



MISSION NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2013

CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



Visitation Trip to Myanmar

Missionary David Koenig made a visitation trip to Myanmar shortly after the first of the year to meet and work with our brethren in the CLCM. He reports that with the blessing of the Lord, travel conditions under the Myanmar government have improved. Southern Chin State is now open to foreigners and tourist visas are readily available. With the relaxation of government regulations, it may be possible for both Pastors Kham and Thang to cross the Indian border for the October Joint Meeting with brethren in CLCI and BELC. In regard to church/state relations, it is no longer necessary to give money to government officials in order to conduct worship services in house-churches.

A Bible seminar was conducted, covering such topics as God Rules, Sacrifice, Genesis Questions, New Testament Timeline and Acts Chronology, A Study of Acts on How the Church Grew, and Rabbi Jesus, the Master Teacher. Missionary Koenig had a captive audience of 80 plus individuals from CLCM congregations for four days of study. He also had the privilege of preaching in six services.

Missionary Koenig met with the Executive Committee of CLCM to discuss various aspects of kingdom work. It was reported that Pastor Kham translated various religious writings which were handed out at the seminar. His translations will be posted on our mission website. Mission work has begun in a Burmese village 12 miles out of Kalay. Pastors Kham and Thang plan

on purchasing Burmese Bibles for distribution. The Committee also discussed the land to be purchased on which the headquarters of CLCM will be built. In addition to moneys received from MDF, CLCM members will cover the remaining cost. A bad harvest last year has affected their ability to contribute for this cause.



CLCM Executive Committee

Pastors Kham and Thang hope to be able to travel to the United States for the 2014 CLC Convention. Pastor Kham was unsuccessful in coming for our last convention due to difficulties in obtaining a visa. Pray the Lord make their visit to our country possible.

New Mission Partner



On December 28, 2012, the Lord united Missionary Matthew Ude and Vanessa Meyer as husband and wife

at a wedding service performed at Vanessa's home church of Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI. In the wedding sermon, Matthew's father Professor John Ude spoke of the couple beginning a lifelong adventure. As Matthew and Vanessa carry out the work of the Lord in India and Africa, they will no doubt have many adventure stories to tell in years to come.

Shortly after their wedding ceremony, Vanessa accompanied her husband on a mission visitation trip to Africa. We have received reports from our brethren in Africa that Vanessa was well received and much appreciated.

After the newlyweds moved to their residence in Chennai, India, the brethren of the BELC had a special celebration in honor of the couple. The marriage celebration included: prayer, Scripture, singing, dancing, greetings, gift giving, eating, and enjoying the fellowship. May the Lord bless the marriage of Matthew and Vanessa in their life of adventure in the foreign mission field.

BELC Bible School Graduation

On March 15th the BELC Bible School in Nagalapuram graduated 15 students equipped with the Word of God to preach and teach in India. The students were greeted with garlands and shawls. Sermonettes were delivered at the graduation service by Rajamani (Eph. 6), D Paul, K. Asiravadam (2 Tim. 3:14-17), Sampath (1 Tim. 1:2), Bhaskar (Luke 2:47), and Missionary Matthew Ude (Eph. 2:4-7). Following the sermons, the graduates were anointed with oil, prayed over, and then presented with diplomas. The graduation festivities included a special meal of chicken bryani and ice cream.

The following is a biographical background sample of four graduates: **Muthulingam** came from an orthodox Hindu family. His father was a Hindu priest in a Hindu temple, performing daily pujas and worshiped idols of Vinayaga, Muruga, and the village head goddess. The whole family learned of their Savior God through the BELC and were baptized. Muthulingam's father is now an elder in St. Paul Lutheran Church at Voddalakuppam. **Soron Saravanan** and his brother were or-



phans who also came out of a Hindu family. Their whole family was also baptized in the BELC. Soron and his brother were construction workers before enrolling in Martin Luther Bible School. Now they are both in the gospel ministry of BELC. **Samuel** grew up without education, but then learned to read and write telugu as an adult. He was trained under a BELC pastor for three years at Vijayavada. **Rajasekar** was an orphan who is well educated, having earned a master's degree in science and education. Before attending MLBS he was working as a milk vendor.

All the graduates received assignments to carry out the gospel ministry in the BELC. They were divided up among five districts: Koppedu, Tiruttani, Sri Kalahasti, Uthukottai, and Tiruvallure. May the Lord bless their ministry in their respective districts.

2013 Mission Helper Trip

India is the destination for volunteers in the Mission Helper Program this summer. Thirteen signed on to spread abroad the gospel message of salvation. The mission helpers are: Lucas Brown, Jennifer Grabow, Becky Haddad, Melanie Halstein, Katherine Kazemba, David Lueck, Rebecca McKenny, Nathan Noeldner, Andrew Roehl, Vanessa Ude, Missionary Matthew Ude, and Pastor Todd Ohlmann. While some are going for their first time, others have been on previous mission trips. The mission helpers will be divided up into three teams to assist our Christian brethren in the CLCI and the BELC in proclaiming God's Word.

Part of the work will be "Child Evangelism" similar to our summer VBS program where Bible history lessons are taught. The clergy trained members of the mission helpers will conduct pastoral training seminars and preach in local congregations. Preparations for the trip include such things as receiving a series of shots, getting travel papers, and working on Bible lessons to be taught. We pray the Lord's blessings on their preparations, travel, and mission efforts. The internet address of a blog to follow the mission trip will be made known later. More information concerning the Mission Helper Program can be found on the internet at www.clclutheran.net/MissionHelpers.