



The Global Seminary Initiative

How are they to hear without someone preaching?

by Rev. Albert B. Collver, Ph.D., with Cheri Fish, Mission Editor

"We turn down students because we do not have professors or even class rooms where we can train future pastors," said Professor Charles from Nigeria. Right now parts of Africa are experiencing rapid growth. Sometimes hundreds or even a thousand people are baptized in a day.

The Lutheran church in Ethiopia has increased its membership by 8 percent in the past year. This has caused the church in Ethiopia to set the goal of training 10,000 pastors over a five-year period. Parts of Tanzania also are seeking to train pastors as quickly as possible. The rapid growth in parts of Africa has caused church bodies who are working with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to ask, "*How are they to hear without someone preaching?*" (Romans 10:14).

The rapid growth of the church in some parts of the world highlights especially well the need to have trained preachers so that people can hear the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. Yet even in parts of the world where the growth of the church is much smaller, people still need preachers so they can hear the Gospel. What many of the church bodies who work with the Missouri Synod need are not only someone to come to

train pastors, but also someone to prepare the future teachers and church leaders so they, in turn, can train the pastors they need in their own country.

"As the LCMS, we are even teaching men to be pastors and future leaders in countries we can't mention publicly, places where a self-sustaining Lutheran church does not exist, let alone an established partner church," said Mark Hofman, executive director of LCMS Mission Advancement.

Working with church leaders from around the world, the Global Seminary Initiative carries out four primary tasks. First, the Global Seminary Initiative awards scholarships to men who attend either Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, or Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, to receive an advanced education that they can take back to their own country and use to train future pastors. Second, the Global Seminary Initiative provides scholarships to local, regional seminaries where men can receive a quality seminary education for much less cost than they can in the United States. Third, the Global Seminary Initiative sends qualified pastors and professors from the United States to teach in overseas

seminaries, short term. Last, the Global Seminary Initiative holds continuing education seminars for pastors and church leaders within their home country to provide additional training.

The single, largest request to the Missouri Synod from other Lutheran churches around the world is for theological education. Our church is known for quality, biblically based teaching that is firmly rooted in the truths of the Lutheran Reformation. It is one of the treasures that the Lord has blessed us with to share with the world.

The Global Seminary Initiative has been blessed to engage with the LWML to receive the grant to help in funding the seminary education. Through the mission mindedness of these women, they continue to encourage and help to equip pastors and church leaders in the Missouri Synod and other Lutheran church bodies throughout the world. We as a church body truly enjoy the partnership we share with the LWML.

We invite you to join us in this noble task of helping other Lutheran church bodies around the world answer the call, “How are they to hear without preachers?” **Q**



Current Mission Grants Highlighted in This Issue

In Their Hands and Upon Their Hearts — \$50,000

Through Lutheran Bible Translators, this grant provides more accelerated accessibility and distribution of the Scriptures in native languages. The grant helps with the completion of projects ongoing or those recently completed. Recipients of these precious Scriptures are in Ethiopia, Botswana, and Namibia.

Training Teachers and Leaders — \$100,000

More than ever, the global Lutheran churches with which the LCMS works are seeking ever-advanced theological study, in a confessional Lutheran context, for those who will teach and lead them in the years to come. At the same time, very few of these church bodies are able to support the cost of sending to the LCMS the best men and women that they have for graduate students. This LWML grant provides support to ensure that each of its admitted students will be able to achieve the goal of acquiring an advanced theological degree.

Deaconess Training — \$90,000

The purpose of this grant is to provide educational and financial support to our Lutheran seminaries and institutions as well as international training for women in the Deaconess training program. Through this grant, the LWML assists in: purchasing text books and other resources for international students; funding deaconess internships; providing deaconess scholarships, student aid, and tuition support; and facilitating deaconess students and professors to engage in short-term mercy mission trips to disaster-hit areas within our country, rendering spiritual and emotional care to the women and children.

Mission GRANTS

Mission Goal: \$2,000,000 | 2015–2017

● 1. Clean Water and Evangelism Ministry	\$50,000
2. Disaster Response Trailers	\$80,000
3. Cancer Care Packages — Phil’s Friends.....	\$50,000
4. Renovation of JEM Seminary Buildings.....	\$120,000
5. Redeeming Life Maternity Home.....	\$100,000
6. Hope and Healing to the Navajo People	\$75,000
● 7. Outreach in Refugee Camps—Lebanon.....	\$72,000
8. Healthy Families.....	\$60,000
● 9. LCMS Global Seminary Initiative	\$100,000
● 10. Training Teachers and Leaders	\$100,000
● 11. Opportunities in Uganda	\$100,000
● 12. “In Their Hands and Upon Their Hearts”	\$50,000
● 13. “We Are God’s Workmanship”	\$32,500
14. Bringing the Gospel to the Lost Sheep of Israel.....	\$100,000
● 15. Helping Hands Initiative	\$100,000
● 16. Deaconess Training.....	\$90,000
17. Lutheran Youth Corps.....	\$25,000
18. Providing Hope for Detroit	\$100,000
● 19. Rosa Young Academies.....	\$25,000

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

Mission Grant updates are frequently posted at www.lwml.org.