

I-K Lutheran

Where mission meets the road



From Bishop Jim Stuck

I read about a wise monk who encountered a man who had come to evangelize the Holy Mountain and asked the monk, "Is Jesus Christ your personal savior?" The monk replied, "No, I like to share him."

I hope you have a personal relationship with Jesus. The point of salvation is not what God does to you but what God promises to do through you. This is the transformation that came over the disciples after the Resurrection. Christ was

present to work through them. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any they are forgiven them. If you retain the sins of any they are retained."

The Savior is not ours to keep, but ours to share. The world needs to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ for forgiveness, life and salvation. Before Jesus ascended he said to his disciples, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to

rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

My we trust this promise and may God transform us by the power of the Spirit.

Pr. Bill Gafkjen: Chile Earthquake Reconstruction

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. [Eph. 3:20-21]

Chile experienced an 8.8 magnitude earthquake on Feb. 27, 2010. In April the death toll has reached 497, about half a million homes have been significantly damaged, and 2 million people are homeless.

Members, leaders and congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (IELCH), companion church of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, are among those who have been affected by the earthquake and are among those who are caring for others in the aftermath.

ELCA Disaster Response sent \$10,000.00 to IELCH to assist with immediate needs after the earthquake. The I-K Synod sent \$500 to support the costs of Pastora Gloria Rojas, Pre-

siding Pastor of IELCH, as she moved among the 12 congregations and mission centers of the denomination to assess damage, offer comfort, and lead the people of God forward through the rubble toward resurrection.

The list of damages to church-related buildings and other facilities is long, especially in Santiago and around Concepcion. You can read the list of congregations and the damages to their buildings at www.iksynod.org. Click at the top of the home page where it says "Chile Reconstruction."

IELCH has requested emergency reconstruction funds from the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to address these needs. LWF is unable to provide all that IELCH needs; they are still short \$20,000.00 for reconstruction.

One way for the Indiana-Kentucky Synod to embody our companionship with IELCH and to assist the people of the IELCH to experience the power of

resurrection in the reconstruction of their buildings and their lives together as the people of God is to meet that shortfall.

We have already received \$2000.00 in unsolicited gifts for IELCH. I pray that God will stimulate the generosity of God's people in this synod to supply the remaining \$18,000.00 between now and the end of this year's Synod Assembly, which is only weeks away. Here is how to give:

** Send a check, made payable to "Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA" and clearly marked with "Chile earthquake," to **911 E 86th Street, Suite 200, Indianapolis, IN 46240.***

** Bring cash and checks to the sending Eucharist at the Synod Assembly on Sunday, June 6. The offering from that liturgy will all go to the IELCH for earthquake reconstruction.*

About Your Synod: Global Mission and Chile

As part of the ELCA's Companion Synod/Church program, the I-K Synod is in a companion relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (IELCH). Guided by a mutually agreed upon covenant which is rooted in an accompaniment model of relationship, the I-K Synod and IELCH walk alongside one another in mutual encouragement, learning, and support.

IELCH has 13 congregations and missions throughout Chile, twelve pastors,

and 3000 members. Pastora Gloria Rojas is the Presiding Pastor (similar to ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson).

The I-K Synod has hosted visitors from IELCH over the last nine years, including Pastora Gloria, who preached for the 2005 Synod Assembly. Delegations from our synod have also visited IELCH, most recently a 2007 group of folks who spent a week getting to know the congregations and people of IELCH, and a few congregation-based micro-businesses whose beginnings

were funded by the I-K Synod and the I-K Synod Women of the ELCA.

Rooted in this relationship, Pr. Bill Gafkjen (Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Global Mission) will work with Pra. Gloria to determine ways for us to embody our companionship as IELCH, its congregations, people and leaders, and live into God's promise to bring resurrection from the rubble of the historic earthquake this month. We will provide updates and opportunities at www.iksynod.org.

Opportunity to Give and Share

Why not conduct some special offerings and/or awareness and fundraising activities in your congregation to raise the \$18,000 needed to help six of our companion synod IELCH congregations rebuild their churches in the next few weeks? You can send the money and stories of what you did along with your Synod Assembly voting members to drop in the offering plate on Sunday, June 6.

In addition, if your congregation organizes such an event, I will use your photos and stories as part of my looping PowerPoint presentation during Synod Assembly in June to illustrate the power of God's deep and abiding love for the world manifested by the your support for God's mission in Chile.

Like the ancient companions walking the road to Emmaus, as we accompany one another we discover the risen Christ in our midst.

Send your photos and stories to dburrus@iksynod.org.

2010 I-K Synod Assembly News

2010 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly June 4-6, 2010 Farewell to Bishop Stuck www.iksynod.org

Bishop James Stuck has been our shepherd and visionary leader, preacher, and motivator for mission for twelve years. In appreciation of his leadership and to honor his commitment to ministry, you have the opportunity to express your thanks through a gift in his name to the Freed to Lead Fund. Gifts given to this fund will be tallied and presented to him in appreciation of his ministry at the 2010 Synod Assembly in June.

The Freed to Lead Fund was established in 2008 to lift the increasing financial burden on rostered leaders caused by rising seminary costs, low compensation and inadequate retirement savings.

**Read more and make a gift at www.iksynod.org/
FreedtoLeadFund**



Lay a Solid Foundation for Bible Study

Three foundational courses enable you to jump-start your congregation with the Book of Faith Initiative

Opening the Book of Faith - practical methods for studying Scripture

Rediscovering the Book of Faith - introduction of the creation, collection, and canonization of Scripture

Making Sense of Scripture - excellent introductory course

www.bookoffaith.org



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.