

Northern Lights

Vol. 36, No. 1

Spring 2005

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Pressing on Toward the Goal



Rev. Dr. Don W. Johnson
Executive Director

I have some very good news to share with you concerning the lawsuit brought against us by LAMP Canada. The lawsuit has been resolved to the satisfaction of all involved, and all involved look forward to putting this matter in the past. Thanks in no small part to our many friends like you who have offered prayers that this might happen.

As we look to the future, I am excited about new possibilities for mission outreach — some so new and exciting we will have to wait until we have completed the planning before we can announce them. This coming

summer will also see us continue the same outreach as in the past to remote areas in Alaska, Washington State and in Canada through our partner in ministry, My People International. Volunteer teams are already assembled to work on servant events, building and repairing churches and buildings in native communities. And Vacation Bible School teams, making their plans to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to native youth across the North, are just weeks away from their journey.

In Canada, we will continue the efforts to repair broken lives in communities through marriage building seminars and the ministry of healing

the lives of those suffering from abuse of all kinds. These teaching efforts will be coordinated and led by trained native Christian leaders we helped to prepare for this work.

Then there is the effort to encourage additional native leadership training. We expect to have two native men enrolled in the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology program leading to ordination through Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, by September 2005. These two men, Adrian Jacobs and David Sternbeck (already taking classes) are already involved in reaching out to their own people with the Gospel. We expect to recruit other native men into the program in the near future.

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“. . . Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” Phil 3:13-14

The focus of our ministry is simple. It is to recruit and raise up native Christian men and women to minister the saving and healing Gospel of Jesus Christ to their own people. It is based on the assumption that God's Holy Spirit, through the Word, is already at work

preparing native people to join us in an exciting outreach to their own. These individuals are out there in the places we serve. We need only to identify them, partner with them and as God leads, recruit them for training.

As a Native American Lutheran Pastor who only

recently completed my Doctorate of Ministry Degree, I am so pleased our ministry has evolved to focus more on training the people we serve to take responsibility for their own. More importantly, I am excited to see how this vision has bonded our staff — native and non-native alike in a purpose so

closely aligned with God's purposes in the world. We are one in our belief that we can only succeed if it is consistent with that which honors Christ and is consistent with His will.

Thanks once again for your generous support and faithfulness. God bless you!

Partnerships Enhance Our Ministry



Dan Treacle
Lay Minister/Pilot
Fairbanks, Alaska

heat is available for all the different groups who visit. They graciously host most of the Christian project teams that visit their community and they often feed and provide a vehicle for ministry event teams coming to Tanana. Paul has provided tools and his workshop space for our mission crews to use. The Starr's have even taken team members out on the Yukon in their boat enabling them to see the beauty of the area.

During summer, the village life revolves around the river for subsistence fishing and even collecting firewood to prepare for winter. Paul and Mary always take time to care for outside visitors even though they have such full schedules of their own. After the work is completed and the team leaves the village, Mary provides help to clean and prepare the mission housing for the next use.

This year we were able to have several teams come to Tanana to assist in building repairs for the church and mission house. We replaced all the windows and repaired damage to the church basement. We were able to help meet Mary Starr's

needs, too. She has provided a pickup for us to use each time we come to the village for workshops, Sunday School teacher training, or VBS and servant team events. This winter we were able to get some garden materials and supplies taken to the village to help her with spring planting. When her truck needed work we partnered with a local village contractor to get her the necessary maintenance. I shared the need for her vehicle work here in Fairbanks with local auto shops and got the clutch and brake parts donated at cost for Tanana. A local village mechanic helped with the installation.

As we continue to develop projects in the communities we serve, the partnerships we make open the doors to other communities.

“And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

Hebrews 13:16

been strong leaders in the interior Alaska area we serve. They help to make our ministry grow. Together they share the story of Christ through direct work as well as helping develop invitations to other communities. Partner couples like this make our expansion outreach possible, and continue to bless our work daily.

Paul and Mary have



IN HONOR OF MY
SON-IN-LAW ... Pat
Melby

IVERSON, Dorothy
(80th Birthday) ...
Patricai Van Wansiele
& Charlotte Palmberg

JASMER, Mel & Ruby
(50th Wedding
Anniversary) ... Mr. &
Mrs. Carl Stanz

JESUS ... Rodney Fant

JOHNSON, Elsie ...
Ardala Littlefield

JOHNSON, Mr. & Mrs.
Scott (Christmas) ...
Elsie Johnson

KALIGIS, Stephanie &
Lex (Marriage) ...
Marlyn Kottsick

KANGAS, June ... Joyce
Shuck

KERSTEN, Keith &
Margaret ... Mr. & Mrs.
Larry Wallace

KNEBEL, Mr. & Mrs.
John ... Helen Watters

KOTTSICK, M.J. ...
Alexander & Stephanie
Kaligis

KRENNING, Elmore ...
Daniel Krenning

LINKE, Dorothy
(Birthday) ... Lois
Sander

LONES, Marian ...
Virginia Johnson

LUND, Ted ... Terrell
Abell

LUNDBERG, Gladys
(85th Birthday) ...
Estelle Halstengard

LUOMA, Vic & Joan
(50th Wedding
Anniversary) ... Karen
& Dick Oslund

MARHENKE, Janis &
Joel ... Chris
Marhenke, Beverly
Brandt

MARHENKE, Mr. &
Mrs. Jack (Christmas)
... Betty & D.C. Rice

MAYO, Dan & Rose
(Anniversary) ...
Robert & Nelda Jardine

METZGER, Rev. Paul
... Dale & Nancy
Folkerts

MISSALL, Clarice ...
Britt Worden & Matt,
Anna & Seth

MY FAMILY ... Annie
Rue

MY GRANDFATHER
(Christmas) ... Susan
& Tobin Ehrle

NEUENDORF, Curtis
(Christmas) ... Joanne
Neuendorf

NYBERG, Stewart ...
Roberta Helgens

OUR 58th CHRIST-
MAS TOGETHER ...
Harvey & Anne
Tollfeldt

OUR CHILDREN ...
William & Lorraine
Wagner

PALMQUIST, Oliver
(91st Birthday) ...
Ginny Miller & Family

PANNING, Helen &
John ... Mr. & Mrs.
Ross Kittleman

PICKING, James (66th
Birthday) ... Rodney &
Karen Doods

RALL, Gene & Geri
(Christmas) ... Doug &
Chris Sorenson

REDEL, Pat & Ed
(Their Marriage) ...
Marlett Grueber

REKO, Karl & Ruth
(Christmas) ... Becky
McKeel

RICHARDSON,
Lorraine (80th
Birthday) ... Louis &
Kathryn Capriotti

ROBBINS, Mr. & Mrs.
Fred ... Mrs. Bernice
Lavik

RUPPRECHT, Paul &
Judy ... Mr. & Mrs.
John Schroeder

SCHLEGEL, Lura (93rd
Birthday) ... Doris
Reda

SCHOWALTER, John
... Quintin & Ann
Marie Schowalter

SCHUMANN,
Theadora (89th
Birthday) ... Theadora
Schumann

SCHUR, Rev. Stephen
... Morris & Katherine
Baxter

SEDAL, Kent (Birthday)
... Randall & Susan
Spangle

SEGGEBRUCH, Les &
Jo (30th Anniversary)
... Diana Lee Karlen

THE CHRIST CHILD
... Mr. & Mrs. William
Rohn

TREAKLE, Dan (For his
faithful service) ...
Marilyn Bertram

UPHAM, Inez
(Christmas) ... Norman
& Susan Theiste

VEITENGRUBER,
Verna (80th Birthday)
... Doris Reda

WALLACE, Mr. & Mrs.
Larry (Birthdays) ...
Mr. & Mrs. Keith
Kersten

WALLACE, Mr. & Mrs.
Larry (Christmas) ...
Keith & Margaret
Kersten

WALTERS, Jonathan &
Mary (Christmas) ...
Mr. & Mrs. Robert
Walters

WALTERS, Mr. & Mrs.
Robert (Christmas)
... Nancy Wojcicki

WARREN, Clara (90th
Birthday) ... Helena
Dietrich

WILLER, Rev. & Mrs.
R.H. (Birthdays) ...
Clyde & Virginia
Leatherman

ZEHNDER, Wallace
... Dorothy Bradley

ZELLER, Eileen (80th
Birthday) ... Jean
Hoskins Meibohm

ZUMMALLEN, Joyce
(70th Birthday) ...
Norma J. Mayer

OVICK, Ray ... Marian Lones
 PALMQUIST, Esther ... Ginny Miller & Family
 PANTZ, Robert ... Bethyne Hamelund
 PETERSEN, Les & Beth ... Joan & Rupert Walz
 PETERSON, Margaret ... Marian Lones
 PIEPER, Gerald ... Rev. & Mrs. Layton Lemke
 PIPKORN, Russell ... William Peter
 PLACKO, Frances ... Milan Placko
 PLUMMER, Claude ... Carolyn Retzow
 PRICE, Lester ... Clarabelle Price
 RANKINEN, E. Olaf ... Mr. & Mrs. Harold Seppala
 RANKINEN, Rev. Dr. Eino Olaf ... Mrs. Clarence Schnorr
 RAPP, Rev. Victor ... Anna & Ray Letscher
 REINDEL, Irvin ... Mildred Reindel
 REINKING, Shirley ... Mr. & Mrs. Eldon Roepke
 ROHDE, Donald Arthur ... John & Lynn Stathus
 RUE, Lester ... Annie Rue
 RUPP, Cynthia ... Ruth Seboldt
 SAWAYA, Patricia ... Edward & Joan Sawaya, Lucile Ruonavaara
 SCHAAF, Ruth Yvonne ... Dorothy Linke
 SCHAFFER, Ruth ... Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Kuhl
 SCHAFFT, Hans ... Ann & Morey Rasbeck
 SCHEER, Maj. Jonathan ... Mr. & Mrs. Rick Sylvester

SCHIEFER, Edna ... Pete & Esther Fager
 SCHIETER, Edna ... Doris Reda
 SCHLICHT, Stanley ... Mr. & Mrs. John Ofstedahl
 SCHMIDT, Ida ... St. Peter Lutheran Church, Gresham, NE
 SCHOENOW, Mildred ... Frances & Donald Rodammer, Doris Reda
 SCHULTZ, William H. ... Thelma Schultz
 SEAMAN, Verelia & Joseph ... Valerie Kay Seaman
 SILVA, Ethel ... Valerie Silva
 SIMPSON, Esther ... Carolyn Ratzow
 SNYDER, Keith & Evelyn ... W. Ben Snyder
 SPRUNG, Deborah ... Lezona Jensen
 STEINKRAUS, Larry Allen ... Thomas & Kyle Schulz
 STEPINITZ, Virginia ... Golden Years Club of Trinity, Clinton Township, MI
 STOEHR, Alvah ... Robert & Lois Neighbors
 STOEHR, Alvin ... Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Stoehr
 STRASBURG, Bernard ... Robert & Julie Mueller
 SUSKALD, Steve ... Ginny Miller & Family
 SWANBERG, Doris ... Bernice Hultgren
 TAPPE, Roger ... Thomas & Kyle Schulz
 TESSLING, Eleanore ... Wayne Kuhl

THOMPSON, Steve ... Dorothy Bradley
 TORFIN, Jim ... Edna Collette
 TRUITT, Jo Evelyn ... Vernard Truitt
 VAAGEN, Glen ... Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Riemer
 VANDER LAAN, Peter & Ann ... William Dodge
 VERMEDAHL, Arthur ... Norma Vermedahl
 VON REITZENSTEIN, Magdalene ... Mr. & Mrs. Eberhard Claussner
 WISCH, Harold ... Barbara Pingel
 WOODFORD, Matthew & Logan ... Rev. & Mrs. Layton Lemke
 WUSSOW, Erna ... Donna Mickelson
 YBRISAKER, Jeanette ... Mildred Tartenson
 YOUNGDALE, Dorothy ... By friends
 ZELLER, Andrew ... Eileen Zeller
 ZIMMERMAN, Pearl ... Thomas & Kyle Schulz
 ZORN, Carla & Lawrence ... Gene Zorn
 ZYWICKI, Lou ... Mrs. & Mrs. George Kapke, Mrs. Norma Kapke, Mrs. Sheila Kapke & Family, Mr. & Mrs. Dave Covey & Family, Mr. & Mrs. Art Matting, Mrs. Jeanette Zanow, Mrs. Lavern Nikolaus, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Plagemann

In Honor Of

BERUBE, Annette (Birthday) ... Alice Berg

BRANDT, Dr. & Mrs. Daniel (50th Wedding Anniversary) ... Peter & Carol Simon
 BRENNAN ... Mrs. & Mrs. Harris Heinemann
 CONCORDIA LUTHERAN SENIORS ... Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Boswell
 CRANDALL, Ned & Helen (50th Wedding Anniversary) ... Dr. & Mrs. Alan Abel
 DEVOE, Mr. & Mrs. Duane (25th Wedding Anniversary) ... Lois Maass
 DOERFER, Rev. & Mrs. Donovan ... Rev. Carol Cruikshank
 DOPP, Bill & Evie (60th Wedding Anniversary) ... Ruth & Roy Volkenant
 ELENBAUM, Beatrice (80th Birthday) ... Edgar & Alberta Gaeth
 ERICKSON, Ron ... Dorothy Bradley
 FLAA, John & JoAnn & Family ... Arlys Zieske
 FOGGE, Rev. Dick ... Esther Hirschberger
 GARTNER, Dr. & Mrs. James ... Jack & Joan Klay
 GERLING, Ken & Jean ... Virginia Gerling
 GIBSON, Dorothy ... David & Rebecca Gibson
 HALDERSON, Alice (Birthday & Christmas) ... Esther Pfeifer
 HEIL, Rev. Tom & Julie (Wedding) ... Sara & Becky Molnar
 HERRON, Judy ... Mr. & Mrs. Allen Eberle

New Trails in Ministry



Rev. Terry LeBlanc
Director of Cross-Cultural Partnerships
Evansburg, Alberta

“Follow close, we’ve never been this way before!” These were the words of Joshua to the Israelites as they followed the Ark of the Covenant of God on the journey over Jordan into the land of God’s promise. “Follow God (symbolized in the Ark) closely for you have not gone this way before.” It was sound advice. When you haven’t been somewhere before, you want to follow close behind the one who has. On this particular journey, it was God who would be the guide as with the journey out of Egypt. It bore results. The children of Israel found their way into the land of God’s promise.

Something similar has been happening to us. We have been going places where we have not been before. In our case, it’s not so much about geography — God has not promised us a particular chunk of real estate. No, it’s about our journey in the way we do ministry. In an oft-changing context like Native North American communities present, bringing the constant

message of the Gospel in ways that will be heard requires adaptability, and flexibility. Leaving old methods with reverence as we embrace new ones is a frequent requirement of faithful proclamation today.

And so we find ourselves called out of the old and into the new — new efforts to reach the people of Native North America with the Good News of Jesus the Christ. How can we bring people to the place where they hear the Good News in ways that connect and allow the Holy Spirit to work? What can we do to bring people into an encounter with Jesus who might otherwise not have the opportunity? What new means do we have at our disposal to disciple them?

One new way God has shown us involves strengthening marriages. A few of our staff have taken the marital and family breakdown statistics in Native North America seriously. They decided that an approach to the proclamation of the Gospel that took the centrality of the family in God’s plan for humanity would be an effective ministry. It has meant adapting Marriage Encounter for use in a First Nations context. The staff tells us that in the process, we are making history.

We are making history because almost all of the leadership of the Marriage Encounter events we have undertaken have been people of Aboriginal Heritage. We are making history because of the

“When you see the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before.” Joshua 3:3-4

approximately 150 volunteer jobs involved in putting on such an event most are performed by First Nations people. It’s historic because not only do we have ministry to 25 couples (as in the last session this past January) each time, we also train other couples to do the actual ministry. This means that in the future the ministry and discipleship that will stem from them is self-sustaining with only facilitation provided by our staff.

The people we have been working with since last fall are now slowly developing positive leadership skills, taking greater and greater responsibility for the overall program. These are

skills that will be essential in growing strong in Christian faith and life. More than that, these are essential skills not just for ministry; they are directly transferable to their homes. Given the negative marriage and family statistics in Native North America, this is groundbreaking! During the last weekend event in Winnipeg, we saw some of these former “trainees” in leadership making positive steps toward Christ. Imagine as the Spirit continues to do His work what this will look like in its overall impact for God’s Kingdom!

A bonus in all of this is the great boost to self-confidence hosting such an

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Rev. Terry LeBlanc has helped adapt Marriage Encounter to the needs of First Nation peoples. It continues to strengthen both marriages and families.

event offers First Nations people. This counteracts a negative stereotype that says, "Aboriginal society is in disarray," its people not capable of hosting organized events. As the ministry staff disciples and then equips people to host these events, there is a growing level of confidence among the "team."

As if this were not enough to celebrate, we have now hosted First Nations people from remote communities as well as a number of urban centers with high Aboriginal populations. This creates a linkage that, in many ways, is an increasingly needed one — urban and reserve. One individual from a remote

reserve community remarked, "This is exactly what our people need, how do we get this to our people back home."

We'll have to follow God carefully in the days ahead to be able to bring this man's dreams to fruition. But we believe it can happen. We're not always sure of the next

steps, but we have confidence in the One who does. We're going to have to pray with faith and work with diligence to get where we want to go. Please pray with us. You see, "we've never been this way before."

Be Still . . . and Wait



Mary Miller
Ministry Staff
Nome, Alaska

VBS date, their church caught fire. At the time, the pastor and his family were on summer vacation out of state, on a canoe trip and out of telephone contact. Originally, the VBS team in Anchorage was scheduled to meet up with the pastor on his return to Alaska, fly with him into Nome, drive to Teller, and boat across to Brevig Mission.

A time of waiting set in. The VBS leader needed to give team members the status of their planned trip to Brevig. Should they still plan to come? It was not my call to make. We stood by for five days, praying for the community and the anticipated VBS. The team had entered into a

It takes much preparation for volunteers who teach Vacation Bible School. They have servant hearts and take seriously their mission to proclaim the Gospel. Planning can begin ten or eleven months before a scheduled VBS. It is a privilege to coordinate their visits to the Seward Peninsula, Alaska villages for this purpose. We are thankful for the many VBS events that have taken place as planned.

However, last summer it looked as if the VBS preparations were for naught for Brevig Mission, Alaska, a Lutheran community on the coast of the Seward Peninsula, west of Nome and across the harbor from the village of Teller. Ten days before the

A fire heavily damaged the church at Brevig Mission, Alaska. But it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the children or adults for Vacation Bible School.



mode of waiting that is all too familiar to us in this remote area: anticipating news of a loved one in a distant hospital; awaiting flights and supplies that arrive only when weather conditions allow; hoping for safe travel of a family member traveling by snow machine between villages in the middle of winter; settling in sometimes for days or weeks until a long winter blizzard passes. The next call was more urgent. Should the team cancel? With the unknowns and uncertainties facing us at

that point, the ultimate decision still was not in my hands. Yet, I suggested she wait one more day, then decide.

Finally, the call came from Brevig's pastor. He had been in touch with folks in Brevig Mission and was thinking out loud if and how it could work to still hold VBS. We discussed the options and after some consideration, he concluded: the VBS team can use the teen center and stay in the school district's teachers' quarters. It was settled.

Later, the team leader, Lisa Smith, wrote: "We were asked to give up control. Giving up control is an experience of freedom. This true freedom . . . comes in knowing God holds us now and always. We went to Brevig Mission . . . and relaxed into a caring community, sustained by a loving God and a welcoming village."

"Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:6-7

HOESE, Lorna ... Rev. & Mrs. Layton Lemke
HOFFMAN, Evelyn ... Lillian Meier
HOFFMAN, Erik ... Marian Hoffman
HOLMIN, Lillian ... Fred & Mary Ann Petersen
HORSTMEIER, John ... Dr. Luetta Werner
HUMMEL, Leon ... Myrtha & Bruce Witkop
HURFORD, Ray ... Doris Reda, Arnold & Vera Haubenstricker
ILER, Ralph Jr. ... Mr. & Mrs. Hal Haviland
IN MEMEORY OF LOVED ONES ... Evelyn Schneider
IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES ... Sara Snyder
IN MEMORY OF A FRIEND ... Mildred Tortenson
IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE ... Richard & Barbara Barsness
IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES ... Anna Burkhardt
IN MEMORY OF NORMAN ... Dorothy Iverson
JACKSON, Audrey ... Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth James
JACOBSON, Steven ... Thomas & Kyle Schulz
JARVELA, Elsie ... Elsie Johnson
JENSON, Dorothy ... Toms and Anne Rasmussen
JOHNSON, Donald ... Elsie Johnson
JUNKER, Charles ... Ruth Croft

KARSTEN, John ... Orville Ehster
KEINATH, Harold ... Dorothy Bradley, Marlett Grueber
KENNEDY, Jean Louise ... By Friends
KNAP, Vernon ... Lawrence & Marjorie Stivers
KNOELKE, Lorraine ... Irma Dreist
KOENIG, Joel ... Mr. & Mrs. Jack Koenig
KOHLER, Ruth ... Rev. & Mrs. Oswald Wagner
KRATZ, Violet ... Barbara Pingel
KROON, Harry ... Alvin & Mary Brannick
KUNKEL, Walter ... Carolyn Ratzow
KUNKEL, Walter ... Golden Years Club of Trinity, Clinton Township, MI
LADWIG, Grace ... Mr. & Mrs. Ray Zinnel
LAMMERT, Phyllis ... Myron Lammert
LAUX, Meta ... Doris Reda, Dorothy Bradley, Marvin & Vera Haubenstricker
LE GARDE, Gordon ... Rev. & Mrs. Gordon Lindemann
LEMKE, Rev. W.A. ... Rev. & Mrs. Marlo Lemke
LIMOGES, Margaret ... Barbara Pingel
LINDEMANN, Lorayne ... Rev. Gordon & Marie Lindemann
LINDQUIST, Alfred ... Ann & Ray Letscher
LOVALD, Mrs. Astor ... Jackie Lovald

LOVED ONES & FRIENDS ... Betty Umholtz
LUEBKE, Ray ... Erna Schmeckpepper
LUND, Hazel ... Arnold Lund
MAHLANDT, Charles & Frieda ... Lillian Helmer
MAHLUM, Donald Elmer ... Mr. & Mrs. John Ofstedahl
MARQUETTE, Mrs. ... Robert & Laura Huskamp
MATTSON, Ruby ... Bernice Hultgren
MCCLORY, Mac ... Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Tollfeldt
MCFARLAND, Verna ... Mr. & Mrs. Robert Neighbors
MCKINNEY, Roy ... Ruth Seboldt
MELCHERT, Helen ... Mervin & Eveline Herrmann
MEYER, Nora & Harry ... Doris Reda
MILLER, Harold & Dorothy ... Ginny Miller & Family
MILLIKEN, Harold ... Mrs. Gertrude Milliken
MINUGH, Pauline ... Nancy Minugh Purvis
MONTGOMERY, Joseph ... Dorothy Montgomery
MOORE, Bill ... Doris Pearson
MOTHER OF ROBDOW ... Betty Ellis
MUELLER, Harvey ... Barbara Mueller
MY BIRTH FAMILY OF WAUKESHA ... Marian Doody
MY SON ... Rose Kalotek

NEUCHTERLEIN, Fran ... Dorothy Bradley
NIEBAUM, Aaron ... Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Bloemker
NIEDERT, Ralph ... Pearl Schaefer
NOHRENBERG, Jane ... Thomas & Kyle Schulz, Mabelle Kreklau
NORD, Dr. Stanley ... Robert Johnson
OLLEK, Rosy ... Ken & Jetta Ollek, Peggy & Paul Roberts, Adolph & Laura Ollek, Jim & Doris Vaughn, Paul & Treva Oldham, Harold & Nancy Piepmeier, Carl & Delores Kennedy, Frances McRae, Dale & Sandra Lehning, Jim & Julie Ollek, Johnathan & Diane Regier, Dr. Susan Wheeler, Leroy Seitz, Like Lindsay, Paul & Joyce Taylor, Phyllis Meisinger, Connee & Harold Willis, Wima Ollek, Rodean & Michelle Duerksen, Mid-America Building Maintenance, Gerald & Freda Weyand, Mary Bowes, Max & Gerry Ann Hartsook, Tuesday Morning Breakfast Friends
OLLEK, Rosy ... Marvin & Carol Plenert
OLSON, Eleanor ... Bernice Hultgren
OLSON, Ken ... Rev. Willfred & Martha Bigott
OLSON, Maurice ... Edna Monson
ORWIN, Bill ... Marlys Erickson

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

September 1, 2004 to March 15, 2005

In Memory Of

ALM, Leonard & Gladys
... Ginny Miller &
Family
ALM, Stanley ... Ginny
Miller & Family
ANDERSON, Marvin ...
Barbara Pingel
ANDREUZZI, Caesar
"Bruno" ... Eleanor
McGinn, Bill Wells,
Anna Letscher
ANDREWS, Alice ...
William Peter
ARDOLF, Dorothy ...
Rev. & Mrs. Layton
Lemke
BACKSTROM, Justin,
Jacob, & Matthew ...
Mr. & Mrs. Carlyle Brye
BARRIGAN, Frances ...
William & Nona Yonke
BARTA, Donald ... Ken
& Mary Breitlow
BAUMANN, Dean ...
Anita Kleist
BERG – SODERLUND,
Elsie ... Arvid & Mary
Berg, Olive Erickson
BLADES, Jim ... Mildred
Moyer
BLANCK, Norman ...
Inez Blanck
BOELLING, Ken ...
Golden Years Club of
Trinity Lutheran
Church
BOEM, Phillip ...
Bernice Hultgren
BORLAUG, Oliver &
Sanford ... Judy Borlaug
BRACKEN, James ...
Mary Schleicher

BRAUN, Diane ... Jane
Wisnefske
BROGAN, Joan ...
Barbara Pingel
BROWN, Ralph ... Mr.
& Mrs. James Schulz
BURBRINK, Daniel
Luke ... Mr. & Mrs.
Tim Scheidt
BURNHAM, Bill ...
David & Charlotte
Twombly
CHRISTENSEN, Mr. &
Mrs. James ... Beverly
Christensen
CHRISTIANSON, Siri
... Rev. James
Christianson
CONNAUGHTY, Roger
... Barbara Pingel
CONVERSE, Mrs. ...
Dorothy Schroeder
CONZELMANN,
Shirley ... Dorothy
Bradley
DANIELCZYK, Betty
... Adolph & Robert
Danielczyk
DASHER, Gloria ...
Don & Fran Rodammer
DITTLUFF, Roland ...
Marvin & Lynda Reitz
DUFF, Muriel ... John
Duff
DUNSELMAN, Emmis
... Georgetta Liesik &
Family
EBERHARDT, John ...
John & Bea
Beiderwieden
EHRlich, Patricia ...
Tom, Beverly & Doug
Smith

EITEL, Marion ...
Thomas & Kyle Schulz
ELLERS, Otto & Hulda
... Romaine Ellers
ENGEN, Tom ... Donald
& Diane Hoveskeland
ENGLERT, Mark ... Mr.
& Mrs. Don Hackett
ERICKSON, Thomas ...
Rev. Gordon & Ida
Lindemann
FEDERWITZ, Dale ...
William & Marion
Gabriel
FEHRMANN, Mr. &
Mrs. G. P. ... Laura
Fehrmann
FERGERSTROM, Skip
... Clifford & Dorothy
Schroeder
FINGER, Maurice ...
Doris Reda
FINK, Rusty ... Ruth
Seboldt
FLESCH, Meta ...
Carla-Mae and Vine
McConnell
FLIER, Norene ...
Howard & Linda Flier
FOSS, Virginia ...
Mildred Scranton
FRANCIS, Elmyra ...
Ardis Brotsma
FREITAG, Dorothy ...
Ruth Seboldt
GEFEKE, Lawrence ...
Ruth Schick, Lillian
Meier
GENTZKE, Christina ...
Rev. Robert & Marjorie
Gentzke
GIELOW, David ... Mr.
& Mrs Thomas
Lavender

GILMORE, Margaret ...
Ruth Seboldt
GOECKER, Earl ...
Hulda Goecker
GOLDHAMMER,
Marcus ... Karel
Reiman
GRAY, Bill & Mary Lou
... Elizabeth Vance
GROTH, Ron ... Mr.
Richard Musbach
HAAS, Clarence ...
Doris Reda
HAIDLE, Fred & Allen
... Freda Haidle
HALEMAYER, Bernice
... Larry & Ernest
Halemeyer
HAMMER, Arlin &
Jane ... Gary & Patricia
Hammer
HANLEY, Carl ... Rev.
Alvin & Susan
Epperson
HANSON, Karine ...
Mr. & Mrs. John
Ofstedahl
HARRIS, Eugene ...
Marlene Merillat
HARTUNG, Stan ...
Lowell Bloemker
HEDIN, Violet ... Doris
Peterson
HEINS, Genevieve ...
Edith Asfahl, Jane &
Merle Grath, Marge
Hunt, Louis Affeldt,
Philip and Jean Affeldt
HENDRICKSON, Jerley
... Bernice Hultgren
HENNING, William &
Paul ... Lucile Henning
HINZE, Thelma ...
Marian Lones

The Refit of the M/V CHRISTIAN



Rev. Elvin & Alice Borg
M/V CHRISTIAN
Southeast Alaska

Now after 33 years of regular maintenance but hard use the CHRISTIAN has been reborn. She sparkles onward toward another thirty years if our Lord pleases. Her bones are strong and her skin glows. Which means, when interpreted, the steel holding her together is as strong as ever and the new paint and woodwork shine. She's fit and healthy . . . and the Coast Guard is happy . . . and that makes us happy. Everyone thinks the CHRISTIAN looks great.

Specifics of the refit of the CHRISTIAN:

In June, we quickly finished Vacation Bible School, then tied up to John Agostine's floating metal working shop here in Wrangell, Alaska, our home base. Melvin and I began stripping out the interior so John and his

helper could weld without danger of fire. Jim, a carpenter, followed behind rebuilding as John finished welding. We fit and hung new insulated aluminum windows and doors; fabricated aluminum storage containers, freezer box, life float stand, outdoor seating, mast, and boom. The floor plan remains the same. Meanwhile Melvin and I were also making sure supplies were there on time, doing plumbing and wiring, standing fire watch, fabricating wooden parts, making decisions, helping where needed, and hauling — always hauling . . . new stuff down the ramp to the boat, old stuff up the ramp to the dumpster.

That frenzy lasted until August 18, when we headed south to Vancouver, B.C. with a



shabby-looking but mostly rebuilt boat. There she was sand blasted and painted. It took a solid five weeks. We returned home to Wrangell with a newly-painted boat gleaming in the sun.

A few tasks remain for Alice and her sewing machine: in the main salon the tattered shades and out-dated valences are being replaced by new curtains. In the sleeping area below, the bedrooms will sport new fabric curtain-doors and decorative wall-hangings.

God is gracious and merciful, giving far more than we ask or think.

The chop is building. Waves soon wash across the deck. I calmly drive on. No longer must I rush to grab towels to sop up water leaking onto the floor and down the stairs. The leaks are gone. Since the refit, the CHRISTIAN is almost a new boat. The cabin/hull joint is welded up tight. New windows and doors elegantly keep the salt water outside the newly rebuilt interior.

On the way back from sand blasting and painting we stopped overnight in Ketchikan, Alaska, to go through customs. We also needed to buy supplies.

That evening about 9:00 p.m. someone knocked on the door. There stood a middle-aged native man. As I shook the rain off his jacket and hung it up he began to talk. "I remember the CHRISTIAN from years ago. We would talk and pray. I've been sober for six months now . . . off pot too. But things have been tough the last few days. I was on my way to the bar when I saw the CHRISTIAN. I knew I had to come down and see you."

For a couple hours we shared stories, laughs, serious talk, and prayer. Coffee and goodies too. He left for home (not the bar!) with a spring in his step and the strength to go on another day. Our prayers for God's daily help and encouragement followed him off the boat and up the ramp back into his bleak life. The next day we left up the channel to our rich and rewarding work with thanks in our hearts that even on the way to and from, God uses this boat.

I'm blessed to be called to this unique ministry. Like you, I pray for and financially support the work of the CHRISTIAN.

Thank You!

A special thanks for the generous grant from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) and another generous grant from the Siebert Lutheran Foundation of Wisconsin.

Because of good craftsmen and donated labor and materials we were able to do far more than we thought possible with the funds available. Thanks to John Agostine who so competently and generously did all the metal fabrication and welding. Thanks to Jim Kreucher for his artistry with wood.

Warm thanks to my brother, Melvin, for all his work on the boat and help managing this project. We made each dollar count. I would have had much grayer hair without his able help.

The first mate and cook adds her thanks to Doug Mjorud for building state-of-the-art cabinets for the galley. We thank his church, Bethlehem Lutheran in Tacoma, Washington, for providing all the cabinet materials.

Grieving With Hope



Linda Martin
Ministry Staff
Sioux Lookout, Ontario

The woman broke down in wrenching sobs. She finally began to weep just as we finished our first day of sharing circles. Earlier in the afternoon this woman had shared how the pain of losing a good friend in the past year had been bearing on her heart. At the end of the day, she was able to openly weep as she began to really enter the pain of her loss. As we surrounded her we encouraged her to weep and grieve over the loss of her friend.

Another woman, a young mother, also had come up to me at the end of the evening session and said she was ready to grieve for her son. During the first three days of this conference, I had been talking to this young mother who had lost a baby son within the past year. She shared that she had been unable to cry and grieve for her baby. One of the reasons she gave for this was because she was afraid to cry and end up going out of control.

Yet, another woman in another session had left the conference room in tears as the speaker spoke about the

goodness of God. Realizing she needed help we followed her out. She then began to talk to us. We found out that she had lost a son and a brother within a year. The pain of losing her two loved ones was still very raw. She shared how the message was hard on her because she was not feeling the goodness of God in her life. Rather the darkness of pain was more real to her at the time. We continued to talk to her as we began to show and explain the cycle of grief. We explained that the grief cycle included intense emotions such as anger, anxiety, fear, and aloneness; and that what she was feeling was normal. Normal for a person who just had major losses. Then I read to her from the book of Psalms where the writer is crying out to God in his despair. I read the passages to her to help her understand that there are people who have felt such despair like her, and that it is okay to feel like that and weep before God. I also read the passages to her to help her understand that God knows and understands what she is going through. God knows that there are dark emotional valleys that we go through in this life. Just because she was not feeling the goodness of God at the time did not mean that there was something wrong with her or that God was not with her. She began to calm down after awhile. She needed to understand that she was grieving for her loved ones and that it was okay and important that she in fact grieve.

In the last newsletter, I mentioned that one of the main issues that my people group struggle with is unresolved grief. There is

so much unresolved grief from losses such as losing loved ones through tragic deaths. A good part of our ministry is spent in helping people who are grieving. There is a lack of understanding concerning grief. Often people are afraid to experience the intense emotions of grief so they suppress the pain, like the young mother who was afraid to cry. Other times, they do not know how to experience their grief properly, like the woman who needed to understand that it was okay to feel such pain and despair. Both women had to be encouraged and helped to weep and grieve for their lost loved ones.

In addition to the grief that comes from losing loved ones, many of the people struggle with unresolved grief that comes from losses they experienced in their childhood — losses, such as, abandonment, rejection and emotional neglect from their parents. Often, people do not understand these are losses that need to be grieved. Whether it was neglect by their parents, coming from broken families where their mother or father left them, or were given up for

adoption or foster care, the fact is tremendous emotional pain took place from those experiences and this must be acknowledged and attended to.

Many times people do not realize that they are walking around with unresolved grief from losses due to death and childhood wounds. By the grace of God, we attempt to address these difficult issues through our ministry of speaking, teaching, and individual and group counseling. For the women we mentioned, in the beginning, it was through conference teaching and individual counseling that their healing journeys began and/or continued. Through these avenues significant breakthroughs are evident. Yes, this type of ministry is difficult, yet every so often we see miracles take place, such as in the lives of these women. It is through people like them that we see God at work. Ultimately, it is God, through His Holy Spirit, that truly heals us. We, as workers and as a mission, have been privileged to be part of this kind of ministry in this tumultuous time of my native people's history.



Linda Martin (center) and her husband, Rick, work with First Nation peoples in remote communities of northern Ontario.

LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION OF MISSIONARIES AND PILOTS, INC.

Brookfield, Wisconsin

Statements of Activities

	YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2005			YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2004		
	Unrestricted Net Assets	Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	Total	Unrestricted Net Assets	Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	Total
Support, Revenue and Other Income:						
Gifts:						
Donations – U.S.	\$ 1,408,350	\$ 229,000	\$ 1,637,350	\$ 1,823,896	\$ 196,000	\$ 2,019,896
Total gifts	<u>1,408,350</u>	<u>229,000</u>	<u>1,637,350</u>	<u>1,823,896</u>	<u>196,000</u>	<u>2,019,896</u>
Operations:						
VIM donations	1,000	–	1,000	450	–	450
Total Operations	<u>1,000</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>450</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>450</u>
Other Income:						
Interest	27,052	1,533	28,585	33,781	873	34,654
Rent income	5,320	–	5,320	–	–	–
Realized gain (loss) on sale of securities	1	–	1	(16)	–	(16)
Total other income	<u>32,373</u>	<u>1,533</u>	<u>33,906</u>	<u>33,765</u>	<u>873</u>	<u>34,638</u>
Net Assets Released From Restrictions:						
Satisfaction of program restrictions	302,579	(302,579)	–	39,950	(39,950)	–
Total support, revenue and other income (loss)	<u>1,744,302</u>	<u>(72,046)</u>	<u>1,672,256</u>	<u>1,898,061</u>	<u>156,923</u>	<u>2,054,984</u>
Expenses and Other Losses:						
Contributions to My People International, Inc.	386,349	–	386,349	343,837	–	343,837
VIM support	1,000	–	1,000	450	–	450
U.S. programs	53,962	–	53,962	59,924	–	59,924
Salaries and benefits	747,321	–	747,321	858,358	–	858,358
Transportation	188,835	–	188,835	208,174	–	208,174
Communication	426,774	–	426,774	491,737	–	491,737
Administration	470,283	–	470,283	302,054	–	302,054
Depreciation	67,200	–	67,200	65,933	–	65,933
Total expenses	<u>2,341,724</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>2,341,724</u>	<u>2,330,467</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>2,330,467</u>
Changes in net assets	<u>(597,422)</u>	<u>(72,046)</u>	<u>(669,468)</u>	<u>(432,406)</u>	<u>156,923</u>	<u>(275,483)</u>
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>1,867,762</u>	<u>198,670</u>	<u>2,066,432</u>	<u>2,300,168</u>	<u>41,747</u>	<u>2,341,915</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$ 1,270,340</u>	<u>\$ 126,624</u>	<u>\$ 1,396,964</u>	<u>\$ 1,867,762</u>	<u>\$ 198,670</u>	<u>\$ 2,066,432</u>

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS'
REPORT

The Board of Directors
Lutheran Association of Missionaries
and Pilots, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots, Inc. as of January 31, 2005 and 2004 and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statements presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots, Inc. as of January 31, 2005 and 2004 and the results of its activities and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



Reilly, Penner & Benton LLP
Certified Public Accountants &
Consultants
March 4, 2005

LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION OF
MISSIONARIES AND PILOTS, INC.

Brookfield, Wisconsin

Statements of Financial Position

	YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31	
	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$ 1,135,487	\$ 1,884,648
Accounts Receivable	460	75,000
Promises to give	-	10,000
Prepaid expenses	87,737	31,723
Deposits	3,275	3,275
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total current assets	1,226,959	2,004,646
Property and Equipment:		
Cost	916,318	737,087
Less – Accumulated depreciation	(498,417)	(431,317)
Net property and equipment	<hr/>	<hr/>
	417,801	305,770
Total assets	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	\$ 1,644,760	\$ 2,310,416
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	\$ 58,731	\$ 41,892
Accrued and withheld payroll taxes	5,465	5,492
Current portion of long-term debt	183,600	196,600
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total liabilities	247,796	243,984
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	1,270,340	1,867,762
Temporarily restricted	126,624	198,670
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total net assets	1,396,964	2,066,432
Total liabilities and net assets	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	\$ 1,644,760	\$ 2,310,416

This is a summary of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended January 31, 2005. You may request a full copy of the Audited Financial Statements from the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. office.

More Than Anger Management



Rick Martin
Ministry Staff
Sioux Lookout, Ontario

As I watched the replays of NBA basketball players throwing punches at each other, and then seeing the fans getting violent as well, it was clear to me that somehow more than just passion for the game was involved here. Over the past few years I have seen the same thing happen in baseball and hockey. What brings people to go over the edge, so to speak, and do things that they just would not normally do?

We all know that we do not have to look far to see the demonstration of anger. If you were to drive into our little northern town of Sioux Lookout you would see, at first, the beauty of fresh water lakes lined with lush evergreen trees. You may see a majestic moose grazing along the side of the road. You may even see a mother bear with her playful cubs. Eagles often soar in the high skies above. There is natural beauty all around. Yet, as you drive into the very town itself you will begin to see that our main street, although it has a beautiful view of Pelican Lake and Sioux Mountain, is dotted with people who

have found very little in their lives that make them feel beautiful. Our streets are full of people who have turned to self-destructive behaviors trying to deal with the hurt, the resentment, the anger, and the rage they feel deep within. More than this, if you get close to many of these people you will find that many have tried to bury their pain and hide it but have been unable to do so. They have ended up on the streets as substance abusers and alcoholics. What is also hard to believe is that many of these people are out there living on the streets year-round even in the middle of winter when the temperatures up here are usually well below zero. Many have physical scars on their faces coming from times when they have not been able to contain the rage within and have found themselves in physical fights that have left lasting scars.

When Linda and I were first asked if we would do a workshop on something to do with stress, anger and depression I thought, "sure we see so much of this in our work." After some prayer and reflection, Linda and I decided to go ahead with being involved in presenting a workshop on these topics. In fact it was decided that we would present this workshop at a conference room right here in Sioux Lookout at one of the local hotels. It is often in these very hotels that we see so much anger being demonstrated.

But wait one minute. As I began to think about how I was going to help

others in this matter of handling anger it seemed to me that God in His grace was nudging me to think about my own frustrations and that I should make sure that I look at the log that may be in my own eye before I start pointing it out in others. I started to reflect on my own issues that I had dealt with in the past and realized that there may even be more work to be done here as well as needing to deal with some new ones.

I also asked the question as to whether or not anger is always destructive and whether or not it is always wrong? While reading and preparing for this

and Anger. He mentions that in the Old Testament the Hebrew word for anger is often used in regards to God's anger. But God's anger is always as a result of some just reason. For example, in Hosea, God shows how passionate His love is for His people. When He sees the ones He loves so much walk away and hurt themselves God is righteously angry at what the results of their actions will be. Anger then is often the right response. What often becomes wrong then is the way we express our anger.

Yet, what I really want to point out here is that much of our anger and the anger that I see in the world around me is not

Our streets are full of people who have turned to self-destructive behaviors trying to deal with the hurt, the resentment, the anger, and the rage they feel deep within.

workshop I came upon a book called *Anger* by Richard P. Walters. Here he mentions that we should be angry when we see injustice in our world. When a child is being abused, we should be angry and we must do something about it. Walters calls this righteous anger or righteous indignation. Another writer Dwight L. Carlson has written a book he names *Overcoming Hurts*

righteous anger. Much of what I have seen in the lives of others and even in myself is the anger that is hurtful and even at times destructive. Often this kind of anger is a reaction to the way people have hurt us. We all experience hurts in our lives. We live in a fallen world and we know that we all will have to face disappointments. If the anger from the pain,

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however, is not dealt with properly it can often turn into an underlying rage that can erupt over frustrating or stressful events. It is this kind of anger then that we often come face-to-face with in our lives.

As I studied for this workshop I began to see that there are some important points that I needed to talk about. First I needed to point out that we must not live in denial. Carlson demonstrates that we must recognize our feelings and admit that we have been hurt. So many people I know have huge hurts in their lives and yet will not admit it. I know for myself I often try to keep it underneath the surface. But when I do not deal with it properly and in a Godly way it can turn into resentment and bitterness that I harbor deep within my soul. Eventually it may even turn into rage.

Many times people hold in their anger not wanting to admit it. Or they may not know how to

express it. When this happens the anger is turned inward. Anger turned inward then, often leads to depression. Today this is where many of the people we minister to are at — whether young or old.

There are many things involved in the process of finding victory over anger and not everything can be mentioned here. Yet, grieving the hurts that often lead to anger is crucial. We weep when we are in touch with that hurt and pain. And grieving is only made more thorough when we weep with others. This often is the work that Linda and I are part of and we saw this again at this workshop. More than this, what joy to know that we can weep before the Lord knowing that He will hear the deepest cry of our souls. What a powerful experience it was to be able to speak with conviction that God wants to and can hear our deepest cries. He wants to touch the deepest parts of our hearts and souls with his healing power. God is up to more than just anger management. He gets to

the root of the problem and sets us free.

The Scriptures give important examples of how we can bring our frustrations and anger to Him. The Psalms are full of passages where David cries out to the Lord in his anger. We also find this in Lamentations and Job. Not only can we tell God how hurt and angry we are. It is He, in the end, who is ultimately the One to help and heal us. And the beautiful reality is that He will always be there.

We ended each teaching day with a sharing circle. This was a powerful time. People were able to acknowledge their hurts and anger. There is so much freedom in even going this far. Others spoke of how they had been able to move on to forgiveness

and the freedom that this brings.

Linda and I have lived among her native people for many years now. We see and hear of story after story of people who have done things in their anger and rage that they regret for the rest of their lives. We visit people in our area jail who witness to this very fact. The good news is that something can be done. We don't have to let our anger destroy us. There is hope because God is for us. **God is up to more than just anger management. He gets to the root of the problem and sets us free.**



The Light is On!



Rev. Dale Heinlein
Ministry Staff
Neah Bay, Washington

In the darkness of a deep winter's night the walkway lights lit the church's sidewalk like a landing strip for airplanes. It is critical for an airplane pilot to approach the landing strip at the proper angle. If he doesn't the plane may touch down short of the runway and crash. Or, if the plane is allowed to fly too far down the runway before touching down there may not be enough pavement left to safely stop the aircraft.

The Sunday School children and worshipers at Makah Lutheran Church anticipate this night for months. For months we had prayed about, discussed and wrote a Christmas Program with a part for each child, had congregational involvement and included the prayer Jesus taught (the Lord's prayer) translated and prayed in Makah.

This night children and adults proceeded down the

sidewalk as the walkway lights safely guided them into the church — anticipating a new presentation of the incarnation of God's Son. There was a sense of joy in the dark night's air like a young child anticipating the celebration of his birthday and the blowing out of the candles on a cake.

Weeks earlier, in joyful anticipation, we arranged

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As I think of the volunteers getting ready to return to Alaska it reminds me of one of the first Vacation Bible Schools that I was involved in. It was in a small community in interior Alaska. It was going to be a team of 3 teaching that year — my husband, daughter and myself. We prepared for many months by talking to the people in the community to find out what their needs were. Finally the day came for us to drive 275 miles on a gravel road to get there. When we arrived we were welcomed by many of the people in the community. They were really happy to

see us come up there “JUST FOR THEM”! One of the first ones that we talked to included a boy that was 15 years old. You see we were in a very small community with only 9 children. He asked us if he was too old to come to Vacation Bible School. We said, “of course not!” You are never too old to learn about Jesus. He was a great help with the younger children and was just a joy to be around. Sometimes we think that we are too old to sing songs like “Jesus Loves Me.” We are never too old to learn and sing of Jesus. I continue to pray for this young man even though it has been many years since

this happened. He had the love of Jesus in his heart when we left him that week and I will never forget the song that we sang for the whole group that departing day!

The song was:
“Pray for Me.”

I think of this song often as I have to say good-bye to so many dear and wonderful volunteers that give of their time and talents to come to Alaska to tell of the love of Jesus. If you are interested in a life-changing experience please feel free to contact us.



Each year hundreds of faith-filled volunteers travel from the “lower 48” to assist with Vacation Bible Schools attended by more than 1000 children across Alaska, Canada and the Olympic Peninsula.

God’s blessings as you tell of the love of Jesus to your friends and family.

PRAY FOR ME

*Here is where the road divides; here is where we realize
The sculpting of the Father’s great design.
Through time you’ve been a friend to me, but time is now the enemy.
I wish we didn’t have to say good bye.
But I know the road he chose for me is not the road he chose for you.
So as we chase the dreams we’re after:*

Chorus:

*Pray for me, and I’ll pray for you. Pray that we will keep the common ground.
Won’t you pray for me and I’ll pray you and one day love will bring us back around again.*

*Painted on our tapestry we see the way it has to be
Weaving though the laughter and the tears
But love will be the tie that binds us
To the time we leave behind us
Memories will be our souvenirs
And I know that through it all the hardest
Part of love is letting go.
But there’s a greater love that holds us*

Chorus:

*Pray for me, and I’ll pray for you. Pray that we will keep the common ground.
Won’t you pray for me and I’ll pray you and one day love will bring us back around again.*

Reconciliation With God's People



Patricia Mirasty Main
Ministry Staff
Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan

The Lord said, "I have a plan and a purpose for your life." Jer 29:11 And He has! He has brought me back to my home territory. As a child growing up, I had felt rejection and was not proud of being an Indian. Through time God has brought healing. He has healed me in many areas of my life. Most of all, He has helped me accept who I am. First of all, I am His child and He loves and accepts me. Jesus created me as a Cree woman doing native ministry. So I rise up as a native person sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in my home territory of the

Cree. I am totally relying on God for His favor and direction — and for His grace to minister to others.

Jesus is truly the Lord who brings healing and reconciliation between Flying Dust First Nation and the town of Meadow Lake.

As a First Nations person, welcoming and inviting the pastor's wives from the non-native churches in Meadow Lake, to Flying Dust Reserve was history in the making. Many walls of misunderstanding had been put up between the two communities. Hurt feelings, rejections, passing judgement and prejudice. For most of the ladies this was the very first time that they had set foot in a First Nations church on the Flying Dust Reserve.

We came together as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. I came with a humble attitude and with forgiveness in my heart. Asking the ladies for forgiveness, for fear of being rejected, mistrusted

As a child growing up, I had felt rejection and was not proud of being an Indian. Through time God has brought healing. He has healed me in many areas of my life.

and being isolated from the churches of Meadow Lake. As a First Nations person, I don't want to walk this journey of faith alone. As a First Nations person, I believe God wants us to walk together, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is God's will that there is healing between the First Nations people and the non-aboriginal people from town. The day we got together, God's healing touch flowed on the ladies. We embraced each other and forgiveness was released. God softened the hearts of all of those present. He also knitted our hearts together in oneness. It was a miracle!

That day the Lord brought healing to our

hearts and we declared as one that we would walk and support each other as sisters in the Lord. We agreed to work together to further the Kingdom of God in the community of Meadow Lake and Flying Dust Reserve. The ministry of reconciliation between the communities will only become stronger and stronger as we submit to God's gracious will.

Today, by God's grace I can share that there is an increase of reconciliation happening between the body of Christ in Flying Dust and the non-native Christians in Meadow Lake. Thanks and praise be to God for His goodness!

Volunteers Are Getting Ready

What an exciting time of year this is! As we are gearing up to start another full summer of volunteers coming from the lower 48, we recognize what a blessing they are. Dan and I have started calling some of the volunteers that have been here in the past. They are so excited to talk to us and about their ministry in the community that they are serving in. Most of them that are

coming back, are returning to renew relationships that they have formed in the past. Most of them say, "Of course we are coming back. We wouldn't miss this for anything." They have been in contact with the people in the community by sending letters and gifts but now they can come back to see them in person. It looks like about two-thirds of our communities that we go

into will have returning volunteers. What a blessing that is for both the community and the volunteers. Not only can we hear the excitement in their voice when we talk to them on the phone, we see the results when they arrive. They are so filled with the love of Jesus that it overflows. **It is so wonderful!**



Ruth Zellar
Volunteer Coordinator
Fairbanks, Alaska

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the sanctuary's seating to allow the congregation to sit closer to the presenters. We raised the presenter's platform so everyone could clearly see the children. Each worshiper was presented with a complete program so that in case they missed a word or two they could read along and know the full meaning of the message.

The message is old. We know it by heart. We read it and thank God for it. It's the message of God's Son entering the world and our lives in order to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. He taught His Father's love, compassion and presence. He lived the flawless life that His Father's perfection demands — and He did it for us! He was crucified for our sins and by His innocent suffering and

death paid for our sins with His precious blood. He died and was buried. Three days later He rose to life assuring His followers that they too will be raised to everlasting life with God in heaven.

How important the light of the Gospel is in the darkness of the world!

God had His hand on the Sunday School Christmas Program that dark night. Each child, with anxious and joyous heart, shared his portion of the message. Each worshiper was blessed to hear the message as they watched the story unfold anew. We sang magnificent Christmas carols and a teenager sang a new Christmas song.

At the conclusion of the service we shared Christmas goodies and had a time to visit. It was only

then that I realized all the teachers of the Makah language and culture departments at the Makah Cultural and Research Center were in the congregation that night. That affirmed to me the powerful culturally sensitive ministry at Makah Lutheran Church on behalf of Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S.

Leaving the sanctuary, the participants were guided to their vehicles by the walkway lights.

That reminds me of the way Jesus leads us in our "comings" and "goings." He ever so graciously and consistently lights the path of our life. He desires that we realize He (God's Son and our Savior) is able to guide each step that we take. When we misstep and sin, He leads us to the cross where we can confess

our sin and be assured of forgiveness. When we are deep in despair because of frustration, setback or loss, He leads us to the empty Easter gravesite and shows us the victory that we share over sin, death and the devil. When we miss being with our family and friends, He reminds us of heaven and our homesickness fades. When we are anxious for His reassuring presence, we remember our baptism and His Supper as we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus. Come!"

Whatever "walkway lights" you may have in your life, may they consistently remind you of Jesus and the way He guides you and your Christian Native American brothers and sisters on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington. The light of Christ is always on!

My Grace Is Sufficient for You



Dave Sternbeck
Ministry Staff
Neah Bay, Washington

It's been a busy year since coming to the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. last February. Ministry opportunities in the Northwest on the Olympic Peninsula, have been, it seems, boundless.

In Neah Bay, we are currently involved in many programs — Word and Sacrament ministry, youth ministries, contextual Vacation Bible Schools, workshops, and Christian concerts. On the greater Peninsula we have started serving on three other Native reserves, small group gatherings, contextual Vacation Bible Schools, workshops, concerts, etc. We are involved in a couple of side door ministries as well, cultural awareness programs, and community development programs are useful in building relationships in the communities we serve.

Along with family, marriage, two teenaged

children, and all that goes with the term family-life, life is busy to say the least, exciting, and at times overwhelming. But I can hear the Lord saying, "My grace is sufficient for you."

In the midst of all this I have started school in the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology program at Concordia Seminary-St. Louis. In about three years I will be an ordained LCMS pastor serving at the Makah Lutheran church, on the Makah Reservation, at Neah Bay.

It is exciting to see Rev. Dr. Don Johnson's vision to train indigenous leaders to minister to their own people actually being birthed within our

organization. It is exciting to see men like Reverend Dale Heinlein willing and committed to mentoring men in the pursuit of this goal.

To see Native people ministering to their own people is an answer to my prayers. I am grateful and I am humbled before almighty God. I am thankful to you, the LCMS church, to the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S., and to all the people that dedicate their time, money, and their lives to the seeing of the Gospel of our Lord shared across the North American continent.

Reflections on Stewardship

Stewardship is an expression of faith. We accept God's gifts gratefully, tending them responsibly, and share them in justice and love. So, when we return home to the Father, we hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant . . . Come and share your master's happiness!" Matthew 25:21 (NIV)

Your Will

A Will is the most important element of responsible stewardship. It allows you to express your own choices regarding the distribution of your possessions, once you have returned to the Father.

If you choose Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. as a recipient of your generous support, it is important to use our full name, address and tax ID#:

Lutheran Association of
Missionaries and Pilots U.S., Inc.
3525 N. 124th Street, Suite 1
Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005
Tax ID#: 39-1509253

Charitable Gift Annuity

A Charitable Gift Annuity gives you the satisfaction of not only helping a ministry you support, such as Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S., but it also provides you the practical benefits of a fixed rate of return, along with charitable tax benefits.

Gifts of Life Insurance

A gift of Life Insurance is a very popular way to support a favorite ministry, especially if the care of loved ones is already secure. Such gifts receive an immediate charitable income tax deduction. And premiums you pay in the future are also tax deductible.

Retirement Plan Gifts

A gift of Retirement Plan Assets is a very wise gift you can make to a ministry like Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. Often, Retirement Plan Assets are subject to punishing taxes. A gift of these assets can increase the amount of your estate available to family and loved ones.

For more information on including Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. in your estate planning considerations, please contact the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. office at 262-783-5267.

Important

If the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. is already mentioned in your Will or estate plan, it is important to make certain all references to this ministry include the following information: Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S., Inc., 3525 N. 124th Street, Suite 1, Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005, Tax ID#: 39-1509253. Thank you.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21 (NIV)

Brothers and Mentors



Adrian Jacobs
Ministry Staff
Brantford, Ontario

I came to Christ influenced significantly by the Christian witness of my older brother Gary. A lay Christian, Gary did not go into the ministry after his conversion, but now serves Christ in his job as a policy analyst for the government. His dramatically changed Christian life helped me see that Christianity was not just the white man's religion. I grew up thinking the Native religion of my ancestors was the way to the Creator for me, as a Native person.

My brother was a mentor for me and I have learned much by his example. He challenged me and gave me needed advice as I began my faith journey following Christ. I pastored a church I planted on my home reserve and Gary served for years as an elder. He taught me about

priorities and that God could guide you with foresight and wisdom. As a pastor I taught others what God and His servants taught me.

My younger brother Morgan was a member of our church at my home reserve. I returned to live in my home community and was very happy to learn that Morgan was leading the congregation in a pastoral role. I stand now in his life as a mentor. It was good to meet with Morgan and another pastor to help him as he conducted his first wedding. It was good to hear good reports from the ceremony where Morgan assisted in the ceremony for his life long friend and first cousin.

"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit the same to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

2 Timothy 2:2
(Modern King James Version)

This verse speaks of four leaders: Paul, Timothy, faithful men, and others. Each one represents a new generation of leaders. The ministry of Christian leaders is to produce re-producing leadership. Our failure to do this dooms our ministry to our

lifetime. When we die, the ministry dies if we have not produced leaders able to produce leaders. Our success in reproducing ourselves as leaders means ministry will survive beyond us.

I am thankful for my older brother Gary's role as a mentor in my life. I have learned valuable things that I try to pass on to others. It is now a pleasure to serve as a mentor to my younger brother Morgan. It will be my greatest pleasure to watch him mentor others who will teach others. I want to be part of the Biblical example of a succession of four leaders. As we follow the Apostle Paul's example, there will be leaders right to the time of Christ's return.

Adrian Jacobs is a Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S./My People International outreach worker among Iroquoian people around Lake Ontario. He works among Native people in Ontario, Quebec in Canada and New York State in the U.S. Adrian's desire is to see Native leaders grow in their leadership abilities and character. He trains and teaches others through small groups and in one-on-one mentoring settings. He lives in Brantford, Ontario with his five children and teaches the home church he assisted in starting on his home reserve – Six Nations. He is currently applying to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis to begin the Ethnic Immigrant study program leading to ordination. We hope to have him enrolled by fall of 2005.



Reflections



Dianne Heinlein
Coordinator - Youth Center
Neah Bay, Washington

I can look out upon all the boats, mostly fishing boats, in the marina at Neah Bay and it makes for a spectacular view. The boats bob in the water as the waves go in and out with the tide. If I'm close enough I can hear the water lapping at their sides while seagulls screech overhead. Most of the time the sky is gray and overcast, but occasionally there will be some sun. When the light is just right I can gaze out at the boats and see their image reflected on the water beneath them. It seems I can gaze upon this sight forever. It is beautiful!

As I thank God for the beauty He has created in the world and all the good things that He has given to us, I thank God also for the



Christian Youth Center (CYC). Just as I can close my eyes and see the image of fishing boats reflected on the water, I can close my eyes to see and hear moments in time at the CYC and reflect on them.

"This place is awesome." "What does it mean to be Christian?" "This is the only place I can go to get peace and quiet, and have fun." "I wonder what it would be like to live here." "When is the next Lock-in? The last one was so much fun!" "I'll be ready for church in the morning." These are just a few things I've heard from some of the youth who come to the CYC. It was even one of the High School boys who got us started calling it the "C-Y-C".

As I reflect I recall many happy times. Times of laughter and fun, times of sharing and caring, times of learning and growing in our faith. Everything from "theme" lock-ins, devotions and Bible studies to golf outings has drawn us together as family.

It has been a little over two years that the CYC opened its doors to provide a safe Christian environment for the youth in Neah Bay. Some of us feel right at home and it has become a part of our weekly routine. For instance, on most Sundays, two teenage girls come for Sunday School and worship at Makah Lutheran Church, then go over to the CYC for the rest of the afternoon. When it is time to close, they are as familiar with the closing procedure as I

am and they help. Usually I give them a ride home. Always upon entering the car they will say, "we know - seat belts!" They love it when they have to remind me to put my seat belt on. This is one simple way we show how much we care for each other.

I met one of the girls in the fall of 2003. Over months of playing games, putting puzzles together, sharing and talking, she was ready to join a body of believers in public worship. She has become an active part of our church family, professing her faith and praying the Lord's Prayer in her Native tongue. She is walking with the Lord and we are blessed to have a close and loving relationship with her.

Last spring one of the boys brought his father to the CYC. (His father lives in another state.) He introduced himself and said he had to see this place that his son always talks about. His son had told him he goes to church now, much to his father's delight. He was a little surprised that it wasn't actually a "church," but rather a Christian Youth Center. As I visited with the father he expressed how thankful and appreciative he was that his son had a place like this to come to. He spent the whole afternoon here with his son and again expressed thanks upon leaving.

As we reflect on life, relationships, activities and events we reflect on God's Word and "at all times, and in all places, we give Him thanks."

Northern Lights Fellowship

The Northern Lights Fellowship recognizes the men and women who have made a special commitment to the long-term ministry of Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. through a Bequest, Charitable Gift Annuity, Trust Agreement, Life Insurance program or other estate gift.

To become a member, simply notify Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. when a planned gift is made. While estate plans remain anonymous, membership in the Fellowship encourages other friends to remember Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. in their estate planning.

As a special expression of our gratitude to members of the Northern Lights Fellowship, we are pleased to offer a beautiful print of a watercolor painting by Mary Johnson, gifted artist and wife of Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Don Johnson.

Your Legacy of Faith and Love

Yes! I have already remembered Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. in my Will or Estate Plans. Please enroll me in the Northern Lights Fellowship.

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Introducing ...

a new look for our newsletter! "Northern Lights" is the name we have chosen because it represents our efforts to share the light of Jesus Christ among the people we have been called to serve.

Do You Quilt or Sew?

During the refit of the M/V CHRISTIAN, a new bed was designed for the Captain and First Mate — Rev. Elvin and Alice Borg. A new bedspread is desperately needed to add the finishing touches to the boat.

If you have any scrap material that you have lying around that meets the following specifications — red-white-blue color scheme, 100% cotton fabric, cut into 8 inch squares, — please consider donating it to:

Alice Borg
P.O. Box 381
Wrangell, AK 99929

Alice is planning to make a quilt and would love to be able to take a piece of you — our partner in ministry — with them on their travels to spread God's Word throughout the southeast coast of Alaska.

Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S.

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