



November 2013

MISSION GRANT STORY

TRAINING INDIGENOUS PASTORS AND DEACONESSES \$100,000

As Christians, our challenge is to reach out with the Gospel to those near us and around the world. In many countries, the most effective leaders and teachers are native to their culture. The ability to understand spoken and unspoken cultural guidelines gives these Christian leaders an advantage a “visitor” can never match. It is because of this strong cultural bond that Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, has trained more than 100 men from countries outside the United States. These graduate students are able to return to their countries where they serve as pastors, teachers, and leaders in their churches and communities.

In India, Indonesia, and Malaysia, successful deaconess programs teach God-pleasing ways for

women to serve God. African women have also benefitted from deaconess leaders. According to Deaconess Deborah Rockhor, Director, Deaconess Training Program, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Pretoria, South Africa, “It is the African way to expect that one who has received advanced training will then be expected to ‘share’ that within the church community.”

This grant provides scholarship support so that Christian leaders from around the world can obtain sound theological training at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. They will return to their countries as pastors or deaconesses ready to teach and lead people in their home countries so the Word of God is shared effectively.