

A quick look at
what's happening
at the
**Global Mission
Institute**

February 2006




A glimpse from the international classroom

Egypt: Ten students from Luther Seminary joined an international group of students from the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo this January to study the Arab-Christian context of Egypt firsthand. Through fellowship and group reflection, they enriched each others' learning and made new friends.

"It was a sublime thing, to sit in my small hotel room on the Egyptian shore of the Red Sea and discuss progressive sanctification with my Pentecostal roommate from Uganda," senior Marc Ostlie-Olson said. "If that's not cross-cultural engagement, I don't know what is."

Highlights of the trip, which was led by Dr. Mark Swanson, included a visit to the Red Sea Monasteries of Saints Paul and Anthony, discussions with leaders in Muslim-Christian dialog and social action initiatives, walking tours of Islamic and Christian Cairo, and visits to Holy Family pilgrimage sites and small protestant congregations in middle Egypt.



Where in the world did Luther Seminary students study during J-term?

Cairo, Egypt	10
South Africa	6
Mexico City	4
U.S./Mexico Border	2
Guatemala	8
Israel	22
India	4

India: While encounters with camels, cobras, monkeys and painted elephants often captivated our attention, the people of North India captured our hearts.

Following on the heels of Neeraj and Nihjar Ekka, who recently returned to India, we joined them to visit and learn from friends, new and old.

In the cities and countryside of Delhi and Ranchi we met with tribal Christians of the Lutheran church. They welcomed us into their congregations and homes, greeting us with hand and feet washing, garlands of flowers, song, and dance. Together we celebrated our partnership in the Gospel, prayed for one another, and forged relationships in the name of Jesus.



Nihjar Ekka washes the feet of students Melodi Hagen, Kristina Waters and Travis Gerjets as they arrive in India.

The Ekkas and the Lutheran Church in North India extend greetings to you and request your prayers for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

GMI Seeks to Strengthen Alum Connection

The Global Mission Institute is launching a project to reconnect the Luther Seminary community with its international student alumni/ae. Over the last 50 years, nearly 400 students from 66 countries have studied at Luther Seminary and its antecedent schools. Not only did these students bring important insight about global ministry to the Luther classrooms, but many of them are now serving as important church leaders in their home countries. The GMI hopes to strengthen Luther Seminary's global interconnectedness and to network among international alumni/ae and friends of the seminary. Just as Luther Seminary educates church leaders world-wide, these church leaders continue to enrich our understanding of ministry today!

Look for a presentation about this exciting project at the Annual Lutheran Mission Conference. If you have contact information for any of the seminary's former international students or would like to receive periodic updates, please call Katie Dahl at 651/641-3487.

Lugazia Ordination Sets Precedent in Tanzania Synod

Former student Faith Lugazia, M.Th., '01, has long felt God's call to serve. Last month, that call came to include the title 'pastor.'

She was ordained on Jan. 8 in her hometown of Bukoba, Tanzania. Many friends and family members attended the service, including Samson Mushemba (presiding bishop and Luther Seminary alum) and representatives from partner churches in Germany, Sweden and the U.S.



Lugazia was one of six pastors ordained that day, including another woman. The two became the first women to be ordained in the Northwestern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

Lugazia earned the master of theology degree from Luther Seminary in 2001. Last fall, she returned to the seminary to begin study on a Ph.D. in mission.

"I'm still learning what mission is," she said, "I'm finding there is no universal definition." She will be researching different approaches and definitions over her four-year program.

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2481 Como Avenue
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Upcoming GMI-sponsored Events

Lay School of Theology Course: The Evangelizing Church

Mondays, March 6-April 3, 7-9 p.m.

Taught by Richard Bliese, president and associate professor of missions. Call 651-641-3416 to register.

22nd Annual Lutheran Mission Conference

"Mission: Text & Context"

Pastor Cherian Puthiyottil, keynote speaker

Saturday, March 25 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Chapel of the Incarnation

GMI Donor Dinner

Sunday, April 2 4:30-7 p.m.

Olson Campus Center

Music With a Mission Concert

Presented by Paul and Helen Baumgartner.

Free-will offering to benefit GMI.

Sunday, April 20 9:50 a.m.

Advent Lutheran Church, 540 E. River Road, Anoka

International Festival

Program, Thursday, April 27,

7:30 p.m., Olson Campus Center

International students lead daily chapel, Friday, April 28,
10 a.m., Chapel of the Incarnation

The GMI is entirely supported by gifts from individuals, congregations and foundations. Thank you to all of our donors who generously give of their own resources to



strengthen the mission of the GMI! To learn more about making a gift to the GMI, visit www.luthersem.edu/gmi

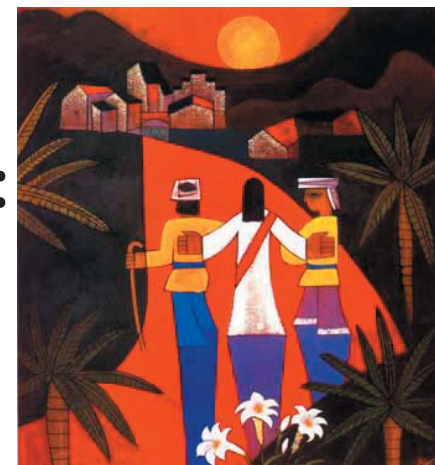
Visa Denied for Schiotz Scholar

The GMI is terribly sad to report that Dr. Monica Melanchthon, who was to be the Schiotz Visiting Professor in 2006, has been denied a visa and will be unable to be with us as planned at this time. The Embassy states that Dr. Melanchthon does not show adequate family, social, economic or professional ties to India that would ensure her return. Luther Seminary will pursue options for bringing Dr. Melanchthon to work with us at a later time. We ask for your patience as we readjust schedules in her absence.

The 22nd Annual
Lutheran Mission
Conference

MISSION:
text
&
context

Saturday,
March 25



"What are you talking about to each other, as you walk along?"
(Luke 24:13-17a)

Featuring:

Engaging speakers Lively worship
Workshops (including special Children's Track)

call 651-641-3390,
or go to www.luthersem.edu/gmi
for more information or to register.