

2023–2025 MISSION GRANT NO. 8

## EXPANDING GOSPEL PROCLAMATION WORLDWIDE

CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI | \$100,000



### *Advanced Theological Education for International Students*

We rejoice knowing that in a number of countries, Christianity, including Lutheranism, is growing, and increased numbers of people are being reached with the Good News of Jesus Christ. However, ensuring the continued spread of the Gospel overseas with informed interpretation of Scripture according to Lutheran doctrine is highly dependent on addressing the significant shortage of well-formed pastors in several countries. Many nations have few seminary professors with advanced-level theological educations. The consequence is that these countries' Lutheran church bodies are unable to adequately train and produce well-formed pastors. They see Concordia Seminary as the gold standard. A seminary is where you send someone to prepare them to serve their church in a meaningful way. They know Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, has over 180 years of experience in quality theological education. They look at the history and see the results.

Concordia Seminary is committed to addressing this concern to further the Great Commission with its Graduate School's ongoing acceptance and preparation of highly qualified international students. Most of these students, after earning their advanced theological degrees, will become master and doctorate level professors at their countries' seminaries. They will assume key roles in raising up the next generation of pastors to proclaim the Gospel among their people. They also will serve as leaders involved in further organizing and growing their church bodies, helping ensure that those living in every region of their nations will hear and learn of the wonderful message of salvation through Christ.

The Graduate School provides high-level theological learning via an interactive seminar format that includes frequent discussion and exchange of information, concepts, and opinions. Foreign students have shared their education not just academically, but there is a deeper spiritual engagement in these courses as well. The Seminary faculty make themselves available outside the classroom. They engage the students by talking with them and learning from them. The foreign students attend chapel and participate in numerous seminary conferences.

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:19–20).*