



MISSION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2013

CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



New CLC Missionary to India

The LORD answered our prayers for a new foreign missionary to India when He called and led Pastor Ed Starkey to accept this calling in the Gospel ministry. Pastor Starkey, who is replacing Pastor David Koenig in India, will be working side by side with Pastor Matthew Ude.

While Pastor Koenig is retiring from his full-time work as missionary to India, he will continue to serve on a part-time basis as our visiting missionary to Myanmar. He also stands ready to serve in other foreign fields at the direction of the Board of Missions. In order to help with the orientation of our new foreign missionary Pastor Koenig will stay on in India for a brief time. We thank the Lord for Pastor Koenig's many years of faithful and fruitful service in the full-time work as our foreign missionary, first in Africa and then in India.

In order to learn more about our new foreign missionary Pastor Starkey has provided the following brief biographical sketch of himself and his family:

"Janice and I have been married 34 years. Our daughter Melissa lives in the Twin Cities where she works with young children. Our son Kaiser and his new wife Kaitlyn were married in July. Their home is at Fort Bragg, NC where he is stationed with the 82nd Airborne Infantry.

"Both Janice and I grew up in Waterloo, Iowa. I was baptized and confirmed in the American Lutheran Church. Janice's large family was Roman Catholic. It is true that former Catholics make good Lutherans when they learn, *the just shall live by faith*. Before coming to the CLC, we belonged to Lutheran churches in the ELCA, LCMS, and the CLBA. Though all confess to follow God's Word, we have seen the differences regarding Scripture.

"After we were married in 1979, playing and coaching minor league hockey took us several places before returning to Iowa. In 1998 (at 42) I entered the Lutheran Brethren Seminary in Fergus Falls, MN. My first ministry was with the Lutheran Brethren, Broen Home. I later served churches in Deer River, and Grand Rapids, MN.

"Members and colleagues of the CLBA were wonderful to us. However, when the Church of the Lutheran Brethren employed the services of a Church Growth consultant, I began to have questions. About this same time CLC member Brian Stearns called introducing himself and the confessional teaching of the CLC.

"Searching Scripture, sermons,

and papers was followed by more personal visits, phone conversations, and email correspondence. Many other CLC members, teachers, professors, and pastors all helped. Kaiser was enrolled at ILC in the fall of 2005. After formally breaking fellowship with the CLBA, my call was terminated.

"We moved to Eau Claire, and lived at Birch Hall on the ILC campus while auditing seminary classes during a two year colloquy. Instruction with pastors led to membership at Messiah. The Christian fellowship led to friendships, and work in Eau Claire for both of us. We continue to thank the Lord for the many Christians whose witness for the Savior has helped us to better know and trust in His forgiveness.

"Since 2007, I have served St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Iron River, (Stambaugh), MI. Having never been overseas, my missionary experience is limited to the community and at the local care centers. Still somewhat new to the CLC, there is much for us to learn about the work outside of the U.S.

"This summer our congregation went through a sermon series on the Book of Acts. Each week we were: TRAVELING THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS. We had just begun, and the Lord's words *you shall be witnesses to Me...to the ends of the earth*, led me to accept His call to witness in South India. We look forward to working together with fellow foreign missionaries and everyone from the CLC who is witnessing for Jesus at home and abroad.

"We thank the Lord for your prayer and encouragement. We know we can't do this—but He can. Therefore we pray for trust in Him for all our care, direction, and the results of His Word as we enter this new area of His service."



Foreign Missionary Commissioning

On Monday, September 23rd, the commissioning service for Pastor Ed Starkey as foreign missionary to India was conducted at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI. Pastor Michael Eichstadt, CLC President, addressed the assembly on the basis of Isaiah 66:18-22 with the theme "Proclaim the Wonders of Salvation!" Pastor Mark



Gullerud, Secretary of the CLC Board of Missions, conducted the service and the rite of commissioning. A large number of clergy, both active and retired, participated in the laying on of hands.

JOINT ASIAN PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

13th Joint Asian Pastoral Conference 9th to 11th October 2013 in Nidubrolu, India:- Once again it is a joy to see through this conference that everyone is connected in prayer and spiritual fellowship with such a unity. Every effort was made by all the pastors to conduct this conference in a very successful manner. It was a great blessing for all the CLCI, BELC, HCLCN and CLCM pastors to participate in this pastoral conference and receive the greetings, blessings and encouraging words from the wonderful Lord's people, honorable CLC Missionaries, Chairman of the Mission Board Rev. Todd Ohlmann and president of the CLC Rev. Michel Eichstadt.

Everyone blessed by the words of encouragement and inspiring devotions and essays from the respected Missionaries Rev. David Koenig, Rev. Matthew Ude and Rev. Ed Starkey.

All the

mission reports showed the much more improvement in their mission activities. We thank the Lord for the profitable and helpful time of teaching, learning, witnessing and getting ready to discover more opportunities in spreading the Gospel in many new places.

The Lord in His rich mercy and sovereign grace gave more energy to our hands through this conference 2013 to do His work. We pray that our Lord be pleased to bless all such a corporate endeavors through this type of Pastoral Conferences and thus further His work. Our lives are in the hands of the Lord. "Bless the Lord, Oh my soul and all that is within me. Bless the Lord Oh my soul and forget not all his benefits." Also praying that through this Joint Asian conference we would be led into a deeper

unity and knowledge of the love of Christ. And thus be brought into the enjoyment of the fullness of God with all the beloved brothers and sisters, under His Headship, and serve Him for His glory in His Church.

Thank you. Yours in His grace,

Pastor Jyothi Benjamin

