

# Home Missions Report

## *Fall - 2016*

### Home Missions Mission Starts

The Board for Home Missions met on April 14-15, 2016. One of the items of business was to prioritize new mission starts for the coming fiscal year. Eight new starts were authorized to receive funding starting July 1, 2016.

1. Lehi, Utah (south of Salt Lake City), calling from the field
2. Fredericksburg Virginia (50 miles south of Washington DC), WLS graduate Matt Rothe assigned
3. Coeur d'Alene Idaho, St Matthew (30 miles east of Spokane WA), Pastor Kevin Schultz
4. Meridian Idaho, Cross of Christ (south-west of Boise ID); WLS graduate Kurt Wetzel assigned and Pastor Ben Workentine will serve as mission pastor at the second site.
5. Atlanta Georgia (inner city mission); calling from the field
6. Rockwall Texas, Divine Peace (east of Dallas), WLS graduate, Gunnar Lederman assigned
7. Victoria Texas, Redeemer (south-east of San Antonio), calling from the field
8. Stevens Point Wisconsin, The Word (central WI), Pastor Jim Rucker

Five of the eight new missions are multi-site missions (#3, #4, #6, #7, and #8). This means the mission is connected with an existing church. For example, the mission starting in Coeur d'Alene ID is connected with St. Matthew in Spokane WA. While there are going to be two locations where worship and ministry take place – Coeur d'Alene being the second site - overall there is one leadership team with one budget. Also, with each multi-site location, some members from the first site are either going to be full-time members at the new site or will help for one to two years in getting the second site going. This is called the “launch team.” Later in this report will be an invitation to a WELS National Multi-Site Conference coming up in November.

In addition to the eight mission starts, the Board for Home Missions approved three enhancements and one relocation. Enhancements are typically 2-4 year subsidy agreements to assist a congregation with expanding ministry or assisting cross-cultural ministry. The four ministries are:

1. Centennial Lutheran in Milwaukee WI; three years of support to Call a bilingual pastor, calling from the field
2. Risen Savior Lutheran in Lakewood Ranch FL; subsidy to assist the congregation to Call a pastor from the field and Pastor Caleb Free was called and accepted
3. Abiding Grace in Covington GA and Henry County GA (multi-site) to support existing ministry
4. Peace Lutheran in Holiday FL to relocate to Trinity FL

Overall, the Board for Home Missions received twenty-four requests to start new missions or new ministry. The total funding for the twelve requests which received authorization (means funding starts July 1, 2016) is \$983,000. In being able to take the above steps, Home Missions says “thank you” to our church body for its mission offerings and synod members for the many individual gifts which make it possible for Home Missions to do what it does.

While not a part of the funding which supported the above twelve ministries, Home Missions also wants to say “thank you” to the Church Extension Fund (CEF) for its CEF grant to Home Missions (Previously this was called the unrestricted net asset policy). Established in February of 2015 to aid Home Missions, the distribution in FY 16 of \$833,000 and FY 17 of up to \$840,000 Home Missions enabled Home Missions to authorize two missions in the spring of 2015. Without these distributions, in 2015 our church body would have opened two less missions. Home Mission truly appreciates this “over and above” support from our CEF partner.

Missions assigned a pastor / had a pastor accept a Call since January of 2016.

Redeemer Lutheran, Tucson AZ, Pastor accepted a Call – Pastor Matthew Langebartels  
Palabra de Vida, Detroit MI, WLS graduate Ryan Kolander assigned  
Shepherd of the Hills, Las Vegas AZ; Pastor Tom Unke accepted a Call  
Cross of Glory, Vistantia / Peoria AZ; Pastor Ben Foxen accepted a Call  
Living Hope, Reunion CO; Pastor Josh Sternhagen accepted a Call

In addition to the mission churches noted above which are vacant, these missions receiving subsidy are vacant (09/09/15)

Sure Foundation, Woodside NY  
St. John Antigua, West Indies – calling for two Anglo pastors

At this time Home Missions supports both subsidized missions and unsubsidized missions. There are 80 subsidized missions. In this listing we have these groupings:

- 20 missions are cross-cultural supported through the budget / divisional gifts
- 47 missions are supported through the budget / divisional gifts
- 3 missions are supported through JMC funds and are all cross cultural
- 2 missions are supported by CEF grants
- 1 mission is supported by special project funds and is cross cultural
- 7 missions are classified as enhancements

There are a total of 24 cross cultural or multi-ethnic missions receiving subsidy.

In addition to the 80 subsidized missions, there are 33 unsubsidized missions. Home Missions has three classifications for unsubsidized missions.

- #1 – A new church has started. Working with a District Mission Board, it is a mission in every sense of the word except it does not receive subsidy.
- #2 – A subsidized mission has finished receiving subsidy. Following that, for three years these missions receive the label of unsubsidized mission. These missions continue to work with a District Mission Board.
- #3 – A self-support congregation has some specific issues and works with a district mission board. After following guidelines, a self-support congregation can become an unsubsidized mission for up to three years.

## Cross Cultural Ministry

Below is a list of locations where cross-cultural ministry is being done. Some of these ministries received BHM subsidy. Some receive financial assistance through Home Mission special funds. Some receive support through DMBs, or the Global Hmong Committee or the National Hispanic Consultant or the Joint Mission Counsel or designees of the JMC. If you see a location(s) which is missing and should be added or really no longer belongs in this listing, thanks for letting me know.

<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Hmong</b>	<b><i>Additional Cultures</i></b>	
Detroit, MI	St. Paul, MN	<b>Sudanese</b>	<b>Liberians</b>
NYC, NY	Clovis, CA	Des Moines, IA	New Hope, MN
Falls Church, VA	Manitowoc, WI	Omaha, NE	
Doral, FL	Appleton, WI ( <i>vacant</i> )	Des Moines, WA	<b>Korean</b>
Edna, TX	Wausau, WI	Calgary, AB	Des Moines, WA
Houston, TX	La Crosse, WI	Mankato, MN	Salem, OR
Phoenix AZ	Minneapolis, MN		Las Vegas, NV
Denver, CO	Kansas City, KS	<b>Vietnamese</b>	Thousand Oaks, CA
Santa Ana, CA	Fresno, CA	Boise, ID	Santa Clara and
Anchorage, AK**	Anchorage, AK**		San Jose, CA
Antigua	Sacramento, CA	<b>Navajo</b>	Morton Grove, IL
Milwaukee, WI ( <i>4 sites</i> )	Brooklyn, MN	Farmington, NM	
Watertown, WI			<b>Chinese</b>
Menasha, WI		<b>Japanese</b>	Wauwatosa, WI
Yakima, WA		Findlay, OH	Vancouver, BC
El Paso, TX			Chicago, IL
Houston, TX		<b>African</b>	
Green Bay WI		Las Vegas, NV	

*\*\*Faith in Anchorage has English, Hmong and Hispanic worship each Sunday*

A Spanish Pastor's Conference took place January 18-20, 2016 in El Paso TX. The Conference was done in the Spanish language. Starting in 2016 a Hispanic Mentor Corp committee has been established. To assist Pastor Tim Flunker, Hispanic Outreach Consultant, Pastor Tim Satorius and Pastor Sam Degner make up the HMC committee. We thank them for being willing to serve.

Every two years US Hmong ministries have a Hmong National Conference. Immanuel Hmong in St. Paul MN served as hosts for the July 8-10 gathering. There were 165 registered. A pastor and his wife from Thailand also attended. It is an important time for the US Hmong ministries to gather together for mutual support and more importantly continued support through the hearing and studying of God's Word.

There is an annual Asian Conference at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in early October. In 2016 19 Asians and 16 Anglos attended. The emphasis of the Conference will be going through the book of Titus. An Anglo and an Asian are teaming up to make presentations to conference attendees on sections of Titus.

Regarding Hmong ministry, at the direction of the Joint Mission Council a Global Hmong Committee was established for FY 15-16. Members of the GHC are Pastor Bounkeo Lor, Pastor Pheng Moua, Pastor Robb Raasch and Pastor Keith Free who serves as chairman. During FY 15-16, the Board for World Missions approved the GHC to be a permanent committee. During FY 15-16, the Board for Home Missions requested that a comprehensive report be presented at the fall 2016 BHM meeting in order to determine if the GHC be a permanent committee. The GHC has been working with Hmong ministry in the US as well as Asia. Having two Hmong pastors on the GHC is a wonderful blessing. To learn more about Hmong ministry and the GHC, I direct you to the special *Forward in Christ* Missions edition, pages #18-#20.

The main reason for the formation of the GHC was the opportunities our church body has for expanding Hmong ministry primarily in Asia, specifically North Vietnam, but also in China and Thailand. Since 2008 Pastor Bounkeo Lor has been making trips to North Vietnam to share the gospel. As time progressed he began working with spiritual leaders in the Hmong Fellowship Church. The HFC is under the Vietnamese Fellowship Church, a church body recognized by the North Vietnamese government. Thus, while Pastor Lor has been careful and cautious, through time he has gained the trust of the HFC, the VFC and has been tolerated by the government (As explained to me, one never knows what the government is actually thinking). From a report of his trip in October of 2014 (Pastor Bob Smith was also with him on that trip) Boun and Bob were teaching some 55 spiritual leaders in the HFC using the book of Galatians (The HFC has membership of around 63,000 souls). Law and Gospel were emphasized. The report our pastors shared was the gospel was well received. In fact, these pastors have been invited back for continued teaching. That has happened. Now the question has come up, how do we proceed? How do we go forward? How do we balance all WELS Hmong ministry? The GHC is working at that as well as working at other facets of Hmong ministry.

A recent development in WELS cross cultural ministry is the growing Pastoral Study Institute team. IN the spring Pastor Jon Bare accepted a Call to serve as the International Recruitment Director (had been serving in China as a world missionary). Now there are three men on the PSI Team. Pastor Bare joins Professor Allen Sorum and Professor Brad Wordell. The purpose of the PSI team is to work around the world (including the US) in vetting men who express a desire to serve as confessional Lutheran pastors. After the vetting process, if approved to be in the PSI program, the PSI team will put together a study plan, develop a teaching team and oversee the process. Over the past twelve months over 300 men have expressed a desire to have pastoral training. To learn more about the PSI team and its ministry, I direct you to the special *Forward in Christ* Missions edition, pages #6-#9.

At this time in the US we have these people groups in the Pastor Study Institute program:

- 2-Chinese (1 who lives in China, but has come to the US for PSI training)
- 3-Hmong (4 half way through the program and 1 just starting)
- 1 Laotian (just starting)
- 1 Liberian (just starting)
- 4 Sudanese (1 half way through the program and 3 just starting)
- 1 Vietnamese (just starting)
- 1 Hispanic (In Vicar and final year)

## **Subsidized Missions / Unsubsidized Missions**

At the spring 2016 Board for Home Mission meeting, the BHM approved a terminology change. Missions which are under Home Missions are now either labeled subsidized or unsubsidized. A subsidized mission simply means that a mission is receiving financial support. An unsubsidized mission is a mission in every way except it doesn't receive subsidy. Home Missions is happy to work with unsubsidized missions as through their efforts more are hearing and being reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ without the financial support of Home Missions.

Just as a subsidized mission goes through a process to receive Home Mission financial support, so too an unsubsidized mission goes through a process to receive unsubsidized mission status. A congregation needs to work with a District Mission Board. Over twelve months the mission needs to:

- a) Shared their annual ministry plan with the DMB and Mission Counselor which outlines ministry direction for the coming twelve months
- b) Submitted monthly reports showing the ministry plan in action to the assigned shepherd, DMB chairman and MC
- c) Submitted other reports as requested by the DMB
- d) If available and able, attended the annual missionary conference

Once a congregation has worked with the DMB over a twelve-month period and both the local congregation and the DMB are committed to moving forward, the DMB brings a request to the BHM EC to receive funding for this mission effort. The request includes all the information that a DMB brings whether the mission receives subsidy or does not receive subsidy.

Home Missions also requires that each mission submit an annual financial analysis. That is due by October 31 of each year. Both subsidized and unsubsidized missions are to submit a financial analysis. If you would appreciate a template for making this report, contact Mr. Sean Young.

## **WELS Multi-Site Conference**

As noted on page #1, 5 of the 8 missions authorized are Multi-site missions. What follows is information about a WELS National Multi-Site Conference for WELS churches taking place November 14-16, 2016, in Tucson AZ.

### **What is it all about?**

The multi-site movement is all about reaching more people, and bringing mission work to many more congregations, by helping to start new churches in new locations. The potential for this relatively new strategy among WELS congregations is tremendous. While multi-site churches may have many practical benefits such as shared resources, efficient organization, cost-effective programs, and more; the greatest blessing possible is that God would use it to reach more people with the gospel.

### **Why should you join us for this conference?**

Some congregations are already multi-site churches. Others could benefit from considering multi-site ministry, or learning from those who have multi-site church experience. For these reasons, the national Multi-site conference for WELS churches has been organized and attendance is open to everyone. There will be beneficial information for churches that are already doing multi-site ministry as well as churches that are considering multi-site ministry as a way to reach more people with the gospel.

**Host:** Grace Lutheran Church in Tucson, Vail, Sahuarita, and Benson, Arizona.

## **Home Mission Personnel and Training**

The training dates for the 2017 winter DMB's training have been set and are listed in the master Home Mission schedule. Contact Pastor Keith Free if you would like the master Home Mission schedule.

On July 25 and 26, 2016, there was training for newly elected DMB members – elected at District Conventions - as well as some DMB veterans at the Center for Mission and Ministry. Pastor Free and Mr. Young led the training which took the participants from beginning to end regarding the start of a mission and all that goes into serving a mission.

At the start of a new fiscal year (July 1, 2016), there were three new DMB chairman. Pastor Jeff Mahnke in the Western WI District replaced Pastor Nathan Strutz who completed his 2<sup>nd</sup> six-year term, Pastor John Stelter in the Nebraska District on the Nebraska Mission Board who replaced Pastor Steve Helwig who completed his 2<sup>nd</sup> six-year term, and Pastor Matt Frey in the Nebraska District serving on the Colorado Mission Board who replaced Pastor Wayne Uhlhorn who took a Call out of the Nebraska District (Pastor Frey's service actually started in early March of 2016). We thank the men who served and pray the Lord's blessings for those who now serve as DMB chairman.

In July, MN DMB chairman, Pastor Jeremy Glowicki indicated he was stepping off the MN DMB due to additional responsibilities which would hinder his service on the DMB. We thank Pastor Glowicki for his service and his 10 years on the MN DMB, many of which he served as chairman. Accepting appointment to be the next MN DMB chairman is Pastor Tim Bode. We pray the Lord's blessings on Pastor Bode during this time of transition.

At the spring 2016 BHM meeting, the BHM EC saw some changes. Dr. Keith Eldred and Pastor Nathan Strutz were completing their DMB terms and after June 30, 2016, could no longer serve on the BHM EC. Also, after the spring meeting, since Pastor Wayne Uhlhorn took a Call and was no longer on the CO DMB, he too was done serving on the BHM EC. For the many years they served Home Missions on their respective mission boards as well as on the EC, we thank them. Replacing them on the BHM EC are Pastor Mark Gabb, Mr. Mark Hartman and Pastor Matt Vogt. Mr. Steve Wolf and the BHM Chairman also are on the BHM EC.

During the South Atlantic District Convention, Pastor Chuck Westra was elected District President. Pastor Westra also has been the BHM chairman since July of 2007. Accepting the District President position meant that Pastor Westra would no longer serve as BHM chairman. Home Missions wants to express its thanks for the faithful service and strong leadership of Pastor Westra. Working with WELS President Mark Schroeder, Pastor Wayne Uhlhorn was appointed to serve as the next BHM chairman. Pastor Uhlhorn accepted appointment. At the 2017 Synod Convention there will be an election for BHM chairman.

Continuing to serve Home Missions as Mission Counselors are Pastor Mark Birkholz, Pastor Peter Kruschel and Pastor Ed Schuppe. Pastor Tim Flunker serves as the Hispanic Outreach Consultant. We thank these men for the many ways in which they serve Home Missions.

### **Mission Dedications**

Victory of the Lamb, Franklin WI – January 10, 2016 (*BFC logged 600 hours per week at this site*)  
Beautiful Savior, Moncks Corner SC – May 2, 2016

### **Upcoming Dedications**

Living Promise, Morristown TN – October of 2016

### **Ministry of Christian Giving**

In partnership with the Ministry of Christian Giving, Missions (Home and World) has started an “Individual Missions Campaign” (To be clear, an “Individual” Campaign means that while individuals will be approached, promotional materials and encouraging materials won’t be sent to each WELS congregation to participate in this special offering). Individual campaigns are how the recent special offerings for MLC, WLS and LPS took place. The campaign will take place during FY 16-17.

The campaign is titled: “**Every Neighbor, Every Nation – WELS Missions and You.**” A key component of the campaign is a special *Forward in Christ* edition. If you have not yet seen a copy, make sure you do. As referenced earlier in this report, there are so many great articles in this special edition explaining mission work in the WELS.

To get the message of missions out, Mission personnel (Administrators, Missionaries and Home and World Board members) are going to join Christian Giving Counselors on visits to donors. Gifts to Missions will be used by Home, World and ministries supported by the Joint Mission Council for new mission initiatives.

### **Church Extension Fund**

Church Extension Fund (CEF) is a valuable Home Mission partner. Through the ministry of CEF, loans are made to mission churches to purchase land and help build the first worship facility. Not only does CEF give loans, through its grant programs mission churches receive additional financial support which allows them the opportunity to afford paying on land and worship facility. At the 2013 Synod Convention Section 7.10 of the Synod By-laws (WELS Church Extension Fund, Inc) was changed. In addition to loans and grants for land and facilities, the CEF Board of Directors can also make “grants to Home Missions” to help support additional Home Mission ministry (go to page #203 of the Book of Reports and Memorials for the 62<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention of WELS for the actual wording). The by-law change allows the CEF Board of Directors flexibility in helping to serve Home Missions, if the CEF Board of Directors would so choose.

At its February 23, 2015 CEF Board of Director’s meeting, the BOD approved an unrestricted net asset policy. Based on a formula and driven in large part by strong CEF net assets, when the policy was

approved, estimates of up to \$700,000 would come to Home Missions in FY 16. Based on that figure and based on the understanding that approval of the release of funds is merely a formality for

FYs 16 & 17, at its spring 2015 meeting the BHM authorized an additional two missions realizing that \$1,4M would be available to help fund two missions.

On September 23, 2015, the CEF BOD met. At that meeting the distribution of close to \$833K was authorized for FY 16. At the September 12, 2016, the CEF BOD approved another distribution of just over \$840K for FY 17. We thank the Lord for this special distribution which has allowed Home Missions to authorize two missions back the spring of 2015. As we go continue forward, these annual grants are going to be called “CEF grants” to Home Missions.

What follows is a review of two “Special Grants” (Different from “CEF grants”) to Home Missions from the CEF BOD in Feb. of 2011 and Sept. of 2013. While most of the information is a repeat of previous years, it gives the picture of what has happened or is happening with the special grant dollars.

In February of 2011 the CEF Board of Directors granted Home Missions \$1M which went to six missions:

Frankfort, Ill. (previously in New Lenox) – Amazing Love	\$ 80,000
Boise, Idaho-Peace in Jesus Vietnamese	\$250,000
Caledonia, Mich. - Spirit of Life Lutheran	\$150,000
<i>(The congregation continues to make payments to CEF to pay back up to \$80,000.00 of the grant)</i>	
Denver, Colo. - Christ Lutheran	\$ 50,000
Moncks Corner, SC – Beautiful Savior Lutheran	\$320,000
Woodbridge, Virg. - Trinity Lutheran	\$150,000

All six of these missions have used their “special grant” from CEF. Trinity Lutheran in Woodbridge dedicated their worship facility in January of 2012, Peace in Jesus Vietnamese in Boise dedicated their worship facility in September of 2012, Amazing Love in Frankfort bought a 2007 constructed ELCA church which had closed, renovated and dedicated in May of 2013 (this mission has also been blessed to no longer be on subsidy – in FY 16 their subsidy was \$40,000 – this mission has decided to go to “0” in FY 17 so more subsidy is available for other missions), Spirit of Life in Caledonia dedicated their worship facility in March of 2014, Christ Lutheran in Denver dedicated their remodeled worship facility in July of 2014 and Beautiful Savior in Moncks Corner SC dedicated its worship facility on May 1, 2016.

One note from the NA DMB chairman. He shared that after Trinity in Woodbridge completed its project, the congregation has been active in assisting a couple of other missions with capital needs in the North Atlantic District. This congregation realized they had received a special blessing through the CEF grant to move forward. Now, in at least two situations, where NA missions needed some financial assistance, this ministry has been generous in their support of those missions. By the way, this congregation’s CMO average in 2014 was \$200.00 per communicant which is just about double what the synod average is.

In September of 2013 the CEF Board of Directors granted a “special grant” to Home Missions of \$1.3M. That grant is being distributed to six churches:

Sparks NV – Shepherd of the Mountains	\$250,000
Las Vegas NV – Shepherd of the Hills:	\$200,000
Kansas City KS – Grace Hmong:	\$200,000 (up to)
Morristown TN – Living Promise:	\$200,000
St. Lucia West Indies – Trinity:	\$200,000 (up to)
Pflugerville TX – Holy Word:	\$250,000



Living Promise in Morristown has purchased land, is close to ending construction on a facility and will have a dedication in October of 2016. Shepherd of the Mountains in Sparks purchased land and in August of 2014 and construction started on their worship facility the summer of 2016. Grace Hmong in Kansas City has bought a LC-MS church where they have been paying rent to worship. Major remodeling was done. Shepherd of the Hills in Las Vegas has purchased 4 acres of land and is now planning to build. St. Lucia is planning to construct a Ministry Centre once additional funds are in hand. Holy Word continues to plan for a preschool as phase one of their facility. Groundbreaking is set for April of 2017.

While we are thankful for CEF grants and special grants, there is also the grant program for missions as they purchase land and build or buy a worship facility. In FY 15-16, over \$3,000,000 was offered from the grant program to mission congregations. That was close to the record for grants to mission churches over a twelve-month period. Prior to this past fiscal year, grants to mission congregations on average has been \$1,280,000. As we project ahead for the current fiscal year and the one which follows, we are asking our DMBs to work with missions which may be close to purchasing land and or building / buying a worship facility. The Missions office will work directly with DMBs to get this information.

The final item to note with CEF is the new personnel and the new positions. In the fall Mr. Scott Page was hired as the Executive Director. In January Mr. Brian Roser came on board. In June Mr. Jared Justman indicated he was going to be taking a new job and would end his service at CEF come the end of July. We thank Jared for his 14 years of service (During that time CEF net assets grew by \$38M and the loan portfolio grew by \$54M). In early August Mr. Rory Virks began working at CEF, replacing Jared. Also, some months back, Mrs. Greta Wagner replaced Susan Hopkins who had retired. We thank everyone who has and who continues to faithfully serve at CEF.

## Finances

Here is a Brief Overview of the Financial Picture in Home Missions:

	Budget	Divisional Funds	Special Funds	JMC
10/11	\$5,050,000	\$ 607,000		\$ 0
11/12	\$5,400,000	\$ 509,000		\$240,000***
12/13	\$5,533,700	\$ 846,822**		\$250,000***
13/14	\$5,743,600	\$ 823,358		\$275,000***
14/15	\$5,705,000*	\$1,334,000**		\$315,000***
15/16	\$5,705,000	\$ 407,104		\$361,000***
16/17	\$5,705,000	\$ ??	(estimate)	\$375,000***

*\*14/15 5,860,000 was the synod approved figure until the SC reduced budgets on 07/25/14  
(For FYs 16 and 17, the budget remains at the FY 15 level.)*

*\*\*\$500,000 estate in June of 2013 was a part of this total and \$750,000 in estates in June of 2015 was a part of this total*

*\*\*\* Endowment payouts – in addition to this payout both Home and World Missions receive separate payouts. Home is around \$12,000 and World is around \$40,000.*

As we start thinking about the spring 2017 BHM meeting, \$250,000 is included in the FY 17-18 budget for new starts. If there aren't budget reductions, special Home Mission gifts come in around the average of past years, and if the MPSAs up for renewal at the spring 2017 BHM meeting overall decrease

their subsidy (versus increase), we would plan on at least \$350,000.00 for new ministry. While we have started the FY 16-17 with a healthy division fund balance, Home Missions was also very aggressive in authorizing new starts and new ministries in the FY 16-17 budget. As it has been in years past, we will have a better idea of what we might have for new monies come the March 30 / 31 BHM meeting.

When talking about starting new missions, that couldn't happen without the work of Mission Counselors and active District Mission Board members. There is a lot of work which goes into getting a mission location prepared to bring a request to the BHM EC for mission authorization. As we look to authorize missions, we are thankful for the work of our DMBs and MCs.

## **Mission Promotions**

We continue to be blessed by an active supportive Missions promotions staff. Peg and Katy do excellent work. While it is usually difficult to tie in special gifts which come to support Home Missions (as well as other areas of our synod) it certainly doesn't hurt for the Home Mission family to do all it can to get the word out about what happens through Home Missions, if for no other reason than to thank the Lord for blessing us as a church body to share the gospel with more souls.

Over the past year Peg has started working on videos she is titling "Moments with Missionaries." The video is 5-6 minutes. Its style and content is similar to a WELS-Connection, but the MWM videos will not be on WELS-Connection. These videos will be put on the Missions web-site, used at LWMS Rallies and Conventions, and be used in other ways.

Another way in which the message of Home Missions is getting out is through blogging. Following a schedule, each mission board is asking two of its missions to produce a blog. As we follow this plan, every 15 days or so there is a blog on a Home Mission ministry. The plan started in June of 2016. If you haven't signed up to receive these blogs, contact Katy at [katy.walker@wels.com](mailto:katy.walker@wels.com) and she will get you signed up.

For all the materials and power points to use in making Home Mission presentations, go to: [www.missionspromotions@wels.net](http://www.missionspromotions@wels.net). Also, if you make a Home Mission presentation or preach at a Mission Sunday / Mission Festival, communicate that with Peg and Katy. They keep track of presentations as well as put who is doing what and going where on the Missions calendar.

## **Campus Ministry**

Pastor Charlie Vannieuwenhoven is the chairman of the Campus Ministry Committee (CMC). The CMC has two face to face meetings, one being at a WELS campus ministry. The next face to face meeting is Nov. 3 & 4, 2015 in Brookings SD. This location has a very active campus ministry. The CMC continues to look at ways to expand Campus Ministry. If any of our DMBs can identify a college (s) where there currently is not a CM, share that with Charlie. What follows is recent activity of how the CMC has been working with and assisting campus ministry in Stevens Point WI served by Divine Word Lutheran in Plover WI.

In the winter of 2015 the CMC approved a two-year enhancement subsidy request so that Divine Word could add a second pastor for additional campus ministry at UW-Stevens Point as well as more outreach in Stevens Point. In May of 2015 a WLS graduate, Jim Roecker was assigned to Divine Word in Plover. In

the fall of 2015 the Campus Ministry Committee granted \$50,000.00 from its special project funds to Divine Word Lutheran in Plover WI to assist Divine Word in the purchase of a building near the campus. The building will be a campus ministry center for UW-Stevens Point. It will also be a second worship site for Divine Word as through this process this ministry has become a multi-site mission.

The full-time campus ministry at UW-Madison is in a time of transition. One of the two pastors, Pastor Bill Limmer, took a Call this summer (2016). In the spring of 2016 Pastor Tom Trapp announced the FY 16-17 school year would be his last in ministry as he retires the end of June, 2017. Thus, UW-Madison is calling for a pastor to replace Pastor Trapp. The ministry is also working on a debt reduction campaign to retire the final \$1M on its ministry center debt. To our knowledge \$350K has been raised

A way in which DMBs can assist CM is to put into your spring conference reports a plug for CM, asking our congregations to send in the names, emails and cell-phones of high school seniors heading off to college. Currently there are around 6,500 names of WELS students in our CM data base. We would like to see that number grow.

Finally, if you would like to receive the fall CMC report, contact Pastor Free.

## **Joint Mission Council**

The JMC is made up of the two mission administrators; Keith Free - Home, Larry Schlomer - World, the two mission chairmen; Howie Mohlke – World, Wayne Uhlhorn – Home, Sean Young, Director of Mission Operations and a layman from the World Mission Board – Bob Anderson, and a layman from the Home Mission Board – Jude Peck. The JMC works on mission issues which impact both Home and World Missions. What follows are some recent examples of what the JMC is supporting.

- At a 2015 March meeting the JMC approved funding for an African immigrant ministry in Las Vegas NV.
- At an August 12, 2015 meeting the JMC approved calling Dr. Jordan and wife Aneela as evangelists to New York City (Because Dr. Jordan did not get a work visa until August of 2016, plans have changed, but this is shared to show what JMC is helping to financially support)
- At a 2016 April meeting the JMC approved funding for a teacher position in Morton Grove IL so that a MLC Korean graduate could serve in that location, a location which has a heavy concentrate of Koreans.
- At a 2016 August meeting the JMC approved funding for a couple to assist with the Vietnamese ministry in Boise ID named Randy and Chi. Chi is Vietnamese. Working with Pastor Dan Kramer, not only will she assist at Peace in Jesus in Boise, but will also assist in reaching out to people in Vietnam.

In overviewing these four ministries, each one has a strong component of not only reaching out to and serving the spiritual needs of a people group in the US, but these ministries are also looking at how to reach back to the country of origin of the people group they are serving in the US.

## **Partners**

WELS Kingdom Workers; Mr. Bill Meier is the National Director – [www.kingdomworkers.com](http://www.kingdomworkers.com)

Over the past year the KW's Board of Directors has considered hiring a full-time person to work with mission congregations (as well as any congregation) wanting assistance in the building process. Well before land is purchased, this person (or Mr. John Lautz, director of Builders for Christ) would come to work with and work through the process. Mr. Lautz has identified that there would be 8 points to discuss. He has also put together a power point which overviews the process. Those 8 points follow.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) Ministry Plan;                              | 5) Financing;                              |
| 2) Feasibility Study (for ongoing operations); | 6) Design/Engineering;                     |
| 3) Site Concept;                               | 7) Construction; and                       |
| 4) Fund Raising Plan;                          | 8) Opening/Dedication/Wrap-up and Autopsy. |

At this point there is going to be a November 3, 2016 meeting with three men who have indicated they are willing to volunteer their time to serve in this capacity. We look forward to how this meeting will turn out.

In another aspect of their ministry, KWs has hired Kristi Sebald to serve as the Field Coordinator for Canada and the US. Kristi and Mr. Dan Moyle from KWs will make a presentation on Sept. 16 to the BHM. At that time, we will hear more as to how Kristi in this position will look to work with Home Mission congregations.

In a September 8 meeting with Mr. Bill Meier, we heard that KWs will no longer be helping to facilitate Faith in Action (FIA) teams or Summer Ministry Assistants (SMA). The past years KWs has helped connect volunteers with missions, cover some costs, and coordinated travel. Now, we understand that KWs will only be connecting volunteers with missions. It will be up to the volunteers and mission churches to determine the logistics and who will cover what costs.

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society – Karen Fischer is President – [www.lwms.org](http://www.lwms.org)

The LWMS 53<sup>rd</sup> National Convention was held in St. Charles IL (west side of Chicago). Here are some highlights: a) 1054 registered attendees b) Opening Service had 1,128 in worship c) 1<sup>st</sup> time attendees was 188 d) Special offerings: \$41,529.28 Summer Student Assistant fund; \$25,805.15; Outreach to Asian fund \$4,217.87 from the annual distributions of the Legacy and Mission and Ministry funds to support Home Mission Missionary Conferences.

Upcoming Conventions are:

LWMS 54<sup>th</sup> National Convention is in Orlando FL; June 22-25, 2017

LWMS 55<sup>th</sup> National Convention is in Green Bay WI; June 21-24, 2018

When a LWMS National Convention is in your district, I would strongly encourage our DMB members to consider attending a portion of the Convention. Also, as able, sharing reports with LWMS circuits at their spring and Fall Rallies would be great (can you take the reports you do for the spring and fall pastor conferences and modify it for the Rallies?).

Multi-Language Publication; Pastor Nate Seiltz – [www.wels.net/mlp](http://www.wels.net/mlp)

Pastor Seiltz began July 1, 2015. He is working from the CMM. MLP serves World Missions and the Joint Mission Council with print and electronic materials in many languages. We pray the Lord's blessings on this important ministry.

WELS Christian Aid and Relief; Mr. Mark Vance is Director of Operations – [www.wels.net/relief](http://www.wels.net/relief)

On an annual basis (deadline is March 1), CAR provides an opportunity for home and world missions to request humanitarian aid grants as bridges for the gospel. 9 Home Mission requests were approved grants this past June, 2016.

## Home Mission Schedule

1. BHM EC Meeting – Wed & Thur, Sept. 14 & 15, at CMM
2. Board for Home Mission Meeting – Thursday and Friday, Sept 15 & 16
3. CEF Board of Directors Meeting – Tuesday, Sept. 12, CMM
4. Global Hmong Committee – Tuesday, October 4 at WLS
5. Asian Conference – Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 5 & 6 @ WLS
6. WELS-ELS Leadership Meeting in Mankato MN, Oct. 17 & 18
7. Mission Conference – Oct. 25 & 26 in Wis. Dells WI at the Wintergreen
8. Joint Mission Council – Nov. 3, CMM
9. Campus Ministry Committee – Thursday and Friday, Nov. 3 & 4 in Brookings SD
10. Synodical Council - Nov. 4 & 5, CMM
11. WELS-Canada Annual General Assembly – Monday-Wednesday, Nov. 7-9 in Calgary Alberta
12. National Multi-Site Conference - Nov. 14-16; Grace Lutheran Tucson AZ
13. Mission Counselors / BHM Administration – Jan. 5 in Orlando FL
14. Leadership Conference – Jan. 6 -8 in Orlando FL
15. Mission Conference in Denver CO – Jan. 23-25
16. Mission and Ministry @ Wis. Lutheran Seminary – Feb. 7-9 (Home Missions is Feb. 2)

If you would like the Home Mission master schedule, contact Keith Free ([keith.free@wels.net](mailto:keith.free@wels.net))

Respectfully Submitted,  
Keith R. Free  
Home Mission Administrator