

GLOBAL MISSION COMMITTEE

2007 Annual Report

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Global Mission Committee

Members

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Rev. Wendy Piano

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Rev. Paul Harder
Kathleen Lutz
Norma Gruen

WELCA Representative

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** Sub-Committee Lead

2007, 2008 Global Mission Events

The 2007 ELCA Global Mission Event (GME) was held at Ohio State University in Columbus, OH, July 19-22, 2007. Several I-K Synod members attended. The Global Mission Committee had a booth at Saturday's Global Fest which was well attended. The 2008 GME will be held in La Crosse WI, July 17-20, on the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse campus. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.elca.org/gme/GME2008/>



Chile (IELCH) Companion Synod Update Synod Accompaniment Visit to Chile in 2007

Nine delegates from the synod visited Chile for 10 days in August visiting Buen Samaritano Preschool, the Women's Projects supported in 2004, and other IELCH ministries. We were joined by two members of ELCA churchwide staff – Kate Lawler Wunsch, ELCA Regional Representative in South America, and Mary Campbell, Associate Director for Companionship Education Advocacy. The group visited congregations and ministries in Santiago, Concepción, and Osorno, building relationships and enjoying the hospitality and friendliness of our brothers and sisters in Chile.



Buen Samaritano Preschool

The Buen Samaritano Preschool provides a safe, low cost, learning environment for preschool children while parents are at work earning a very minimal income. This project helps provide food for the children as well as programming resources and staff wages. While in Chile, the delegation visited the preschool and was treated to a skit by the children and other entertainment by a dance troupe. We also had refreshments and heard stories of the impact on these families by the preschool. This 3-year project will draw to a close in 2008. A short PowerPoint presentation is available for use by your congregation.



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Education and Publicity

Sharing the Light of Christ in the World

Education and Publicity has been active with support activities for the other sub-committees and with Global Mission educational efforts for the synod. This group is in the process of reviewing the Global Mission information available on the I-K Synod Web site.

Indonesia (HKBP) Companion Synod Update

Tsunami and Earthquake Reconstruction Effort

At the time of the 2004 tsunami and 2005 earthquakes in Indonesia, the I-K Synod recognized that the road to recovery would be long. We continue to respond with God's love to our brothers and sisters in Indonesia. The Global Mission Committee has continued to steward the distribution of Love Offering funds in accordance with "Accompaniment" principles. Funds have continued to support local people (both Christians and Muslims) in economic re-development, post-trauma counseling, and in other areas which were also requested. The Nias Island Crisis Center, which began in 2006 helping those traumatized by the earthquake on Easter Sunday, in 2007, changed its name to the Ecumenical Nias Island Counseling Center (ENICC). The I-K Synod has financially supported this ministry and three special projects by supporting the purchase of fishing boats, a pig project, and a sewing project. All three of these special projects have helped people begin or continue their method of earning a livelihood. Your continuing prayers for all those still affected by these monumental disasters are greatly appreciated.

SALT Session at Synod Assembly

At the 2006 Synod Assembly, Norma Gruen and Kathleen Lutz shared pictures, stories, and music from their visit to Indonesia for the Speaking As Lutherans Together (SALT) seminar. This seminar conducted a week-long intensive English as a Second Language (ESL) seminar for 45 elementary and secondary English language teachers and pastors of the HKBP. In addition to the weeklong ESL seminar, the delegation visited Nommensen University, the Deaconess School, the Biblefrau (retirement center for Bible Women), schools and a hospital. The cultural and relational exchange was very beneficial to our accompaniment with our companion synod. Another exchange is planned for July of 2008.

ELCA Regional Representatives to South America and Asia

The ELCA has Regional Representatives who live the accompaniment model of ministry in South America. David Wunsch and Kate Lawler-Wunsch live in Buenas Aires, Argentina, and work in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay. David is originally from the I-K Synod. Kate and David had much contact with our synod in 2007 as Kate joined our visit to Chile and David met with Pr. Bill Gafkjen and Jean Eisen at the Latin American Consultancy. They also shared pictures and stories of their ministry with several congregations during their home-leave in December 07/January 08. Their web site can be accessed through the ELCA web site at <http://www.elca.org/globalmission/mission/webs.html>

***Contact a member of the GMC to arrange for a speaker
on Global Missions to visit your congregation.***

Watch the IK Synod website for future mission trip opportunities.