church in Quincy, MA also will be blessed with a Deaconess Intern (from Ft. Wayne) serving with priorities on Ethnic Chinese Evangelism, Nursery/Preschool Family Outreach and Children & Youth Ministry.
- Each of the 3 new freshmen deaconess students at CUC received a copy of Grace upon Grace authored by John Kleinig.

LCMS international partner churches also benefit from support for Deaconess students. Some of these countries have seminaries and others do not. However, Deaconess education is vital and there is a thirst for learning Lutheran theology.

- The Lutheran Seminary for the Lutheran Church of Philippines will have 3 freshman students who will receive a monthly stipend to cover expenses such as board, tuition, school supplies, and transportation during the academic year 2016-17. The ten advanced course deaconess students will each receive a transportation stipend.



- The Lutheran Seminary of LCP: The next advanced deaconess class is scheduled April 24-May 5, 2017. Rev. Dr. Detlev Schultz teaches on “Mission from the Cross,” to the deaconess and seminarian students. Deaconess Rao teaches on “World Religions,” for deaconess students only. The deaconess students continue to receive stipend for transportation, food, and office supplies.
- In April, the very first Deaconess program was introduced at the Lutheran church of Lithuania {ELCL}. Twenty participants received stipends for this introductory, intensive 4 day class.
- Plans are being developed to continue the class in October 2017 on Lutheran Lutheranism 101 for ELCL deaconess class.
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberia – President Amos, Rev. Arthur Zogar, and Rev. Simon Dapaye will teach three courses for the ten Liberian deaconess students. The class is scheduled April 1-13, 2017.
- Sixteen Nigerian Deaconess students received support for board, lodging, school supplies and textbooks last August.
- Plans are being developed to continue the studies. The next course is schedule in August 2017. Students will continue to receive the support.
- Encouraging and supporting Deaconess Eva Rickman, missionary in Hong Kong for women and children ministry. Plans are to initiate deaconess program.

In addition to the student scholarship support, theological textbooks were provided for a particular subject as per the curriculum. CTCR handouts were also provided as supplements for the particular topic/subject.

- Treasuries of Daily Prayer were sent to Latvian students as well as the Archbishop and several Bishops.
- Luther’s Small Catechism, Lutheran Study Bible, Law & Gospel and Women in the Church were sent to the deaconess students at LTS Seminary of the Lutheran Church of Southern Africa.
- Grace upon Grace was provided for the South African students. The deaconess and few seminarian students received books on “World Religions.” Also, the seminary received five books of Johann Gerhard Meditations as gifts for the students at the graduation ceremony.
- Philippine advanced students received Handling the Truth on Law and Gospel. For April 2017 class the deaconess and seminarian students will receive “Mission from the Cross,” and “World Religions.”
- The book of Concord was sent to both student bodies in the Philippines and South Africa.
- The Lutheran Church – Hong Kong Synod – Deaconess Rickman is working with the HKG synod for women and children’s ministry. For the library, and staff received five sets of theological resources consisting of:



the Lutheran Study Bible [hardback]; Law and Gospel; Lutheran Service Book [pew edition]; Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions Readers Edition; Luther's Small Catechism and Explanation-Readers Edition; Praying Luther's Small Catechism.

- Deaconess students in Nigeria [15] and Lithuania [15] will receive Lutheranism 101 both text and supplement Lutheranism 101 student hand books.
- Deaconess Caitlin Worden, missionary in Peru received 15 copies Spanish Luther's Catechism for her women and children's ministry.

Implementing the deaconess training programs enables the women to study, learn, understand in preparation for them to share and teach. It builds the Church's capacity as women leaders to serve women of the church. They understand God's Word and the roles that God designed.



Deaconess Ruehle and Mrs. Barbara Wismar leads the prayer time with one of the two Bible Story groups at the Wollaston Child Care Center.



Deaconess Ruehle leads children message during the Sunday worship service.

This report has been compiled by Mary Hamilton, LCMS Grants Manager with the above information provided by Deaconess Grace Rao, LCMS Director of Deaconess Ministry.

