



May 2016

MISSION GRANT STORY

GLOBAL SEMINARY INITIATIVE \$100,000

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God ... (Ephesians 4:11-13).

Theological education is the most frequent request from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) partner churches worldwide. The Global Seminary Initiative (GSI) provides scholarships for pastors, leaders, and students throughout the world for advanced degrees at LCMS seminaries. This in turn allows them to return to their home countries and bring more people to Christ as a result of their new leadership abilities. This grant is an opportunity for us, the women of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML), to bring others to Christ through these newly trained leaders.

The goal of this initiative is to encourage international students to apply to our graduate and post-graduate seminary programs. These students then return home to their churches and communities around the globe

with the best training available. This grant will bring 100 students selected by partner church leaders to train and study at one of our seminaries. The leaders choose talented students who they think can impact the future growth of their churches.

The initiative works in three ways: 1) it takes the best candidates globally and brings them to study at the graduate level, equipping them to provide advanced theological leadership in their communities; 2) it also gives assistance to local regional seminaries for scholarships and aid; 3) it supplies continuing education through conferences, classes, and visits by qualified LCMS pastors and teachers.

The world has changed from the days when we sent missionaries to places where no one had heard the Gospel story. Many have heard the Gospel but desire to grow in their knowledge of Scripture and its teachings. We have partner churches that knowingly trust the LCMS to provide the best theological education available. This initiative will spread the Gospel through the teachings of these newly educated shepherds.