

Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S.

Northern Lights

Vol. 41, No. 1
Spring 2010

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*Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S.
shares Christ's Kingdom with Native North American
Peoples for ministry to their own and to others.*

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The Lighter Side of Darkness

by Rev. Dr. Don W. Johnson (Makah)



Rev. Dr. Don W. Johnson
Executive Director

We have all been there. A call comes when we least expect it, informing us of that which we most dread: the unwelcome news that there has been an accident of one kind or another.

I experienced this most recently while attending a mission symposium in St. Louis along with Reverend Dave Sternbeck, a recently ordained member of our staff. We were sitting together having a cup of coffee planning our day when his cell phone rang. On the other end was a state patrol officer from the state of Washington calling to inform Dave that there had been a car accident. One of our staff assigned to work with Dave was seriously injured. The accident totaled their car and there were injuries. Fortunately they were not fatal and as of this writing it appears the persons involved (Winston and Connie Wilson) will recover and eventually be able to resume their responsibilities.

It reminded me of something Douglas John Hall said in his book, "Lord Lighten our Darkness." He wrote that life, "is a dialogue

between our expectations and experience." We always hope things will go smoothly and with as little disruptions as possible. But we all know and experience that none of us are exempt from its random patterns. Usually when we least expect it, something happens to disturb the order.

Christians have a unique opportunity during times like this to exercise their faith and call on God for His grace to bring comfort and light for their present darkness. The faith exercised at such times connects us with God's eternal plan for our lives. That plan, as difficult as it may be for us to comprehend during our most difficult trials, was conceived before all eternity when God elected us to salvation and determined our purpose in this life.

Quite simply God has a plan for each of us that can only be comprehended by faith. That plan unfolding through time and space (our existence in the world) becomes a beautiful tapestry He is painting of our lives that is formed out of all of our experiences in life. And that includes those things that we deem

continued on page 3 . . .

God is Love

by Rev. Clark H. Gies



Rev. Clark H. Gies
Director of Discipleship
Fairfax, South Dakota

The farmer climbed down from his ladder. The new weather vane was firmly attached to the barn roof. In large letters the arrow of the weather vane proclaimed, "God Is Love."

Some of his neighbors didn't like the weather vane. Some thought it didn't show proper respect for God. Others simply didn't like the message.

Then the farmer explained, "It may not seem to some of you that it shows proper respect to see 'God Is Love' swinging up there. Others of you may not have recognized God's love when it was shown to you in your lives. But it reminds me of something that I never want to forget: *God is love no matter which way the wind blows.*"

How true that is — and how significant for our lives. Having much or having little, whether healthy or suffering ills, when relationships are smooth or strained — whatever the circumstances might be, "God is love."

We have that assurance in Jesus Christ who offered Himself for our forgiveness and salvation. He was raised from the dead to assure us of everlasting life. He promises to be with us always in all circumstances of life. "God Is Love" no matter which way the wind blows.

Paul is echoing this thought when writing in Ephesians, "*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ*

continued on page 15 . . .

Can I Attend Your Church?

Rev. Dave Sternbeck (Nuu-chah-nulth)



**Rev. Dave Sternbeck
(Nuu-chah-nulth)
Ministry Staff
Neah Bay, Washington**

My phone rang the other day and a young man was on the other end of the line. He told me that he had been trying to reach me for a couple of weeks, but that he had the wrong number.

This young man had come to my ordination service back in December... I could tell by the tone of his voice that what he needed to say was with a deep and serious sense of conviction. He went on to say that he was deeply moved at the ordination/installation service. This young man and his wife had been talking about their faith for about a year. Then they did something totally unexpected. When they couldn't get in touch with me they went online and read everything they could find about the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

After a couple of weeks, through a mutual friend, he contacted me by phone. He told me about his research and that he had never been to a church before. He asked if it was okay to attend our church. Can you imagine that?

I told him everyone is welcome into our church. He went on to tell me of a great emptiness in his life and the life of his family. He said, "I can't, we can't go on this way anymore." He continued to tell me that he had sat down with his wife and children to discuss

being baptized and joining the church. You can imagine how excited I was to be hearing this. I explained to him that I would love to sit down with him and his beautiful family and discuss life, faith, baptism and the church. He asked if they could come Sunday, and I chuckled to myself as I realized he thought he needed permission to come to our church. I explained to him that all are welcome.

When we had finished talking, with great joy, I told my wife what was happening and we were so filled with awe. I thought of the Philippian jailer, "*What must I do to be saved?*" "*Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household.*" (Acts 16:30,31) When he had heard the Word of the Gospel he and all his family were baptized. And Acts 2:47, "*And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*"

I believe that we are living in a moment where God is drawing and calling Native American peoples into Christ's Kingdom like no other time in history. Having been only recently ordained, I am so thankful to be part of a work God is doing. And I am so grateful to all the wonderful people like you, our partners in ministry, who by your prayers and faithfulness in supporting this ministry make it all possible.

The Lighter Side of Darkness continued from page 2 . . .

some of our most difficult. Like one of the victims of the above accident affirmed in the midst of their trauma, "*I am confident that all things will work together for good for them that love God and are called according to His purposes.*" (Romans 8:28)

It is true, of course, that we do not always understand on this side of eternity how God is bringing blessing out of disappointment. The wisdom and glory of God are far beyond our abilities to understand and some things will only be revealed in eternity. Nevertheless, I can confidently affirm this for my life. While I have experienced my share of disappointment throughout much of my life and ministry, like so many of you I have been blessed to know that it has been through times of my greatest disappointments that the light of God has shown through the brightest to bring about

the greatest blessing for me and this ministry.

Thank you our dear friends of this ministry for enabling us to share the light of Jesus with those who walk in darkness. You are a light to us and you help us to teach others that they too can experience light for their own darkness. God bless you all.

Neah Bay, Washington



Built Up In Christ

Rosemary Sternbeck



Rosemary Sternbeck
Ministry Staff
Neah Bay, Washington

We have had a lot of building activity at the Makah Lutheran Church this past year. The community arts center is now dried in from the weather with windows and doors. People from both inside and outside the community are anxious to see it completed and are keeping a close eye on its progress. People from inside and outside the church in Neah Bay are also wondering how the use of the building will impact their lives and the life of their community. We are beginning to see a paradigm shift in how the Makah people view the church (body of believers) and what their relationship to it could be.

There are many questions we have heard spoken or inferred: How open or permeable must I be to be able to participate? How much will it cost me personally? What changes will it make in my life in how I view the church? What attitudes or old hurts will have to be laid bare? Will I really be seen as valuable and unique just as I am: a native man or woman, proud of my culture, made in the image of God? And, finally, and perhaps most importantly, how will we make this new thing that is tied to the church and which promises to give us hope for the future become our own? What might the church (body of Makah believers) look like in Neah Bay?

In a very small way I am beginning to see the same thing played out in our small group of older girls in the Morning Star Mentoring Program. The girls have their own day, Wednesday, to meet after school. We have kept the format less scheduled. We give the girls more choices in what they want to participate in and encourage them to help make decisions on how to organize those activities.

Within these boundaries, we always share

the Word, prepare and share a meal or snack, and work on a craft or other project. Some of the projects include raising money for the community arts center by baking cookies and cupcakes to sell. The girls have drawn out a floor plan for the kitchen in the center and have picked out a sink they will buy with their club funds. They also helped sew aprons, neck-warmers, and hats to sell at the annual Christmas bazaar and participated at the sales booth. They put on a Native Christmas play called "The Give Away" using hand puppets. They helped make and deliver Christmas packages of fruit and other goodies to the elderly. Vases and flowers were made to be put on the tables at the senior center. During our sleepover the girls came across some white dress gloves and decided they needed a "real tea party" with fancy dresses so we went shopping. Along with the tea, we are envisioning a fashion show to end our year. They also want to help the younger group put on a play by making props and help with the directing (all teenagers want to be the boss).

All of these things, as positive as they might sound, have come at a cost for the girls. Some of them have dropped out of girls club because of teasing or the fear of being "dumped" by their friends. Most of the girls have families that don't support their being involved in the church, especially on Sunday morning. Still, I see a new spark of hope that life can be better. I see it when they read the Word. I see it when they solemnly participate in the Lord's Supper. I hear it when they remember their baptism. I feel it when, after they have been at the church the whole day, they are reluctant to go home. Their faith warms me and gives me hope for their future. They are the church, the body of believers, being built up in Christ, the future of Neah Bay.

The girls involved in the Morning Star Mentoring Program created vases and flowers for the local senior center. They are also helping to raise money for the new community arts center.



Finding Healing and Freedom

Linda Martin (Cree)



Linda Martin (Cree)
Partner in Ministry
Sioux Lookout, Ontario

Mary is finally free to cry and release the pain that came with her experience of sexual abuse. Memories of being raped when she was nine months pregnant ... the pain of losing her daughter to a drug and alcohol-induced stroke ... years of neglect and abuse at the hands of the foster care system ... it all came up in a flood of tears at “Peace Uprising” the regional Rising Above Conference held in Fort St. John, March 5-8, where approximately 300 gathered to listen to First Nations leaders address abuse issues.

Mary (not her real name) said she has never been to a conference that affected her so profoundly. “The first night, (presenter) Linda Martin was talking about sexual abuse and I just broke down, everything in me just gushed out and I couldn’t stop crying.”

“It felt like a ton of bricks had come off me ... I had pressed (the memories) down for many years, (because) I didn’t want to go there, but it came back and kept hurting me, and I couldn’t cry about it because I couldn’t go there. That weekend it was like a flood came out, I felt like I blew a gasket!”

The next day she signed up for a counseling session. All she could do during that one-hour session was release the tears that had been bottled up. “They just let me cry, they gave me permission to cry. I never cried at (my daughter’s) funeral because I thought I had to stay strong for everyone else. I really felt like God was cleansing me from the inside out.”

She said that she was finally able to connect with her pain because of the transparency and honesty of the conference leaders, who shared from their own painful experiences. “They were talking about sexual abuse, usually we don’t talk about stuff like that, but they didn’t hold anything back. I was thinking, ‘If they can stand up in front of a packed room and share their testimony and story, then I can do that too.’ I kept looking at people’s faces, they weren’t distracted by anything, they were just taking it all in.”

Approximately 300 people gathered at the Fort St. John Stonebridge Hotel for the

“First People Helping First People” conference. Registrants came from as far away as Saulteau, West Moberly, Tseychey, Kwadacha, Fort McCloud and Lower Nicola Band communities. A contingent of 15 traveled from Merrit B.C., with others coming from as far away as Fort St. James and the Yukon Territories.

Daren George, Event Manager and Organizer, likened Native wounding to an iceberg with only an eighth showing above water. “I believe that most of those that come to try and bring to our people only hit the surface – only address the feelings, thoughts, actions. They need to go ‘below the water’ where there are deep longings that have been missed.” Longing to be loved and cared for by one’s parent. Instead many people do not experience unconditional love and consistent care from their parents in their childhood years that they come away wounded.

“As a result of those childhood wounds,” George explained, “a person comes to believe lies about themselves (e.g. ‘I’m not worth anything’) and makes vows to protect them from more hurt (I’ll never ...).” This affects how they relate to people and react to situations in life. All the surface stuff, the presenting problems, the addictions they’re trying to deal with, it all comes from the deep longings (to be loved, to be cared for) that haven’t been met.

Many times I team up with other First Nations speakers in conferences like this one. In this particular conference there were two other speakers with me and the conference lasted four days. The results are always the same. Many people, like Mary, experience such healing and freedom from their painful issues in these conferences.

Darren George, the Event Manager, from Moricetown, B.C. had also organized this same conference in his territory in 2006. He says that “many people who became free of their addictions and dysfunctional patterns at the conference, went on to become leaders and contributors in their communities. The whole city of Fort St. John will see the difference. It showed in Mauricetown ...”

Editor’s Note:

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As seen in the Northeast
News.

Creative Ministry in Broken Lives

Rick Martin



Rick Martin
Partner in Ministry
Sioux Lookout, Ontario

Linda and I have been in full-time ministry for ten years now. We both have professional training in counseling and hold several academic degrees. We have a counseling ministry and like to counsel in an office setting or in a place that our counselee feels safe and private. Yet, over the years I have learned that God often breaks out of boxes and formulas and does something surprisingly different. This I have found so true in our counseling ministry. I would like to share an inspiring story I experienced that illustrates this truth.

The story really starts a few years ago, when I had to report a father regarding his abuse of one of his children. He ended up serving time. I was able to see him in jail and had been working with him off and on. He had made some good progress but it was very hard for him to be consistent. At times he would fall back and end up on the streets again. But there had been some healing in his life and he would sometimes even find himself in church.

For almost two years he had wanted to return with me to the bush where he received much hurt and abuse as a little boy. What was done to him out there, as a little boy, was just unthinkable. He was beginning to understand his abuse and how it had led him to abuse others. Yet, he kept asking and asking that I go with him to visit his childhood home. So, finally, I decided to make plans.

On June 25, 2009, we headed out to this very isolated area where his family had lived. I spent several sessions with him in the weeks before going over what we would do out there and why we were going. At times I was not sure it was a good idea because he was still dealing with a lot of anger. But he had good reasons to go. So off we went, just the two of us.

Returning to this spot would be packed with emotions. There was a tree that grew up at the door of the little shack that his family lived in. It was through this door that he many times ran or stood in confusion. To my amazement Brad (not his real name) had written a long letter the night before our trip. I had asked him to do this but he had said this sort of thing was some kind of a white man's idea or something like

that. Brad was Cree. But on the long drive up he pulled out this big letter he wrote the night before. It was an amazing letter talking about the abuse and what he had experienced with his father and many others – how his dad would beat his mother and how he tried so hard to stop it. In it he described sexual abuse of all kinds. He talked of their poverty and how he was teased at school for the sores he had all over his body. When he was finally sent to a hospital he was abused there as well.

I remember thinking that this is the kind of letter that should end up in some kind of book. I so much wanted a copy of it as he covered so much healing stuff in this letter he told me he was not going to write. And sure enough, there was forgiveness in the letter. He wrote about how he wanted to forgive his father. His plan now, was to find the cabin and then cut down or chop down the tree that now stood in the entrance to the little cabin. It would be symbolic.

When we finally found the spot, I could hardly believe the size of the tree. I was somewhat concerned that it would not fall because there were many trees around it close by. But we hacked and cleared brush and finally Brad was able to bring it down with the chain saw he had borrowed. The cabin itself had been leveled and just glimpses of the foundation could be seen. But he knew exactly where the door was and where the tree was that he needed to cut down.

We then cut part of it up. There was a dead limb that we were able to find. Brad chopped this up and we built a fire. As the fire burned, we stood there. I prayed and then Brad got out the letter. He read every part and then before I knew it, he crunched it up and threw it in the fire. Wow, there goes that letter, so well written from the heart, covering so much! For Brad, it was the best thing he had done in a long time. The past had hurt him, but he had to let it go. He had to burn that letter and the tree, which symbolized the past. He was moving on. We stood there for a long time. I played my guitar. We worshipped and grieved.

We spent most of the afternoon there, praying and talking and grieving. He felt relief

My Faith Journey

Cathy Benzler (Cherokee)



**Cathy Benzler
(Cherokee)**
Ministry Staff
Port Angeles,
Washington

My journey to becoming a Lutheran took a long time. I was raised in the Baptist Church. I absolutely loved attending Sunday school and hearing all the stories in the Bible. I know the Holy Spirit was guiding my life at a very young age. I loved to help people as a child and would always rally all my friends together so we could bake cookies and take them to the neighbors that were sick or to the convalescent hospital in town.

I loved Jesus so much, so I didn't understand why at eight years old I was told I was too young to be baptized. I was allowed to be baptized at 10 because I finally reached that magic age of "knowing what I was doing." As I struggled through my teen years I did a lot of "sinning," so I thought I had to be baptized again at age 18.

I still continued to sin, so as an adult I started attending charismatic faith churches. The Holy Spirit was doing a lot in people's lives, but then people started getting in the way. Many things that were happening were a product of people's emotions instead of God. The Lord's Supper was given a back seat to other things and everything became about what "I decide" to do. I became very disillusioned about this.

Now, through all this, I never lost my faith in God. I knew what Jesus did on the cross was real and that He died for my sins and loved me and had a plan for my life. I knew He had been with me through all the bad things that happened in my life and that He would always be with me. My faith couldn't be shaken, so I continued to move forward.

A servant's heart was part of me for as long as I can remember. My husband and I started working with different tribes and with pastors of various denominations on the reservations. We both had a heart to see our Native People come to faith in Christ and walk in their calling instead of walking in shame. This especially was near to my heart because I saw my grandfather struggle in shame about being Indian.

My husband and I were working with the Klallam people on the Lower Elwha Reservation

in Port Angeles. Then, one day, the Lord brought Dave and Rosemary Sternbeck into my life and life hasn't been the same since. Dave shared with us how Lutherans believed and suddenly I was seeing all my questions being answered. The Bible came alive like it never had before. I started seeing how God's grace was being revealed in my life.

When I was asked if I'd be interested in going to Concordia Seminary as a student in the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) to become a licensed Deaconess I was excited and also very nervous. I thought, 'how could I do this after being out of school for so long?' But with encouragement from Dave and my mentor, I took the first step and attended the three required Leadership Advancement Process (LAP) classes to see if I could pass them and be accepted into the EIIT program.

Beginning with my first class, I totally enjoyed myself. I learned so much and it was so exciting! In no time at all Lutheran doctrine was becoming part of my vocabulary. I saw a distinctive shift in how I related to people when proclaiming the Gospel. It was easier than ever to share with others. I am now almost halfway through the EIIT program and I feel so totally blessed.

My husband, Tom, is now taking LAP classes to become a licensed Deacon. We incorporate what we learn in our classes and teach it on the reservation in our home group. We are seeing the Native people we minister to grow in their faith and become stronger. Our heart is to raise up Native People to become leaders and to see them walk with their heads held up and be the people God has called them to be.

Great things are happening among our Native communities and it is pretty exciting to watch all the changes that are taking place among our people—people coming to faith, being baptized and learning how to enjoy their families and life while living out God's will for them.

I want to thank everyone that supports Native ministry through prayer and finances. You are helping those of us in the field spread the Gospel.

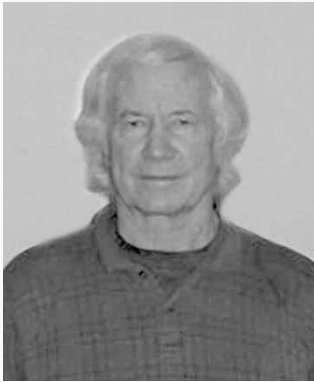
Wa'do. (Thank you)



Cathy Benzler is currently in her third year of Deaconess training through the EIIT program. Rev. Dave Sternbeck helped mentor Cathy and her husband, Tom.

Spreading the Good News

Tom Benzler (Ioway)



Tom Benzler (Ioway)
Ministry Staff
Port Angeles,
Washington

At one time, I was going to a church where the elements of the Lord's Supper were left sitting on a table in the back of the church. The Pastor invited anyone that wanted to take the sacraments at anytime during the course of the service. No instruction was spoken, Scripture read or any explanation as to the examination of our heart. It always bothered my wife Cathy, so we quit going to that church.

Our friend David Sternbeck, who is now ordained, shared with us how the Lutherans believed, and as we continued to pray, the Holy Spirit led us to join the Lutheran Church. Now, Cathy and I always look forward to communion of the Lord's Supper. It is such a holy time and we always come away refreshed and full of peace from the Lord.

Cathy is now a student going through the EIIT program at Concordia Seminary to become a licensed Deaconess. I am taking LAP classes to become a licensed Deacon. This is helping us as we minister to the people of the Lower Elwha Reservation. The Lutheran doctrine we have learned is helping us share the Gospel in our weekly Bible studies as well as our home visitations. We have people that come from different church denominations that attend our Bible studies. Sometimes, they ask us some

hard questions on Christian Doctrine, and thanks to the classes we are taking, the Holy Spirit helps us answer their questions and the answers line up with the Word of God. We visit on average about 10 elders or shut-ins a week that would like to come to our Home group, but are unable to get out on their own. We have a 99-year-old elder which is the oldest member of the tribe that wants to be baptized this spring. Good things are happening and God is moving among the people here.

We are currently working on a project for this Easter. We are going to make food baskets and distribute them to 30 families that we either haven't had contact with or that we know very little about. We are making a leaflet telling the story of Easter to put into those baskets as well as to give out to other homes throughout the reservation. We saw this as a real need, as very little is said about the true meaning of Easter. There is a focus on Christmas, but Easter means finding colored eggs and candy. This is a good opportunity to share how much Jesus loves us, and that not only did He die on the cross for all our sins, but He was resurrected three days later and is alive! This message is not one that our people hear much about at all, so we feel it will be a great time to share this Good News and let people know what it means for them.

Finding Healing and Freedom continued from page 5 . . .

Mary was part of the planning team of this particular conference in Fort St. John, B.C. She is ready to help come alongside those who participated. She said it's important for those who were impacted to get support and stay in touch with counselors or a local church that can help them process their healing. "I would tell them to get good, Godly counselors around them and if they want to be free, they will be free in Jesus if they cry out with their whole heart

and soul. I cry out to God and I know He hears me."

She says freedom is available to anyone who wants it, and she is willing to do what it takes to fight for it, both for herself and others. "I don't want to be the same person that I was last year. I want to see my sons, my husband free. I just want to see freedom for my people. I want to be free first, so I can help others in their pain."

Creative Ministry in Broken Lives continued from page 6 . . .

as he had been dealing with these memories for more than 45 years. It was a sacred time. As the smoke went up, Brad joked about it being smoke signals and, really, they were. In my mind they were the cry of Brad's heart and they were smoke signals to God telling him that he was burning his past and he needed his Creator's help to move on and heal.

That was Thursday, June 25, 2009. On Sunday he was worshipping with us at an outdoor service in a local community. He was there from 10 in the morning to 6 at night worshipping God's goodness.

Meditation from the Inside of a Fuel Tank

Rev. Stan Berntson



Rev. Stan Berntson
Skipper, M/V
CHRISTIAN
Southeast Alaska

This past Christmas we brought the M/V CHRISTIAN down to Ketchikan so we could do more maintenance on it. We still have our home in Ketchikan and four of our five kids were going to be home. We had a long list of things we wanted to accomplish on the boat, and 75% of those items were done before we left in January. We had a great time with family, and tackled with fervor the jobs on the M/V CHRISTIAN.

However, the longer we worked on the boat, the longer the list became! One of the tasks, not on the original list, was to clean out the three fuel tanks. A friend has a business pumping fuel tanks and filtering the fuel. He donated his time and his equipment as a gift for the ministry. So what could we say? Guess it's time to clean out the tanks! We had been having fuel filter problems, so this was a gift from Heaven.

Each fuel tank has a capacity of over 600 gallons. Each tank was about two thirds full. So over a period of five days, we emptied each tank, opened it up, and I crawled inside to vacuum up the stuff that was on the bottom. It was pretty bad stuff. I called it "pudding." Water, biological stuff and a little rust all mixed together in some kind of gross mass that only lives in diesel fuel tanks...I guess.

A good friend who is a fisherman sternly told me I would not be crawling into any fuel tanks without using his outside air respirator. So I borrowed it. When picking it up from his son I was informed that I would not be crawling into any tanks without having an attendant close by. So I did that too. Sharon was my "spotter" in case I passed out or died.

Now the fuel tanks have a very small hole through which to examine and crawl through if one has such a mind to try something such as that. The tanks are also baffled (as I was, trying to do this job) so that the movement of fuel is retarded to maintain stability in the boat in rough water. The baffles have small oval holes in them that invite a person to try to crawl through them to the

next compartment. There are five compartments in each tank. I accepted the invitation and found out my shoulders wouldn't go through. There was some question in my mind if I could get back out.

I have never had what people call a 'panic attack', at least not that I know of. For a couple of minutes inside the second tank, I think I was getting close. I couldn't move for a while. All curled up in a ball, my 59+ year-old legs saw no humor in the situation and couldn't figure out what I was trying to do. So they sat there and waited it out while I came up with a plan that met with their approval. I did, they moved and potential panic attack abated.

I only was able to vacuum out three chambers on each tank, but got the worst of it out. It was a revealing, frightening, rewarding, and disappointing time. But the crazy thing that kept coming to mind while working on the tanks was spiritual cleansing. I wanted to be so thorough and get it all, but I couldn't without taking a torch and cutting more holes in the side of the top of the tanks to reach the other two chambers. And it came to me that when God cleanses us, if we open our hearts to Him, He doesn't need an act of Congress to get the job done.

The depth of the human spiritual heart is such a mystery to us, even though we live with one. But our God has no problem knowing our hearts thoroughly, and if we say 'yes' to God's cleansing fire, we can know a clean heart that longs to do the will of God. Crazy thoughts from inside fuel tanks. Maybe there were other gasses sneaking in the respirator!? But I think not.

God wants it so. Clean hearts, a new and right Spirit within. Directing us in the will of God. And our will, imperfectly asking for this in response to His most magnanimous love that comes through our Lord Jesus.

On our maintenance schedule, cleaning the fuel tanks is listed at every 3-5 years..... and that's just fine with me!

Name the Enemy

Sharon Geldaker, R.N.



Sharon Geldaker, R.N.
First Mate, M/V
CHRISTIAN
Southeast Alaska

As my husband Stan and I laid in our berth aboard the M/V CHRISTIAN, the vessel rocked and lurched. The tugging on her lines creaked with the irregular gusts of wind. It was going to be a l-o-n-g night.

I lay awake, feeling vulnerable, and at the same time, feeling safe. The M/V CHRISTIAN is a sturdy vessel; we were warm and dry. Our lines were secured to the dock in four places and Stan adds a fifth line whenever the winds pick up. There was no doubt we would live beyond this storm.

But, as I listened to the howling wind, I wondered at the forces at work in the wind and the rain. Loud forces. Strong forces that rise up and buffet us, work against us and cause fear. As we rocked, I thought about other events in the life of the community in which we were docked. There are other forces at work there, equally strong and ponderous. These forces take shape in the form of substance abuse and suicide, several of which had taken place in the last year. I thought about how the youth of our communities are listening to and believing lies — lies which lure them to escape into substances which kill them, which make them believe there is no hope or purpose in their lives and make them feel that they are worthless. Who is telling them these lies?

And the lies aren't content with the destruction of one life. They gain velocity by spinning the families and communities into a compounded assault of grief and despair.

I felt vulnerable again in the storm. Lord, how do we fight against these spiritual blows? What do we do to fight such strong, ruinous forces? What I heard was, "Name the enemy."

Who else but Satan would delight in the destruction of a soul and a People?

In our modern culture we don't like to think of a devil or believe that there might be such a presence at work in our lives or in the life of our community. His biggest lie is to convince us he doesn't exist.

Throughout most of the Old

Testament, many bad events were attributed to God who they understood parceled out both good and evil according to His Will. But Jesus teaches us differently in the New Testament and revealed that there is another force in this world, which works against God and has the power to destroy. Most of Jesus' ministry is spent revealing, naming, and fighting that force. He calls him out and names him: The Prince of Darkness, Ruler of This World, the Author of Lies, the Great Deceiver. Those are his names.

I was reminded of a time when a woman told a group of us that whenever we felt negative about ourselves, or others, that we should listen for the lie being whispered in our ears: "No one cares about me," "No one understands me," "Everyone would be better off if I left." These are hallmarks of the evil one who seeks to isolate and destroy us, and our ability to stay in relationship with God and others.

We need to counteract these lies with messages of hope, of belonging, of purpose and of worth. God created each one of us and loves us beyond measure, no matter what. He has the power to forgive, to create new circumstances, and to fill us with His Calming Power. This is GOOD NEWS to a beguiled, tumultuous world!

A friend of mine had a vision, which he painted on a Native drum. He envisioned the Glory of God coming down a mountain as a stream of water rushing down to salmon swimming near the shore. The fish, His People, are waiting for the fresh water to give them the scent of the mountain stream and to lead them out of the salt water to Him and the waters where they were created. But a dam had stopped His flow of water — a dam made up of darkness, resentment, pride, greed, shame and worthlessness. He named these enemies which block the message of God's love for His People and which keeps them swimming in circles in the saltwater shallows. My friend believes a day is coming where the dam will break and God's glory and saving water will be made known in powerful ways. Then the full force of the mountain stream will wash down and lead His People back to Him. How we love to beat that drum in worship!



Sharon, a registered nurse, is providing parish nurse services to remote communities along the southeast coast of Alaska.

God's Abounding Grace

Will Main (Sioux)



Will Main (Sioux)
Haskell LIGHT Ministry
Lawrence, Kansas

Another year has passed. We continue to go about business as usual here at Haskell Indian Nations University. However, when you are “about your Father’s business” as Patricia and I are, there is not a day that passes that we do not see our Heavenly Father performing miracles and changing lives among the students and staff of the University!

Of course, when God is at work, so is the enemy. We had a life-changing experience last year when our 13-year-old son, Matthew, fractured his skull in a skateboard accident. The enemy was screaming in my ear that he was going to take Matthew’s life. I was forced to put all my faith and trust in God that He would deliver our son from the enemy, and sure enough, our God delivered him!

As the helicopter was airlifting Matthew to Kansas City Children’s Mercy Hospital, we were not allowed to ride with him. As the helicopter was lifting off, I watched from the parking lot. With tears filling my eyes, I cried out to God and released Matthew into His loving arms. I was very frustrated and angry. I had many questions: How could this happen? Why was this happening to us? Why, God, why? It caused me to question my faith. Was I not serving God appropriately?

As I shared my frustration and fear with God, peace came over me that I still cannot understand and God assured me that Matthew was going to be fine. It is during times like this incident that God delivers us from the snare of the fowler. Looking back on this incident, it is nothing short of a miracle that Matthew suffers no ill effects from the skull fracture! What a mighty God we serve! With my faith renewed we are able to minister on the campus of the Haskell Indian Nations University. We are in a battle and we must remain steadfast as good soldiers in God’s mighty army.

We have had many opportunities to minister God’s love to both students and staff members this past year and God continues to open doors for us to minister in unique ways at this University. We have recently been presented with the opportunity to work with students who are coming out of the corrections system and want to change their lives through education. We will be helping them to transition from the corrections system to University life. What an opportunity to share the life-changing love of God with these young men who are searching for a better life and a better way!

We now have church services every second Sunday at the LIGHT House and we continue to see the number of students and staff increase in attendance. We pray for many students and we would encourage you to keep standing with us in prayer as we agree that God will continue to move here at the University.

Campus ministry presents a greater opportunity for the expansion of the Kingdom than perhaps any other field of evangelism today. The entire spectrum of beliefs, attitudes, philosophies and religions, set in a composite of races and languages, is present for anyone who takes the Gospel to the campus.

“Go ye therefore . . .” as Scripture often reminds us, “Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.” (Acts 28:31) The most important part of any campus ministry effort is the “doing.” While being organized is obviously necessary, nothing is accomplished if the plan is never actually implemented.

We continue to take forth the “Good News” and we certainly do appreciate all your prayer support and gifts to the ministry. Let us be the tools God would use to have a whole generation of Native Americans turn to God!



Will and Patricia’s ministry extends beyond the campus community to those in the correctional system. Please pray that God will continue to help these men as they turn their lives around.

New Season

Patricia Main (Cree)



Patricia Main (Cree)
Haskell LIGHT Ministry
Lawrence, Kansas

It sometimes seems as if the whole world is going through great turmoil and things around us are falling apart. But God is still there in every storm. Thank God we can count on His grace for every need. He works, especially in difficult times, to strengthen us. God has truly stretched Will and me during times of our own trials. The stretching hurt many times. Sometimes I resisted God yet He was always there to love and provide His grace.

As we continue to minister at Haskell Indian Nations University we have seen God bring about blessings. I think about a friend named Dean who went home to be with the Lord at Christmas time. Before he left to celebrate Christmas with his family, he came over to the LIGHT House with a couple of other students to get a few supplies. Jesus ministered to his physical needs as well as his spiritual needs. I was able to share with Dean how Jesus brings healing to the heart and how He wanted to heal his heart. He responded by giving his hurt and pain to Jesus. It was a great thing to see God work in his life and I am confident that he was ready to meet Jesus when he died.

The students at Haskell had a memorial service for Dean after Christmas. His mom shared about how his life had changed because of his visits to the LIGHT House. The Lord prepared a way, so that I was able to share about Jesus with the students during the memorial for Dean. I believe that what the devil meant for evil, God turned around for His glory. I believe that God will use this as a door to minister His love through other students.

Another activity my husband Will and I are involved in is teaching a Vision Quest class at

the LIGHT House. It is an introductory class intended to help students become oriented to Haskell. We are able to help students with their spiritual life as well. What we are discovering is that there appears to be a growing hunger among the students we serve to know Jesus. As we continue to walk in our own faith and pray for the students on campus we ask the Holy Spirit to speak to the students of their need for Jesus.

We get phone calls from students who graduate saying thank you for sharing the Gospel and how they are hungry for the things of God. None of this would be possible were it not for the generous support of people like you who uphold us in prayer and financial support. As we continue to minister to the students we ask your prayers for the young people we serve that they too might be witnesses for Jesus to their own.

May God richly bless you all!



Thank you for enabling us to minister to the students of Haskell. Please keep them in your prayers!

Name the Enemy continued from page 10 . . .

Just as it rains and howls in this world, we cannot ignore the principalities that are at work in our communities among us all. Neither should we give them more power by fearing them or pretending they don't exist. When you see it is raining outside, you simply put on a raincoat to protect yourself and keep dry. Likewise, in this world, daily remember to put on the armor of God and say prayers of protection and deliverance as Jesus did.

We need to fight the spiritual storms for our youth and communities. This fight is just the reality of this present world. Be aware. Name the enemy. Take away his power by counteracting his lies and proclaiming the freeing power and love of God to each person you meet. Together we can be STRONGER and LOUDER than the wind of this world!

Staying Put

Rev. Dan Jacobs



Rev. Dan Jacobs
Associate Staff
Crow Agency, Montana

Vicarage was 1984-85. Ordination and installation as missionary-at-large to the Crow Indian Reservation was in June, 1986. Today is January 22, 2010. By most American standards, that's a long time to stay put anywhere. However, in Indian ministry staying put is important. It can take a long time for Christ to find some of His lost sheep, or to heal their brokenness, or to prepare one to be a pastor.

Today, Peanut is a good-sized teenager. However, at birth he was quite tiny. He grew little over his first months. This led an Indian Health Service doctor to classify Peanut as a failure-to-thrive child and blamed his parents for neglect and perhaps abuse. So she turned the case over to the Department of Family Services (DFS).

I'd been involved with this family for a number of years before Peanut was born. I knew the accusations of neglect/abuse were groundless, but Mom and Dad could not keep DFS out of their house when they came for Peanut, and I could not keep DFS from taking the baby from my arms.

Months of legal battles and supervised visits followed. Finally it all came down to a couple and their pastor versus DFS and a doctor's report before a judge. The Lord knew the truth and Peanut got to go home that day.

As Peanut grew, he began coming to Sunday school. One day, as we were coloring, the kids began talking about their faith in Jesus and how much they loved Him. Peanut sat quietly beside me. So I asked him, "Do you believe in Jesus?" He looked up at me and said, "Well, I believe in you."

As the years have passed, Peanut has come to believe in Jesus. He likes listening to His Word.



Mary and her brothers and sister were kids when they moved in across the street. She was involved some with Sunday school and later with Bible study. Most of her encouragement in the faith came through visits with neighbors, especially with my wife, Lonnie.

As with a lot of girls on many reservations, Mary's life went in a typical manner: Dropped out of school, drifted into drugs, and became pregnant at a young age. There was a lot of brokenness behind all this. It all led her into serious doubts about Christ for a time.

Yet, we stayed connected. I baptized her children, and Lonnie and I are godparents for one. Then Mary went through treatment for her addictions and then got her GED.

Today Mary has a good husband and a job, and has taken in several of her sister's children. She gets to church when she can. Her two oldest kids are in catechism class, one will be confirmed this spring. The next three are in Sunday school. The youngest was baptized Thanksgiving Day, 2009.



I met Eugene while I was on vicarage. He was a nominal Roman Catholic and a bit on the wild side.

Some years ago he moved away and we lost contact with each other. His marriage and some other parts of his life fell apart. So he began seeking the Lord more earnestly.

Eugene became involved with Pentecostalism and began reading the Bible. As it goes for all of us, faith came by hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ. Jesus got a strong hold on Eugene. He continued to study and grow, now living over in the middle of the reservation.

One day he was asked to pastor a church that was just starting there. After much prayer, he accepted. Then a few years ago, he and I met at a clergy meeting. Afterward, he asked to visit with me.

Eugene was finding conflict between some Pentecostal doctrines and practices and the Scriptures. The older Pentecostal pastors wouldn't discuss these matters with him. So we visited on these matters for a couple of hours in his pickup truck.

“It is more blessed to ...”

Rev. Ricky Jacob



Rev. Ricky Jacob
Associate Staff
Winnebago, Nebraska

We often have opportunities to do for others in need. One such example was following the massive earthquake in Haiti. The needs were countless and overwhelming. How could we who are so far away help these poor hurting people? Yet, God in His wisdom and grace moved us to help the people of Haiti even before we received word of their plight. How did we do so?

One Friday in October of 2009, five of the children of our newly formed elementary school, Jesus Our Savior Lutheran School, and I journeyed to Norfolk, Nebraska. We were met there by a woman named Edie, an emergency room nurse, who had just come off her night job.

Edie informed us about the plight of kids who were hungry in Haiti, as well as in other parts of the world. The Haitian mothers, in order to fill the tummies of their starving children, would take some dirt, add a bit of salt and oil, shape them into round cookies and bake them. There was no nutrition value in these “cookies” but they did fill them up.

Edie patiently went on to explain how our school children were going to serve these hungry children by packing rice, dried vegetables, soy, and a vitamin and chicken tablet into plastic bags. Each item was carefully measured as the children worked at the various stations so that each bag would provide a meal for six people. The bags would be heat-sealed, labeled with the date that they were put together, and then boxed.

Our five children worked together and filled 144 bags. That translates into 864 meals. The international food relief campaign is called “Kids Against Hunger ~ Norfolk.” The children were blessed by serving in this way. They served the kids of Haiti as well as their LORD!

On January 6th, a container filled with boxes of meals arrived in Haiti. This was nearly a week before the earthquake, 7.0 in magnitude, shook Haiti on the 12th of January. The LORD provided food even before the ground shook. Other good news was that two more containers filled with “Kids Against Hunger” bags of food were shipped shortly following the earthquake.

Even before we left Norfolk the students were asking me when they could help again. We plan to do so in the coming weeks. The children learned a valuable lesson that it is truly more blessed to give than to receive. This goes against our nature that so easily complains when we are hungry or tired or bored.

Thank God that He was so willing to give that we might receive. We daily receive our food, clothing, shelter, family, friends, and so much more from our Heavenly Father. We receive, by grace through faith, His Son as our LORD and our Savior! Through Jesus we have the promise of everlasting life where we will share in His glory and never ever hunger or thirst again.

It was Jesus Himself who taught this important lesson about giving — not only by His washing of His disciples’ feet, or His sacrificial death on the cross, but also in words as He taught.

The Apostle Paul spoke these words as part of his farewell speech to the church elders of Ephesus: *“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”* (Acts 20:35)

The young children of Jesus Our Savior Lutheran School are learning how to serve God and others.



How Can I Volunteer for Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S.?

Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. offers short-term volunteer opportunities in remote areas of Alaska serving as a VBS teacher or working on a servant event.

We seek people to teach Vacation Bible School who have a clear and positive commitment to the Christian faith, people for whom Christianity means a living relationship with Jesus Christ. We seek people who have the ability to “rough it” without the comforts of urban living; those willing to accept and understand another culture and adapt God’s Word to it. Volunteering in a cross-cultural setting in the North is a most rewarding experience.

I am interested in becoming a volunteer. Please send me an application form:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (h) _____

(o) _____

Email _____

Send to: Coordinator of Volunteer Services
Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S.
3525 N. 124th Street, Suite 1
Brookfield, WI 53005
Fax: (262) 783-5290

Or visit www.lutheranmissionariesandpilots.org/volunteer to fill out an application online.

Sign up to receive a

Daily Bible Verse

delivered to your email.

Visit:

WWW.LUTHERANMISSIONARIESANDPILOTS.ORG/VERSE
to register today.

God is Love continued from page 2 . . .

Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”
(Ephesians 3:20-21)

Here we have one of the majestic doxologies of the Apostle Paul. It speaks excitedly of God’s love and the power of God that is at work within us. The Apostle is telling us very clearly that we do not have to walk or work alone. God does not leave us to the limitations of our own resources ... unaided ... unhelped. Never does He turn His people loose, withdraw His hand and say, “Now you’re on your own.” He is with us — His power is at work within us.

There is little doubt that Paul is speaking here of the working power of the Holy Spirit. As we consider this, two areas of awareness press themselves upon us. First: What God is doing for us — by His Spirit. Second: What God is prompting and helping us to do for others — by His Spirit.

These two aspects of the presence of the Spirit with us certainly contribute to the vigor and joy of our Christian living and our Christian service.

As you are well aware, the tough economic times of the past year and those that we are still experiencing have presented Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U. S. with additional challenges. But even in such times — maybe especially in such times — we can say with the above-mentioned farmer, “God Is Love.” And we have experienced the power of His Spirit at work.

We are so thankful that you who know “God Is Love” through the power of His Spirit have been so supportive of Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U. S. and we are so grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and contributions.

Too Many Deaths

Park Timber (Northern Cheyenne)



Park Timber (Northern Cheyenne)
Ministry Staff
Lame Deer, Montana

Greetings in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior, from Circle of Life Lutheran Church in Muddy Cluster, Montana on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. I am an enrolled member of the Northern Cheyenne, grew up here in Muddy Cluster and I am currently serving as vicar under the supervision of Pastor Dennis Bauer. In my last article I shared a brief history of our church here on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and a little bit about our ministry. We continue to minister to our people and deal with the some of the unique challenges that face us in cross-cultural ministry.

Sadly the challenges we're facing are a number of deaths that have plagued our people. A quick tally brings the number to 15 deaths since about the middle of November. That means that one of our people has died every five days since the 15th of November. I know that people die every day, but to a people who know almost everybody in their community, the affect that death has can become compounded to the point of despair. As a result of all these deaths, recent developments have ensued between the elders, concerned leaders and the spiritual leaders of our communities anxious to do something.

A meeting was called in which Pastor Bauer and I were invited to attend. The topic of the meeting was that which I have already shared with you: the numerous deaths and the subsequent suffering of our people. The goal of the meeting was to plan an event where the spiritual leaders of our reservation would come together in unity and prayer so that relief might come to the Northern Cheyenne. The challenges for Pastor Bauer and myself are

considerable. For those in attendance who would lead and pray at such an event would not all be Christians.

Can we as representatives of Christ come together in worship and prayer with those who are not? There are those who say, "There is only one God but many different ways to him." Another popular view is to say, "It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you're sincere in your faith." Is Jesus being ambiguous when he says, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6-7) Can we stand up and pray to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the same event where one has previously led us in prayer to the Four Grandfathers of the four directions? Would our witness and proclamation of the Gospel be compromised if we stand in unity with those who have no faith in Christ? Or should we pay the temple tax so as not to offend? (Matthew 17:24-27) These are some of the questions and their challenging answers that we face in our cross-cultural ministry.

The good news amidst all these challenges is that we do have the "Good News." Our people are hurting and searching for answers and as believers in Christ, we have the salve for the wounds that sin and death inflict. We have the Good News that God has swallowed up death forever. By being nailed to the cross, dying and rising again God has claimed mastery over death — by God's own death we do have life. This is the opportunity before us as Christ's servants: To offer God's love to those who do not know it. May God grant us wisdom, courage and confidence as we serve the people of the Northern Cheyenne.

Staying Put from page 13 . . .

When finished, he suggested that it would be good if we could continue meeting. We now meet a couple of times a month and discuss ministry and Scripture. I have also shared devotionals, Luther's Small Catechism and recordings of our worship services with him. This has helped him understand confession and absolution, as well as encouraging him in his call. The other week he mentioned that the service tapes

help him prepare to preach to his people.

Day by day it can be hard to see if the Lord is doing anything here. However, by staying put, at least some of His work becomes obvious. Part of that work is the honor and privilege to be a tool of the Good Shepherd's labors.

Consider Two Ways to Give Automatically

“I will bless you ... and you will be a blessing.”
Genesis 12:2

As God blesses us, we are called to bless others. One of the ways your blessings can be greatly multiplied is by becoming a monthly partner with this ministry. By giving monthly, you will enable us to plan more effectively to bring Christ's Kingdom to Every Native American Nation. And your monthly giving makes it possible for us to be better stewards of your gifts.

And we make it easy for you to do. You can give by credit card or electronic funds transfer (EFT) from your checking account by simply filling out the form below and sending it back to us in the enclosed reply envelope.

Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. is committed to protecting your privacy. The information you provide here will be kept in strict confidence.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Full Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip

(_____) _____ - _____
Daytime Telephone

E-mail Address

I authorize Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. to charge my credit card OR automatically withdraw from my checking account \$ _____

monthly on the 1st or 15th day

quarterly on March 31, June 30, September 30, December 31 beginning in the month of _____ and continuing until further notice.

OPTION #1: Credit Card	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Discover	<i>Name as printed on card</i>
_____	_____
<i>Card Number</i>	<i>Exp. Date</i>
	<i>Card Security Code</i> <small>(last 3 digits on the back of your card)</small>
_____	_____
	<i>Signature</i>

OPTION #2: Automatic Checking Withdrawal	
<i>(Please print)</i>	

<i>Name of Bank or Financial Institution</i>	

<i>Branch</i>	

<i>Street Address</i>	

<i>City</i>	

<i>State</i>	

<i>Zip</i>	

<i>Checking Account #</i>	

<i>Routing #</i>	
Please include a blank check marked "VOID" with this completed form and send to Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S.	

<i>Signature of Account Holder</i>	

<i>Date</i>	

<i>Signature of Account Holder</i>	

<i>Date</i>	

I (we) will notify Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. in writing of any changes in the account information or termination of this authorization 45 days prior to the next due date of the pre-authorized debit.

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
Phone #: (262) 783-5267
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. 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, Phone #: (262) 783-5267 and Tax ID#: 39-1509253. Thank you.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
Matthew 6:21 (NIV)

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 our 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*.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Congregation _____

Please contact me

Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

Please detach and return this form to the address below. Thank you!

Mark Maurice, CFRE
Major Gifts Officer
Lutheran Association of
Missionaries and Pilots U.S.
3525 N. 124th Street, Suite 1
Brookfield, WI 53005-2498
(262) 783-5267

Financials

Statement of Financial Position & Statement of Activities

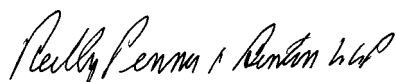
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

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

We have audited the accompanying consolidated statements of financial position of Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots, U.S., Inc. (Association) as of January 31, 2010 and the related consolidated statements of activities and cash flows for the year 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 audit. The prior year comparative information has been derived from the Association's 2009 financial statements, and in our report dated March 19, 2009, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those statements.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit 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 audit provides 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 U.S., Inc. as of January 31, 2010 and the results of its activities and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



Reilly, Penner & Benton LLP
Certified Public Accountants & Consultants
March 18, 2010

Statement of Financial Position

January 31

ASSETS	2010	2009
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$ 493,015	\$ 82,844
Accounts receivable	23,603	20,947
Promises to give net - current	170,340	226,510
Due from Organizations	519	3,029
Prepaid expenses	74,193	66,090
Deposits	3,275	4,275
Total current assets	764,945	403,695
Property and Equipment:		
Cost	1,207,620	1,099,015
Less - Accumulated depreciation	(790,666)	(714,132)
Net property and equipment	416,954	384,883
Other Assets:		
Promises to give - net	115,106	193,547
Total assets	\$ 1,297,005	\$ 982,125
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$27,208	\$25,101
Accrued payroll	2,691	4,272
Accrued and withheld payroll taxes	4,949	6,818
Line of Credit	—	120,000
Notes payable	60,600	65,600
Current portion of mortgage payable	1,376	—
Total current liabilities	96,824	221,791
Other Liabilities:		
Long-term portion of mortgage payable	72,966	—
Total liabilities	169,790	221,791
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	672,238	323,344
Temporarily restricted	454,977	436,990
Total net assets	1,127,215	760,334
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 1,297,005	\$ 982,125

Consolidated Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended January 31, 2010
With Summarized Information for the Year Ended January 31, 2009

Support, Revenue and Other Income:

Gifts:

	Unrestricted Net Assets	Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	2010 Total	2009 Total
Donations	\$ 2,118,942	\$ 312,283	\$ 2,431,225	\$ 2,277,467
Total gifts	2,118,942	312,283	2,431,225	2,277,467

Other Income:

Interest	1,424	—	1,424	8,737
Realized gain on sale of securities	—	—	—	2
In-kind contributions	600	—	600	3,073
Total other income	2,024	—	2,024	11,812

Net Assets Released From Restrictions:

Satisfaction of program restrictions	294,296	(294,296)	—	—
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Total support, revenue and other income	2,415,262	17,987	2,433,249	2,289,279
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Expenses and Other Losses:

Contributions remitted to My People International, Inc.	58,038	—	58,038	158,000
U.S. programs	105,640	—	105,640	122,371
Salaries and benefits	888,819	—	888,819	1,080,000
Transportation	177,737	—	177,737	278,237
Communication	454,337	—	454,337	615,966
Administration	260,508	—	260,508	325,246
Depreciation	76,534	—	76,534	70,386
Bad debt expense	44,155	—	44,155	—
In-kind expenses	600	—	600	173

Total expenses	2,066,368	—	2,066,368	2,650,379
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Change in net assets	348,894	17,987	366,881	(361,100)
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Net Assets, Beginning of Year

	323,344	436,990	760,334	1,121,434
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Net Assets, End of Year

	\$ 672,238	\$ 454,977	\$ 1,127,215	\$ 760,334
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This is a summary of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended January 31, 2010. You may request a full copy of the Audited Financial Statements from the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. office.

Memorials & Honorariums

September 1, 2009 to March, 31, 2010

In Memory of

- A Loved One...Mrs. Doris Pearson
ACKERMAN, Nicole...Sally Ackerman
ALM, Mr. and Mrs. August...Mrs. Ginny Miller & Family
ALM, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard...Mrs. Ginny Miller & Family
ALM, Mr. Roy...Mrs. Ginny Miller & Family
ALM, Mr. Stanley...Mrs. Ginny Miller & Family
ANGELL, Elsie...Marlyn J. Kottsick
ANGIE'S Dad...Mr. & Mrs. Tom R. Schulz
ARNDT, Beatrice...Alvin & Marguerite Arndt
ARNOLD, Aranka...Raymond & Anna Letscher
ASZMAN, Alma...William Aszman
BANKSON, Don...Donna Bankson
BARBARA...Charlotte Hasz
BASS, Charles W....Lorraine D. Bass
BEIDERWIEDEN, Rev. Carl...Rev. & Mrs. John Beiderwieden
BISCHOFF, Rev. William H.... Robert C. Bischoff
BORCHORDT, Walter...Rev. and Mrs. Donald Urbach
BOTH of my Grandmothers...Mrs. Valerie Brown
BRANDT, Alice...Gerhard and Genevieve Birkelo
BRICK, Corinne J....Daniel Brick
CAMPAGNA, Mrs. Ruth...Sheila Pollock-Bowlin
CAMPBELL, Mr. & Mrs. Frank W....Catherine F. Henderson
CARLSON, Elaine...Doris Reda
CASKEY, Mike...Ken & Pat Weaver, Kenneth & Susan Risse
CONDIFF, Evelyn...Kip and Fran Lof
DAVIS, Lucille...Layton & Melba Lemke, Ronald & Janice Carpenter
DAWSON, Stewart...Leona Dawson
DEISTER, Gertrude...Nancy Sprague
DITTLÖFF, Roland...Marvin and Lynda Reitz
DURBIN, Roger...Mr. and Mrs. Charles Durbin
ECKERT, Wayne...Sally Eckert
EHRKE, Dianne...Mrs. Betty Moll & Family
EHLINGER, Lu...Doris Reda
FENSKE, Rev. Leo...Violet Miller
FRANK, Julius...Neoma Frank
FRANO, John...Mr. and Mrs. Michael Zboray
FRIENDS...Eldred and Carol Oakland
FULTON, Ron...Judith Fulton
GARLING, Dale...Mildred Garling
GAST, Pastor Richard A....Elizabeth Gast
GILL, Charles...Norma Gill
GLAESS, Harvey...Mr. & Mrs. Robert Armbrecht
GOETZ, Richard and Jesse...Lorraine Goetz
GRANDSTRAND, Alvin...Bernice Hultgren
GREULING, Jack...Jill Greuling
HAGEDORN, Ken...Evelyn Hagedorn
HALBERT, Arnold...Bernice Hultgren
HALL, Gerald...Emma Hall
HANSON, Les...Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Koehler
HARRIS, Dean...Yvonneda Thompson
HARRIS, Mr. & Mrs. Floyd...Mrs. Ginny Miller & Family
HARRISON, Kenneth and Jean...Donal and Margaret Zentz
HASCHKER, Eugene...William Peter
HASSKAMP, H. James...Mrs. Ann Jones
HEATH, Harry...Mrs. Ginny Miller & Family
HECK, Gottfried & Irene...Lillian Rost
HENNING, Edna L....Lucille Henning
HEUP, Ruth...William A. Peter
HISER, Robert...Dr. & Mrs. Ronald J. Kolar
HOLMES, Art...Lynne Tipcke
HORSTEMEIER, John...Luetta Werner
HOUSEMAN, Don...Dorothy Houseman
HWANG, Rei Chen...Michael & Marie Russo
IVERSON, Norman I....Dorothy D. Iverson
IVERSON, Laura...Gary and Beverly Jerger
JACOBY, Hans...Valborg Jacoby
JOHNSON, Cliff...Ann Jones
JOKELA, Eddie...Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Lof
KLINGBEIL, Alan...Joan Graham
KNUTEN, Vivian...Doris Riemer
KOENIG, Joel William...Jack & Janice Koenig
KOEPP, Anna S....Carol Powley
KOHLEHOF, Gertrude...Barbara Pingel
KOSS, Ruth...Noel Koss
KOTHE, Paul Scott...Stella Cyriacks
KRUEGER, Mary Ella...Carla Heins, Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Kottman, Mr. & Mrs. John Smith, Ruby Webb
KUEHL, Donald...Mrs. Dolores Kuehl
LACH, Edward J....Marilyn E. Lach
LAMBRECHT, Marjory...William Peter
LAMBRECHT, Midge...Carol Prange
LATZIG, Marvin...Layton & Melba Lemke
LEPPERT, Harlan Duane...Miss Inez Leppert
LEPPERT, Roger...Miss Inez Leppert
LIND, Guy & Dorothy...Eileen Newkirk
LINDBERG, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew...Mrs. Ginny Miller & Family
LINDQUIST, Florence...Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ryan
LOWE, Richard W....Raymond & Anna Letscher
LUOTO, Arlene...Ms. Bernice Hultgren
MARQUARDT, Ken...Arlie and Doris Marquardt
MARSALA, Clara...Charles Marsala
MEIER, Rev. Everette...Lois Mae Meier
MERDINYAN, Dr. & Mrs. A.H....Wallace Merdinyan, Pastor Emeritus
MEYER, Edgar M....Greta Meyer
MIELKE, Jeanne...Her Children
MILBRATH, Michael L....Rhoda Gersmehl
MILLER, Chris...Terry & Beverly Hovis
MILLER, Pastor David H....Mrs. Ginny Miller & Family
MILLER, Mr. and Mrs. Frank...Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Miller
MILLER, Mr. and Mrs. Max M....Mrs. Hoyte B. Elkins
MOSSMAN, James Frank...Corinne Bieber
MOTHER of Pam Jambeck...Marian Lones
MOZOLAK, Mildred...Doris Smith, Donna M. Snyder
MY Husband, my daughter Nancy and my granddaughter Amanda...Betty Rogers
MY Parents...Alice Berg
MY Parents...Samuel Bieller
NAST, Gerald H....Marilyn Nast
NEMITZ, Kenneth...Arlene Nemitz
NEUGEBAUER, Marilyn...Lowell Neugebauer
NITSCHKE, Twyla...Rhoda M. Gersmehl, Carol Geerdes
NOLL, Carroll G....Joanne Noll
NORBECK, Mr. & Mrs. O.E....Jack Norbeck
NUTZMAN, Marvin J.W....Carl Nutzman
NYQUIST, Harold...Mildred E. Sjostrand
OEHLSEN, Betty...Richard Oehlsen
PALMQUIST, Mr. & Mrs. Oliver...Mrs. Ginny Miller & Family
PASCHKA, Gilbert...Marilyn Paschka
PENDER, Duane...Gary and Beverly Jerger
PETERSON, Helen...Mr. and Mrs. Gerald E. Peterson
PERKINS, Lila...Kyle C. Schuytz
POWELL, Amy Marie...Mr. and Mrs. Albert Powell
RAAEN, Gerrie...Arnold and Mina Mittelstaedt
RASMUSSEN, Tammie...Judy Miile
RHONEHOUSE, Ruth L....Donna M. Snyder, Doris J. Smith
RIEMER, Harold...Rev. Charles Adams
RINNOVI, Dottie...Rae Marzocchi
RIVERS, Gayle...Mrs. Daisy Orth
ROBY, Barb...Mr. & Mrs. Tom R. Schulz
ROEPKE, Eldon...Rowena Roepke
SAWAYA, Patricia Lynn (Trish)...Joan & Edward Sawaya
SCHULTE, Rev. Edward... Beverly Christensen
SCHOENOW, Louis...Doris Reda
SCHWIEBERT, Mr. and Mrs. Ed... Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Miller
SHACKLE, Art...Beverly Shackle
SHAFFER, Delores...Barbara Pingel
SCHAFFT, Hans H....Lillian R. Schafft
SCHELP, Nolan...Sandra Schelp
SCHIEFELBEIN, Pastor Dennis... Mrs. Claudia T. Kux
SCHRUPP, Mr. Milton J....Evelyn Schrupp
SCHULTZ, Randy...Evelyn Bauer
SEDORY, Rev. & Mrs. E.J....Daniel Sedory
SHARP, Kathleen...Venice Matthias
SHOLANDER, Joan...Edward Sholander
SIEVING, Cornelius...Jane Pelkki
STONE, Rev. Glenn C....Meredith A. Stone
STUVE, Vernon...Barbara Pingel
SWANTON, Marjorie...Barbara Pingel
SYKES, Walter T....Kimberly O Connor
TAYLOR, Donald Paul...Cathie Taylor
TERRELL, Verla M....Chester O. Terrell
THUSS, Adeline...Barbara Pingel
THOMAS, Florence...Mr. & Mrs. Bill Gupton
THOMPSON, Don...Carol Galchutt
THOMSON, Audrey...Herbert Thomson
TOFOGA, Jane...Ms. Bernice Hultgren
TOMLINSON, Virgil...John & Kathy Sourbeer
TOWNE, Roland...Lois Towne
TRUITT, JoEvelyn...Vernard Truitt
VANDER LAAN, Peter & Ann... William and Florence Dodge
VAN WANSELE, Kori Beth...Ms. Dorothy Iverson
VEITENGRUBER, Joan...Doris Reda
WAAG, Pastor Richard...Dorothy C. Waag
WABBE, Doreline "Kloos"...Mervin J. Herrmann
WAGNER, Nina...Barbara Pingel
WALENTOVIC, Debbie...Doris Reda
WALLSTEN, Bruce...Bernice Hultgren

WATSON, Jim...Janet Zweng
 WEBER, Esther...Gilbert Weber
 WEHLANDER, Connie...Mr. and Mrs. Roger Wehlander
 WESELOH, Harry...Marie Weseloh
 WHITTOW, Thomas...Rev. E.M. Goltermann
 WILSON, Audrey...Dana Drum
 WILSON, Audrey D...Jean McMillin and David Morphy
 WOOLERY, Nancy...Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Heitmann
 ZEILINGER, Rudy...Dorothy Bradley
 ZIDARIN, Joseph...Mardell Zidarin
 ZIMMERMAN, Jacob...Marian Zimmerman
 ZIMMERMAN, Ward...Don & Charlotte Nordling
 ZUCKER, Jo Ann...Janet and Lowell Bloemker

BERNTSON, Stan & Sharon Geldaker... James Wilkerson, Jim and Gretchen Dumestre
 BERNTSON, Stan & Sharon Geldaker, thanks for our friendship...James Drury
 BETTERMAN, Miss Sharon, Merry Christmas...Wyaneta Timm
 BORG, Pastor Alvin & Alice... Pauline L. Osheim
 BRENNAN...Clara Heinemann
 BRUNS, Eugene, Merry Christmas...Dorothy Bradley
 CLIFFORD, Charles and Virginia... In honor of our 65th wedding anniversary
 DRURY, James...In honor of our family
 CAFARO, Tom and Henry...Joanne R. Bronars
 DUMESTRE, Jim and Gretchen... James Wilkerson
 GAMPER, Stewart, in honor of his 90th birthday...Anna Letscher, Raymond Letscher
 GARTNER, Dr. James and Mrs. Gartner, in honor of long lasting friendship...Jack & Joan Klay
 GELDAKER, Chuck & Carol... Jim and Gretchen Dumestre, James Wilkerson
 GIES, Pastor Clark and Judy... Reverend and Mrs. Thomas Decker
 GRACE Lutheran Church...Bettina Lindquist

GUTZMAN, Pastor Steve and Linda...Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Mittelstaedt
 HALDORSON, Alice, in honor of her Birthday and Christmas... Esther Pfeifer
 HANSEN, Darian and Dillon, my Grandchildren...Connie Mitchell
 JOHNSON, Elsie...Ardala Littlefield
 KAISER, Kent...Ethel Keller
 KARKAN, Betsy...Mrs. Linda L. Park
 KAUFMAN, Shane, my Grandson...Margie Todd
 KERSTEN, Keith & Margaret...Larry and Patricia Wallace
 KOESTER, Pastor & Mrs. Paul, Merry Christmas...Mrs. Lydia DeJong
 LAABS, Herman, in honor of his 93rd Birthday on 12/04/09... Herman H. Laabs
 LYONS, Elaine, my mother...Bruce Smith
 MAIN, Patricia & Will, Haskell Light Ministry...Mr. and Mrs. William Klein
 MANTHEI, Bonnie, in honor of her 50th Birthday...Mr. & Mrs. Harley A. Reabe
 MY Mother & Father...Keith Ott
 NATIVE AMERICAN FRIENDS...Ms. Arlys Zieski
 OLSON, Ken, former MV Christian skipper...Dave and Betty Olson
 PLATTENBERGER, Robert and Roberta, in honor of their 65th wedding anniversary...Arthur and Lillian Johnson

RUPPRECHT, Mr. & Mrs. Paul... Mr. and Mrs. John P. Schroeder
 RZEPKE, Edward & Eleanor ... in honor of our anniversary
 SKELTER, Toni, my Goddaughter... Ms. Virginia Gerlin
 SISK, Jennie...Sue Sisk
 STERNBECK, Dave and Rosemary...Carolyn Mastores
 STERNBECK, David...James and Judy Voelz
 STOETZEL, Rhonda...Bill and Ida Frizzell
 STRAIN, Pastor Gordon, interim pastor at Prince of Peace Schaumburg, IL...Mr. & Mrs. Emil D. Pribula
 SYKES, Alice A...Kimberly O Connor
 TREAKLE, Dan...William R. Wing
 WALTA, Rev. Arnold & Natalie, in honor of their 50th anniversary... Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Burmeister
 WELCH, John and Susan...Sharon R. Albe
 WILKERSON, Heidi, Jim, Nick and Amy... Jim and Gretchen Dumestre
 WILLWEBER, Sharon, in honor of her Birthday...Don and Charlotte Nordling
 WOLLER, Marie...Ruth Proft Dannehl

In Honor of

ALL of my friends working with Lutheran Association of Missionaries & Pilots...Eva Marie Schultz
 ANDERSON, Paul, in honor of his birthday...Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Anderson
 BARBARA...Charlotte Hasz
 BEER, Mr. & Mrs. Ken, in honor of their 50th anniversary... Joyce Fletcher

Welcome, Mark Maurice

We are pleased to announce that Mark Maurice, CFRE, has joined the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. staff as the new Major Gifts Officer. Mark has served in the field of fund development for 18 years, primarily at faith-based and human service organizations. Most recently he served at Bethesda Lutheran Homes & Services in Watertown, Wisconsin.

In this role, Mark will be traveling throughout the country informing donors about our ministry and how they can be involved in furthering the mission both now and in the future.

Mark was born in Indiana, but has lived most of his life in Wisconsin. He currently lives in suburban Milwaukee with his wife Mary-Jane and 16 year-old son, Mark.



Spring Banquet

It was a wonderful celebration of our 25 years in Lutheran Indian Ministries as Rev. David Sternbeck addressed the guests at our 25th Annual Banquet on Saturday, March 20 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Close to 100 guests listened to Dave share about his ministry among his people in Neah Bay and on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State. One of the highlights of the banquet was the gift of a hand-made stole, presented to him by Rev. Dr. Warren Schumacher, former District President of the Northwest District, on behalf of the L-US Board of Directors, in honor of Dave's ordination last December. Dr. Schumacher officiated at the ordination service on December 13 and has agreed to serve on the Board of Directors of L-US.



Rev. Dave Sternbeck shared the challenges and joys of ministering to Native American communities with those in attendance at our Spring Banquet.

Northern Lights



Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S.
Christ's Kingdom—Every Native American Nation.

3525 North 124th St., Suite 1
Brookfield, WI 53005-2498
262-783-5267
www.lutheranmissionariesandpilots.org

Celebrating 25 Years of
25th
Lutheran Indian Ministries

Dear Stan and Sharon,

We greet you from the Kake Memorial Presbyterian Church. We are still sharing special stories and moments from your August visit to Kake. Each of us began to look forward to your coming on the M/V CHRISTIAN way last spring. We count you each and your boat ministries as our special Kake friends.

Each time you have visited you come in just like family – home for a visit. You enter into our daily moments as blessed friends. The youth have looked forward to some “boat” time since your last visit in 2008.

The kindness of carrying, hauling, unpacking, assisting with our rummage sent from Petersburg was wonderful! More work than I am sure you had anticipated. We thank you for all of the above – you came as angels from above and took care of us again.

We wish you blessings in your ministry in S.E. Alaska. We wish you blessings in your daily moments serving God. Finally, we wish you blessings as you plan for our next moments together.

Thank you from others in your Christian Family!

Please continue to pray for our Kake community.

Blessings, Mary Ann Kondro
Kake Memorial Presbyterian Church

Thanks goes to you, our partner in ministry, for enabling us to be a part of the “daily moments” in the lives of Native communities such as Kake!