



Mission partners in **44** countries

41 missionaries

Prospective mission fields in **20** new countries...

Give thanks to the Lord!



WELS WORLD MISSIONS

WELS World Missions conducts gospel outreach in 44 countries and is exploring outreach opportunities in 20 prospective new mission fields. World Missions brings the light of God's Word to the world through evangelism efforts, church planting, training national workers for ministry, and providing religious materials in foreign languages through [Multi-Language Productions \(MLP\)](#). 41 world missionaries partner with over 400 national pastors to conduct outreach and train more than 380 students for service in Christ's kingdom.

World Mission supports mission work:

- on the [Apache reservations in Arizona](#), where the gospel is being shared in eight churches, one preaching station, and two Lutheran elementary schools;
- in [Africa](#), where missionaries and national church partners are exploring mission work in ten additional African countries;
- in [Asia](#), where the newly formed Asia one team is coordinating resources and partnering with sister synods to reach out with the gospel to Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu, and Muslim individuals in 11 different countries;
- in [East Asia](#), where missionaries are coaching and mentoring 45 mission group leaders in spite of tightening security and Asia Lutheran Seminary is reaching hundreds of new students through new online classes;
- in [Latin America](#), where the Academia Cristo online training tool is walking more than 345 people through self-led classes and missionaries have identified more than 25 men in eleven different countries as potential church planters;
- in [Europe](#), where national churches are partnering with WELS missionaries and the Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI) to train the next generation of church leaders;
- through [Multi-Language Productions](#), which has produced confessional Christian content in more than 56 languages and on a variety of platforms.



House churches have doubled in **East Asia**

In East Asia, a particularly dark place for the gospel where few people have heard the Word, the number of house churches has doubled throughout the pandemic.

Mainland China has taken control of Hong Kong, which puts the future of Asia Lutheran Seminary in question. Instructors continue to train new church leaders but are prepared to leave the country on a moment's notice. In response to the takeover, the British government has offered citizenship to current Hong Kong residents (transition to next slide).



World Missions has plans to send missionaries to London. The London area is already home to more than 50 WELS families who could serve as a nucleus for outreach. In addition, due to Chinese takeover of Hong Kong, more than 20% of members from WELS' partner church (SALEM) in Hong Kong have moved to the United Kingdom, including two pastors.



Asia One Team in Chiang Mai, Thailand

Friendly Counselor Guy Marquardt and his wife Linda (pictured front left) have moved to Chiang Mai, Thailand, to continue serving with the One Asia Team. The One Asia Team is led by Missionary Stephen Wiesenaus, pictured front right with his wife. The two men and their wives on the back part of the table are East Asia missionaries Matt Doebler (wife Christina) and Erik Janke (wife Alanna). The East Asia team is also based out of Chiang Mai, since they were pulled out of mainland China in November 2019.



Mark Zondag family – New Asia One Team missionary

New missionary Mark Zondag, wife Sarah, and two little girls will be moving to Chiang Mai in September 2021, after being assigned out of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. He will be working to specifically reach out to the ethnic Thai in Thailand, a people group largely unreached by previous efforts.



Picture: Friendly Counselor Mike Duncan visits a village in Bangladesh with Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI) student Shakil (taking photo) in November 2020. Bangladesh is one of the few countries where WELS representatives were able to travel to during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Christian young man, Shakil, from Bangladesh recently became a member of WELS congregation in Detroit, MI, and is now studying to be a pastor through the Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI). When his father passed away, he inherited two Bible schools in Bangladesh. He is now working with WELS to provide solid scriptural training to those two schools and is partnering with WELS in his outreach in Detroit, MI, and across the border into Windsor, ON, Canada.



In Latin America, online outreach efforts through *Academia Cristo* have connected the Latin America missions team with potential church planters in many different countries. Additional manpower is needed to follow up with these contacts and continue training new Christians in grace-starved Latin America. Plans are underway to add up to *five* new positions to the team, which could be made up of pastors, staff ministers, teachers, and laypeople.

41 people have come into doctrinal agreement with WELS through *Academia Cristo*, with additional men and women being added to that number weekly.

Pictured: Artemio (third from left) in Mexico City, Mexico. Artemio, an *Academia Cristo* student and now confirmed Lutheran, gathers a group of about 80 people in a factory in the northeastern edge of Mexico City. On a recent visit, Missionary Andrew Johnston participated in the confirmation of 9 new members.



TELL (Think, Evaluate, Learn, and Lead) is a new online Bible-based training platform from Multi-Language Productions (MLP) meant to bring the gospel to English-speakers around the world. TELL students are encouraged to complete self-led courses, participate in deeper studies with a live online instructor, and then lead a group in Bible study or worship. TELL is modeled after *Academia Cristo*, a Spanish online training tool used by our Latin America missions team. These two training initiatives make up the TELL Network. We pray that this network will allow for the creation of new TELL platforms in additional languages in the future.

Multi-Language Productions has seen huge interest in TELL on the African continent, specifically in Kenya. Plans are being plan to place a TELL missionary somewhere in the vicinity to follow up on African TELL contacts.

Fast Facts

- The TELL Facebook page has more than 1.1 million followers.
- TELL and Academia Cristo have released new Christian training apps for Android phones on the Google Play store.
- TELL has launched a web video series for online social media called #TELLtalk.

Senegal



World Missions has plans to send missionaries to Senegal. Rev. Larry Schlomer, World Missions administrator says Senegal is a “raw” mission, but it appears that the country is open to missionaries and mission work. “We are not going here because we have a contact; we don’t have an invitation. We are going because we know those people don’t have the gospel.” Two missionaries will go to learn the language, meet the people, and seek opportunities to share the gospel.



A new missionary is being called to serve the Native Christians Network in reaching additional Native American tribes with the gospel.



Taste of Missions, an online Missions experience, was held from July 11-17, 2021. This event provided all WELS members an opportunity to connect with brothers and sisters in Christ from around the globe and be a part of the important gospel outreach occurring through our synod. Attendees got to know WELS home and world missionaries and experience mission work firsthand through short video updates, live Q&A sessions, activities and recipes for the entire family, daily devotions, and a worship service where we commissioned five new home and world missionaries.

You can still watch videos, complete activities, and access the event archive at tasteofmissions.com.



Host an Epiphany Mission Festival!

Request a mission speaker for your next church mission festival, school assembly, men's or women's church group meeting, or LWMS rally! Fall is filling up, but Epiphany is a great time to host a mission festival. Speakers are generally more available, and the season is fitting as we are reminded that Christ was born to save all nations, as represented by the Magi who came to worship Jesus after his birth. Request a speaker at wels.net/speaker-request.



The fourth annual edition of Faces of Faith is now available online. Any congregation is welcome to request up to 50 copies of the magazine, and we are also offering large home and world mission maps (24" x 36") free of charge. Note – Faces of Faith is automatically sent to any congregation hosting a Mission Festival.

Request your free magazines and maps at wels.net/facesoffaith.