

# CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION OF INDIA

Christianpet, Nidubrolu - 522 124, Guntur(Dt), Andhra Pradesh, SOUTH INDIA



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## **A REPORT ON ANNUAL MISSIONARY VISITS TO THE CLCI – 2013-14**

(A report to 14<sup>th</sup> Joint Asia English Pastoral conference held at Nellore. Dated 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Oct - 2014.)

**"The harvest is plenty but the laborers are few!" (Mt 9:37)**

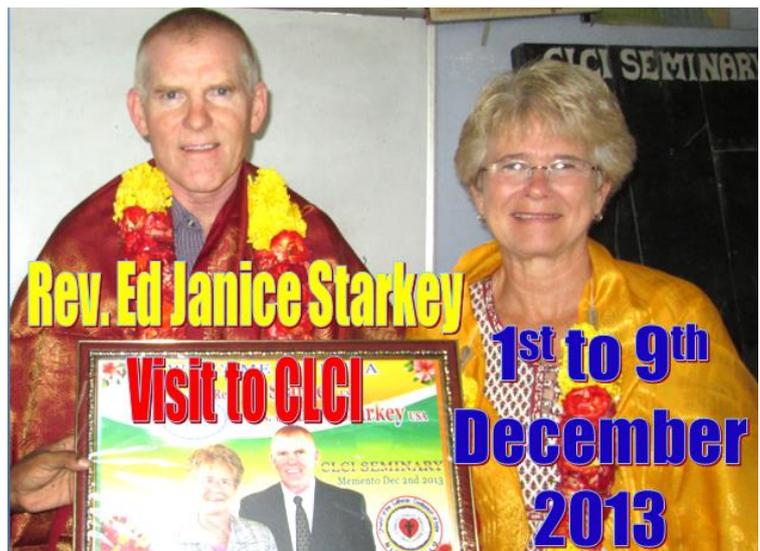
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onorable Missionaries respected Chairman, secretary, members, delegates, pastors and officials of the CLCI, BELC, HCLCN, CLCM and distinguished honorary pastors from LCI in Odisha and NLC in Yangon, Myanmar. On behalf of the Church of the Lutheran Confession of India, we convey our loving greetings to all of you in the Name of our Lord Jesus.

I have great pleasure in presenting this annual report on CLC Missionary visits to the CLCI in the year 2013-14. Rev. Ed Janice Starkey and Rev. Matthew Vanessa Ude have visited the CLCI in this annual year. The missionaries preached, prayed for the sick, and presented hundreds of New Testament Bibles and gifts to the children as well as to some of the adults and gave shake hands to them. These following are the missionary visitations for the Annual year from 2013-14. Their visitation was a great blessing for the CLCI.

**Rev. Ed Janice Starkey's in December 2013:-** We thank the Lord that in His faithfulness and mercy and in answers to our prayers in bringing our beloved missionary Rev. Ed Janice Starkey to visit the CLCI during December 1<sup>st</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> 2013.

Rev. Ed taught some wonderful lessons in the CLCI seminary. Rev Ed started his lessons on "what God tells us about our relationship to Him." He also taught about the shortest psalm 117 and also the longest psalm 119. Rev. Ed explained all the parts of the acrostic psalm 119 which describes the life of a Christian. We studied all the verses from 1 to 176. He also taught on how Luther discussed the life of a pastor, "Prayer – Study – Meditation - Trial."



Seminary students enjoyed Rev. Ed's teachings on "Prayer." Rev. Ed explained how it is wrong in praying to "dead relatives – Praying to Jesus' mother – praying to angels etc."

He explained about the real meaning of a Christian Prayer which is the prayer is to the soul what breath is to the body. When prayer becomes a burden— the soul is sick.



Rev. Ed also spoke on German story on **THE PREACHER AND THE STONEBREAKER** which is really a heart touching. At the end Rev. Ed taught on some of the Other Men of the Reformation **John Wycliffe** (1320-1384), **John Hus** (1369-1415), **Huldrych Zwingli** (1484-1531), **John Calvin** (1509-1564). Rev. Ed also taught a wonderful lesson on “Faith of our Fathers” **JOHN BUGHENHAGEN**, **PHILIP MELANCHTHON**, **JUSTUS JONAS**, **LUCAS CRANACH** (the Elder), **GEORGE SPALATIN**, **MARTIN CHEMNITZ**.

At the end Rev. Ed taught on “No other Gospel”- A Study of Paul's Letter to the Galatians. Rev. Ed and Sister Janice presented New Year gifts a beautiful bible bag and a New year calendar. Students enjoyed each and every lesson from Rev. Ed.



We praise God for enabling us to have wonderful and blessed time with Rev. Ed Janice Starkey in visiting few CLCI congregations. Rev. Ed's wonderful sermons and his individual prayers refreshed many of our CLCI members. Especially Sister Janice did very hard work in teaching lessons and songs to the Children and praying for them. Our members enjoyed the blessings through sermons and individual prayers in those night prayer meetings. Even though this is the first time for Rev. Ed and Sister Janice to visit the CLCI, they have touched the hearts of our people with their tremendous involvement and incredible smiles. Their visit became a wonderful blessings to many hundreds of the CLCI members and children. At the end of the each service, Rev. Ed and Sister Janice heard every prayer request of the members so patiently and prayed for them. From the bottom of our hearts we thank Rev. Ed Janice Starkey for his kind visit to the CLCI. Also honorable visitors presented many gifts such as New Testaments pens and pencils to the CLCI

children at various CLCI congregations. Thank you Rev. Ed and Sister Janice for your wonderful visit to the CLCI.

We are also praying and looking forward for Rev. Ed Janice Starkey's visit to the CLCI after this conference from 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October and from 16<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

**Rev. Matt Vanessa Ude's visit from February 2014:-** Rev. Matt and Sister Vanessa visited the CLCI from February 7<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> 2014. This visiting program has been well accepted and we have received a good response both from students and members. During this wonderful visit, the seminary students were blessed by the valuable teachings from Rev. Matt.



Rev. Matt taught on Introduction to Ephesians, Ephesians 1:1-14 and Ephesians 2:1-10. He clearly explained the distinguishing between "Sanctification and Justification." Rev. Matt touched the hearts of the students with his wonderful lessons. Rev. Matt brought out very deep theology hidden in the book of Ephesians.

Then during the tour of outreach, many hundreds of members heard the good news of the Gospel. The Lord has used Rev. Matt in a great way in this tour. The missionary Matt and Sister Vanessa presented hundreds of New Testament Bibles, gifts and Calendars to the children and adults. This trip mobilized hundreds of CLCI slum and tribal members.



The sermon preached by Rev. Matt was a real source of comfort to the ones who are depressed by the roaring lion Satan. The members enjoyed Rev. Matt's sermons and visit. Surely this visit gave new light to people who are living in the outer darkness. Even though Rev. Matt was suffering from fever and cold, he prayed hours together for many hundreds of people. Our people were so comforted by his individual prayers.. This is nothing less than a great blessing to the CLCI.

Thank you Rev. Matt and Sister Vanessa for your wonderful visit to the CLCI. As we see in **2 Corinthians 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness Who has shown in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

Surly the CLCI was blessed by these wonderful visits from our honorable CLC missionaries in the annual year of 2013-14. We give God all glory for this great mission. We pray for boldness for our CLC Missionaries. We pray that God may open the hearts of the hearers to our CLC Missionaries. The CLCI always pray for the health and well-being of our beloved CLC missionaries. They must be mentally sound, physically healthy, spiritually strong, economically stable and socially pleasant. Prevention is better than cure. We pray that our CLC missionaries may be kept from defilement, diseases, depressions, divisions and dangers.



**Welcome Rev. Paul Naumann to India:** We heartily welcome Rev. Paul Naumann, honorable member of the CLC Kinship Committee and editor of the CLC Lutheran Spokesman. We thank God for bringing Rev. Paul Naumann safely to India.



My father Rev. V.S Benjamin is very anxious to meet you brother, because my father always talks about you from the beginning of the CLCI. Now my father and we all got a great blessing to see you. And also all the CLCI Pastors join with me in thanking you for coming to India to visit us. We look forward for your wonderful visit to the CLCI right after this JAPC.

Honorable brothers and Sister from the CLC, you are all surely a great blessing to all of us. Abraham left his "father's house" and so he could become a blessing to "all the families of the earth" (Gen 12:1, 2). We pray for you, for your family members and for your loved ones. Please be with us in this battle till the end—By His Grace, for His Glory!

Once again thank you all.

Respectably submitted to the 14<sup>th</sup> Joint Asia English pastoral conference 2014 Nellore.

--Jyothi Benjmain – CLCI.

