



*October 2016*

## MISSION GRANT STORY

### DEACONESS TRAINING – LCMS SUPPORT

### FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNER CHURCHES \$90,000

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's deaconesses are women who are full-time professional church-workers, trained to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through a ministry of works of mercy, spiritual care, and teaching the Christian faith.

Today deaconesses serve primarily in three settings. First, they serve in missions—both foreign and domestic. Next, congregations receive their service in teaching, visiting the sick and imprisoned, or serving in family or other caring ministries. The third primary setting for their service is in institutions. They serve as chaplains in hospitals, prisons, retirement communities, and facilities that care for people with developmental disabilities.

Funding from this LWML Mission Grant will help provide educational and financial support to the Lutheran Seminaries and intuitions. It will help to purchase text books and other resources for the daughters of the church who have financial restraint, as well as permitting deaconess students and professors to engage in short term mercy mission trips to disaster-hit areas within our country by rendering spiritual, and emotional care to the women and children. Further, it will provide for deaconess scholarships, student aid and tuition support, purchase of text books

for international students, and funding of deaconess internships.

This grant will also provide educational and financial support to our partner churches who introduced deaconess training programs within their church body like Philippines, Latvia, Liberia, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Latin America, and coming to Nigeria. Due to a lack of educational needs and having financial struggles, the program in such countries cannot afford to have under-graduate studies. Therefore the theological training focuses on two years of studies and one year of internship. The grant helps promote such theological education to the under privileged women who have a passion to learn confessional theological studies to serve the church.

The result of mission mite offerings to the LCMS Deaconess Ministry will provide LCMS deaconess students the opportunity to become a church professional, learning and training to understand the diaconal leadership, the work of deaconesses as applied to body and soul ministry and mission to high-risk children, the elderly, the handicapped, the homeless and downtrodden, women in crisis, HIV aids, the hungry, and the addicted, all served in the name of Christ.