



Introductions to the Savior

by Jennifer Bagnall, LHF Director of Public Relations, with Cheri Fish

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Rev. Ted NaThalang

In the highlands of Thailand, a mother tucks her child into bed and pulls out a Bible storybook to share a bedtime story with her daughter. On Nias Island, Indonesia, a pastor reads *Luther’s Small Catechism* for the first time in his ministry. And in Vietnam, a young boy slips *A Child’s Garden of Bible Stories* into his backpack so he can read about Jesus during break time at school.

All of these people — the mother, the daughter, the pastor, and the young boy — are learning about the Savior, Jesus Christ, in their own languages through the mission grant of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League.

In 2013, the LWML adopted “Telling the Next Generation,” a mission project of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) in Michigan. To date, the project has provided for the translation and publication of more than 20,000 good Lutheran books for families throughout Southeast Asia — a region where less than one percent of the people are Christian.

It’s difficult for Americans to comprehend what it’s like for Lutheran churches in less-affluent parts of the world where Christianity is considered a relatively new religion, reflects Rev. Ted NaThalang, LHF’s coordinator for projects in Southeast Asia.

“We take books like *Luther’s Small Catechism* for granted because we use them all the time,” he said, “but overseas, they have never seen a book like this before. For many of them, the Bible is a very

big book and isn’t always easy to understand. For a new believer, the catechism breaks the Bible down into small, more understandable pieces and clearly explains what Scripture means.”

A Child’s Garden of Bible Stories, a Bible story book of 60 Old Testament and New Testament lessons, is another book that Christians in Southeast Asia are gratefully embracing.

Although it’s a book intended for children, people of all ages are learning about their Creator through this colorfully illustrated book.

“For new Christians — or for that matter, all Christians — *A Child’s Garden* is a great overview of God’s love and grace for people everywhere,” said Rev. Kou Seyer, a missionary to Hmong immigrants in California. “It is a great resource to quickly find a Bible story to share with children and grandchildren, and the adults actually benefit the most. A good example: Recently a Hmong grandfather shared that one of his granddaughters asked about the story of Moses. He quickly turned to the children’s book, and it was much easier for him than to try to find it in the Bible with the long narratives of the Old Testament.

“The greatest compliment that we received for the Hmong is, ‘It is easy to understand,’” concluded Rev. Seyer. “This is a profound statement for new Christians. Without the help from LHF, it would be very difficult for us to produce and provide these resources.”

Continued on page 28

LWML Convention 2015–2017 Mission Grants Ballot

Please take a moment to read over the list of proposed Mission Grants that will be on the ballot at the LWML Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, June 25–28, 2015. For more details and videos, go to www.lwml.org.

1. Redeeming Life Maternity Home	\$100,000
2. Providing Hope for Detroit.....	\$100,000
3. Outreach in Refugee Camps – Lebanon	\$ 72,000
4. Scholarships for African Students.....	\$100,000
5. Healthy Families	\$ 60,000
6. Opportunities in Uganda.....	\$100,000
7. Hispanic Outreach Ministry	\$100,000
8. Bringing the Gospel to the Lost Sheep of Israel.....	\$100,000
9. Training Teachers and Leaders	\$100,000
10. Cancer Care Packages – Phil's Friends	\$ 50,000
11. "We Are God's Workmanship"	\$ 32,500
12. Outreach Mission Rio Grande Valley	\$100,000
13. Hope and Healing to the Navajo People	\$ 75,000
14. Clean Water and Evangelism Ministry	\$ 50,000
15. Growing the Gospel	\$ 21,250
16. "In Their Hands and Upon Their Hearts"	\$ 50,000
17. THE 72® – WITNESS	\$ 50,000
18. Helping Hands Initiative	\$100,000
19. "God's Love Bus".....	\$100,000
20. Compass International.....	\$ 84,000
21. "The Threefold Cord"	\$100,000
22. "Save Our Cities" Initiative.....	\$100,000
23. Deaconess Training	\$ 90,000
24. Disaster Response Trailers.....	\$ 80,000
25. School Development Project	\$ 62,400
26. Rosa Young Academies.....	\$ 25,000
27. RSO and Congregational Engagement	\$ 50,000
28. Lutheran Youth Corps	\$ 25,000
29. LCMS Global Seminary Initiative.....	\$100,000
30. Hanoi School Library Upgrade.....	\$ 97,000
31. Concordia Seminary Buenos Aires Dormitory.....	\$100,000
32. Outreach Centers – RGOH.....	\$100,000
33. Renovation of JEM Seminary Buildings.....	\$120,000

Praise God!

The 2013–2015 Biennium Mission Goal of \$1,830,000 has been met *and surpassed!*

Mission GRANTS

Mission Goal: \$1,830,000.00 | 2013–2015

Grants shown below as partially paid will be paid in full, as funds are requested.

- 1. Training K-9 Comfort Dogs for LCMS Chaplains.....\$30,000
- 2. Lutheran Children's Books for Southeast Asia\$72,000
- 3. Training Indigenous Pastors and Deaconesses – Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.....\$100,000
- 4. Rebuilding Nord Est Haiti Lutheran School.....\$100,000
- 5. Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Schools, Winnebago Tribe, Nebraska\$58,553
- 6. I CAN — Serving At-Risk Children with Learning Needs.....\$99,000
- 7. Bible Story Books in Sign Language and Written Text.....\$100,000
- 8. Native American Outreach Training Center – Fairbanks, Alaska\$95,000
- 9. Strengthening and Expanding Campus Ministry.....\$100,000
- 10. Worship for Shut-Ins.....\$80,000
- 11. Preparing Leaders for a Diverse World – Concordia College, Selma, Alabama\$50,000
- 12. Voice of Care Ministry to the Developmentally Challenged.....\$50,600
- 13. Christ-Centered Tutoring Through Rebecca's Garden of Hope (RGOH).....\$100,000
- 14. Student Scholarships for MOST Ministries Mission Trips.....\$20,000
- 15. Building Homes and Hope in Haiti.....\$100,000
- 16. Support for Lutheran Public Radio\$40,000
- 17. Christian Education Support for Children – India\$85,000
- 18. Mission Outreach at St. Paul Community Lutheran Church – Pontiac, Michigan\$65,559

KEY: ● – grant paid in full
○ – grant partially paid

Check the latest updates for mites received and grants funded at www.lwml.org.

Where will our mites go next?
If you can't make it to the convention,
watch it live at www.lwml.org!

