



# CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

FEBRUARY 2011

## MONTHLY MISSION NEWS

### DOMESTIC MISSION CONGREGATION SERIES

#### **Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Lawrenceville (Atlanta), Georgia**



Zion Ev. Lutheran Church is located in the Atlanta metropolitan area, about 20 miles

northeast of downtown Atlanta. Since its beginning as a preaching station over 20 years ago, it has slowly grown into a small congregation. Zion has 54 members, but almost one-third of our members live more than three hours away from church.

While many Northern states offer multiple CLC congregations within their borders, Zion is only one of two CLC congregations in this region of the country, covering the states of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama. All of these states have CLC members living in them, who are served either by Holy Trinity in West Columbia, South Carolina or Zion, in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

Since its official organization as a congregation in 1998, Zion has also served a preaching station in central Tennessee with the prayer that it may become a congregation at some time in the future. Over the years we have served many members from other CLC congregations through this preaching station in Tennessee.

With so many of our members being scattered over this region, Zion has been looking into various ways to better serve these members at a distance. Last October, we began broadcasting our worship service to members at a distance via Skype, a web-based communication program that features live audio and video.

Since that time, we have averaged an additional nine participants to our worship services, with a high of 23 participants during one of our mid-week Advent services! In addition, these members can also be involved in Bible Class, not only by listening in, but even participating in the discussion.

It has been a joy to bring our services into the homes of our members at a distance who have not been able to participate in the past. But our joy has been furthered in another way as well. Occasionally, we come in contact with people in these same states who are not members of the CLC, but are looking for a confessional Lutheran church to attend. This past fall we came in contact with a man who lived near Nashville, Tennessee, about four hours from Zion



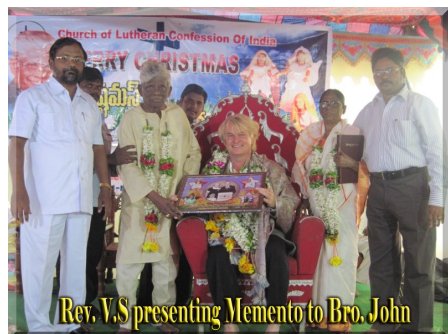
(which is the closest CLC congregation). Being convinced that he needed to leave his current church home for doctrinal reasons he began participating in our services through Skype. After discussing the confession of the CLC with Pastor Mayhew he requested membership at Zion. He made a public confession of his faith before the members of Zion in December via a live video connection with

Skype and was received into membership. Although he has never physically stepped foot in our church building, he participates in Bible Class and Worship almost every Sunday through Skype.

We thank the Lord for the salvation He has won for us, and for the privilege of bringing it to others here in the southern United States. We also thank the Lord for our CLC brethren who are assisting us in this work with their prayers and with their offerings. - Pastor Nathanael Mayhew

## ***RETURN TRIP TO INDIA***

*“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Gal.6:10*



*Rev. V.S presenting Memento to Bro. John*

On Dec. 14, 2010, John Rohrbach of Los Angeles, CA made a return visit to India for three weeks in order to help the brethren in the CLCI.

It was John who made the initial contact with the Benjamin family that led to our joining hands in the Kingdom work in India.

On a previous visit, John was involved in the building of a church in memory of his grandparents. On this trip, water was put in to the church property and electrical equipment was acquired to enhance the worship services. Work was also done on the pastor's house and various fruits tree were planted, such as coconut, lemon, orange, apple, mango, guava, papaya, and



bamboo trees.

In the village of Dandamoodi, which has 500 families, a second church was constructed of brick, measuring 15'x20' and costing \$1,500.00. Also, chairs were supplied for the worshipers. This building will serve as the church home of a congregation of 30 members who are served by Pastor Jeevan Kumar.

The orphanage also benefitted from John's visit, as fruit trees of banana, papaya, lemon, orange, and other varieties were planted. Education-



*Orphans and Sunday school children with Bro. John after Christmas play*

al materials were given to the orphanage in order to aid the children in their learning.

Tents, chairs, and dining tables were purchased for CLCI annual convention meetings and CLCI public gospel meetings. In the past, such equipment had been rented.

John Rohrbach had the privilege of accompanying Jyothi Benjamin to a number of villages where he shared the gospel message with eager



*In the Sunday prayer meeting at Kakinada Town*

souls desiring to hear the good news of the Savior.

Other ways of sharing the Word of God came through the purchase of Bibles and Christian movies in Telugu.

Jyothi Benjamin writes that John's visit and helpfulness was well received and much appreciated by our Christian brethren in India.

It should be noted that the various projects and purchases were made possible through the generous donations of a number of unnamed individuals. For all of this we give praise and thanks to God.

There are many and various tangible ways we can assist our Indian brethren in doing mission outreach, ministering to precious souls, and training the young.

May the Lord bless every effort of kingdom work in India, for there are countless hungry souls in this foreign land in need of learning about their Savior and His priceless gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.