

Global Vision



A newsletter for friends of the Global Mission Institute, Luther Seminary

Vol. 14, No. 2, Epiphany 2004

IN THE BEGINNING ...

Calvary Lutheran's approach to mission blankets the whole church

By Shelley Cunningham Harber

Calvary Lutheran Church in Golden Valley, Minn., has had a heart for global mission since its beginning more than 50 years ago. From sending out missionaries in its earliest days to celebrating the faith and witness of God's global family today, they do their best to live out this motto: "Global mission education for all the people all the time!"

Calvary has long been a financial and prayer supporter of the Global Mission Institute. It's a natural fit for what the congregation feels is its calling.

The church's commitment is evident in its staffing: Rev. Lynn Peterson is Pastor of Mission and Outreach. Dawn Dresser is Calvary's Global Mission Associate.

"There's no question about the importance of bringing mission outreach and evangelism into people's focus," Peterson said. "Pastors need to be excited about it. Who else will be an advocate for telling God's story? That's where the GMI is so important: in bringing mission into seminary training."

After all, Peterson contends, "Our world is global as never before – culturally, in the media, politically, economically, in the people we work with and live with."

Yet, she adds, "the church faces a challenge because mission isn't as popular today as it was 30 years ago. For instance, it's not as likely as it was that young adults will think of going into the mission field."

One of Calvary's goals is to raise up new missionaries by identifying and encouraging young people to consider the important work of carrying God's Word to the world.

They've got a great start. From the time the youngest students enter Sunday school they begin hearing stories about kids just like them from all different parts of the world.



Sunday School students work on a quilt to be sent overseas as part of Calvary's 2000 Fall Mission Focus.

Calvary's children's ministries director, Cindy Engelkes, makes sure a Mission Moment is integrated into every week's Sunday school lesson.

"She's incredibly creative and enthusiastic. She's especially good at looking at all dimensions of learning: music, worship, offerings, storytelling," Peterson said. And this year-round effort pays off. "Our kids know who our missionaries are, where they are on the map, what

kinds of issues the people they're working with are facing," Dresser said. "It really brings it home for the kids. And they love to tell you all about it."

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The GMI Mission:

The Global Mission Institute provides critical support to Luther Seminary in its task of developing global mission leaders, partnering with the church in fulfillment of the great commission.

Director's Corner

Interim Director Rosanne Swanson welcomes your questions and feedback at rswanson@luthersem.edu



"Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

(Matthew 2:2)

The season of Epiphany begins with this strange story of Eastern astrologers – magi – who come to lay their gifts before the infant Jesus in honor of his royal birth. One has to wonder whether they were appalled that royalty should be found in a feeding trough, crudely wrapped in swaddling clothes and with a mother so young and poor. One has to wonder whether they understood that the infant they sought, the one they named "king of the Jews," would one day be crowned with thorns and hung in the dust and the wind on a cross like a common criminal. One wonders about many things during the season of Epiphany, the season in which we are reminded of all the various ways in which God's presence breaks into our world unexpectedly.

As you read through this issue of *Global Vision* I invite you to read it through the eyes of one who is looking for the in-breaking of God's presence among us. Particularly, as you read Bob Engwall's reflections on the beginnings of the GMI (p. 5), I hope that you will be reminded that small beginnings can, with the presence of God, the vision of a few and the support of many, become important witnesses to the power of God to change lives

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and re-direct energies for service.

The power and the presence of God has been with us in the last year and a half in which I have been the interim director. As I write this "Director's Corner," I give thanks for those who have responded to the call to serve on the newly formed GMI Managing Board. The board positions have been filled according to the new Vision and Mission statement guidelines. Those who have answered this call to serve are *your* representatives. Please pray for them and feel free to contact them to share your thoughts and ideas. The new board members include: Rev. Dale Howard, Minneapolis Area Synod representative; Rev. Lloyd Menke, Saint Paul Area Synod representative; Rev. Susan Tjornehoj, at-large representative appointed by the interim director; Dr. Mary Preus, returned missionary; Ms. Dana Nelson, national student representative; Rev. Orin Cummings, international student representative; Dr. Richard Bliese, academic dean; Rev. Patricia Lull, dean of students; Dr. Charles Amjad-Ali, faculty representative; Dr. Frieder Ludwig, faculty representative; Dr. Mark Swanson, advisor; and Sara Trumm, program coordinator, GMI. We also give thanks for the faithful service of those members who are retiring from the board: Bob Bagley, Bob Engwall, and Wendell Frerichs.

The power and presence of God is with us as we continue to think about ways in which the seminary can deepen its commitment to helping students experience theological education in other places and cultures. There is a growing excitement about future possibilities as we explore what it means to be in mutual partnership with a few seminaries abroad where students and faculty from Luther can go to live, work and study – and, from where we can receive students and faculty into the Luther community. Pray for this endeavor, that the in-breaking presence of God will continue to be manifest so that visions and dreams will become concrete realities.

In Advent we prayed, "Stir up your power and come, O Lord;" at Christmas, we prayed, "You have made yourself known in your Son, Jesus, redeemer of the world;" and during this Epiphany season we pray, "You revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives..." Epiphany is that season where we particularly remember that the unexpected power and presence of God can be and is made manifest in our ordinary lives. I pray, dear readers, that you will know this power and presence of God in your lives even as I pray that God will continue to bless and prosper the work of the GMI, begun many years ago through the vision of a few and supported by so many of you. Thank you for your continued support through your prayers and financial contributions.

The emphasis on opening children's eyes to God at work in the bigger world around them is just part of what Peterson calls 'a three-pronged focus' on global mission: *celebrating, engaging, and sending + supporting*.

"Our emphasis is on lifting up and celebrating the reality of God's global family and the mutuality of our mission," she said. "It's not just about sending people or money overseas, it's also about knowing God's family around the world, celebrating the gifts we all bring and the mission we share here and abroad."

Celebrating that reality has taken place during Calvary's annual Month of Missions in January – culminating in their lively Global Mission Festival. GMI has been a great resource for those events. Connecting with local immigrant communities is another dimension of missions that is important to them. AGORA has been very helpful with that.

The past three years they've focused on different parts of the world – Asia, Latin America, Africa. This year, they're looking a bit closer to home: in North Minneapolis.

"We decided it was important to get to know our neighbors," Peterson said.

The success of these emphases has come in part from the many ways in which people become engaged in the process.

"In our yearly Fall Mission Focus, we try to engage all ages in learning, worshipping, giving and praying related to a global mission theme."



One Sunday School project involved making and decorating school bags for children in Tanzania.

"We try to make our efforts two-way," Peterson said. For example, one Sunday School project was to make bookmarks for students at the Tanzanian school the church supports. "We had each child put their picture on the bookmark with their name and 'I am a child of God' in English and Swahili. A mission trip delivered the bookmarks. They brought along a digital camera and supplies so the Tanzanian children could do the same thing, and then they brought the bookmarks back to us. Our kids instantly had a visual connection with children halfway around the world. They could pray for them and know what they looked like. Some even send letters."

"We've discovered people really

like doing things, not just sitting and learning, or even just sending money," Dresser said. "A few years ago, we started a project where people could knit little caps for infants through Lutheran Health Care: Bangladesh. We thought we'd get maybe 120 or so. I think we ended up with more than 500. People would tell their friends about the project and pretty soon they were making caps too. They want to make a difference. It's incredibly heart-touching."

Peterson and Dresser admit their congregation has been blessed by the presence and involvement of so many lay people whose hearts are committed to mission work. Last year they commissioned three Calvary members to long-term service in



As the congregation raised money for the Heifer International program, this colorful mural reminded them of the tangible results of their gifts, and who would benefit from them.

Tanzania. Peterson estimates that more than 20 families from Calvary have served significantly in the mission field. The congregation has also been a temporary home for numerous missionaries on furlough.

"They share such a richness with us," she said. "Once you start lifting up missions it draws people in. They want to hear God's story told in a global spirit."

Global "Fair Trade Fair" Refocuses Holidays

By Sara Trumm

The Luther Seminary Student Council, Lutheran World Relief, and the Global Mission Institute held a Global Fair Trade Fair Dec. 2-4. Like many things around Luther



Student volunteers offer gift suggestions.

Seminary, the Global Fair Trade Fair began as a small seed. This particular seed was planted at a Mission and Ministry Forum earlier in the fall. Terri Speirs from Lutheran World Relief (LWR) was sharing about the variety of opportunities for congregations to support locally based artisans and farmers who often do not get adequately paid for the products they provide. We thought to ourselves, why not recognize this issue more obviously and provide the same opportunities for involvement right here at the seminary? So began the journey.

Not long afterward, Terri approached the Global Mission Institute (GMI) with further interest in working together to create even more global awareness and activism here at Luther. With Christmas quickly approaching, gifts

such as coffee, chocolate and handcrafts seemed just the right thing. Katie Pence, GMI student worker and student council member, served as a bridge in gathering volunteers, ordering the many items for the fair, and doing all the major coordinating of the event.

Not only did SERRV International and Equal Exchange provide a wide variety of creative gifts, but members of our community were also brought in to take part in the fair. Caryn Stone brought carvings from a Palestinian craftsman and also an artisan from Peru. Lydia Volz displayed beautiful silver jewelry from Bethlehem. And 24 individuals from Student Council, INViTE, LWR, and GMI volunteered their time behind the tables during the three-day fair, answering questions and interacting with the many people who browsed or bought the items.

It was truly a community effort that brought people together around a common and noble cause. As one person commented, "Who can argue that people

providing such items should get a fair price for them?"

The Global Fair Trade Fair was a huge success. Timing was ideal with the Kairos "GIFTS" program visiting the campus and just as people began seeking unique ideas

for Christmas gifts. Workers' and shoppers' enthusiasm was elevated for the Advent and Christmas seasons as they talked and laughed outside of the cafeteria.

I believe many people also became more aware of the concerns of fair wages, children's, women's, environmental, and indigenous rights, and the right to organize.

And I should not fail to mention that \$5,800 worth of merchandise was purchased to not only provide fair wages to producers, but also to assist the programs which make this service available!

This is something we can all take with us as we go out into the world to do ministry wherever we are called – we can invite farmers and artisans from all around the world into our fellowship, through projects like this one. They are ministry tools that inspire people to be involved in the life of the church at home and all around the world.

Huge thanks go out to all who made this experience so wonderful. The GMI hopes to make this an annual event that is publicized more widely in the future!



Fair Trade coffee, tea and hot chocolate can easily be sold in your congregation. Contact www.lwr.org for an online catalog to find out how you can support this ministry

A Faithful GMI Leader Looks Back ... and Forward

By Bob Engwall

In 1976 when I had just returned from mission service in Peru, I had the privilege of serving for the better part of a year as a missionary-in-residence for the Red River Valley Synod of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA). In congregation after congregation I heard that I was the first mission speaker they had heard in years. Many parishioners wondered openly why the church and particularly the clergy had lost their passion for global missions. I discovered I was not alone in the conviction that the root of this lack of global mission understanding had its origin in the diminishing education for global missions at our seminaries. What the church had learned in more than 200 years of global mission – because of a shortage of professors educated in these areas – was being lost in the preparation for ministry for many seminary students.

I had other colleagues, both at the seminary and in the parish, who were as deeply concerned about this issue

as I was. Dr. Duain Vierow, Pastor Dwight Johnson and I had many discussions on what we could do to fill this significant vacuum. With their encouragement, I wrote a resolution in 1977 for the Minnesota Synod of the LCA to add a missiologist to teach at Luther Northwestern Seminary. Dr. Herbert Chilstrom, president of the synod, appointed an *ad hoc* committee to follow up on the synod's resolution and representatives of the Red River Valley Synod were invited to be part of the committee. This was the beginning of the process that eventually led to the establishment of the Global Mission Institute at Luther Seminary in January 1987, when Professor Duane Olson was appointed as the GMI's first director.

Over the past 26 years, it has been my good fortune to have participated in the evolutionary process that led to the birth of the Global Mission Institute at Luther Seminary, and the clarifying of its mission. Many mission-loving persons – far too numerous to name, both clerical and lay, from the seminary and the congregations – have been part

of this continuing process. Out of their labors emerged numerous documents, position papers and vision papers for the GMI. Much of last year was spent by the management committee of the GMI striving to put in writing this Mission and Vision Statement for the GMI from all that had been learned across a whole generation. Those of us who participated in that process believe it is a good statement of where the GMI stands at Luther Seminary today and where it is headed in the future.

We know that this is not the final embodiment of that vision. The process will never end. In making "Christ's last command to the church our first priority," it will be the passion of the GMI to study, listen and learn where the Holy Spirit is leading us to obey that command in an ever-changing world. New missiological knowledge and insights will lead to the articulating of new mission and vision statements. The GMI will continue to be a dedicated partner to Luther Seminary and the church in preparing men and women for the discipling of the nations.

International Student Profile:

Jim and Judy Bangsund

Fresh snow, cold temperatures, and a windchill ... sounds like a perfect winter day in Minnesota. But imagine if you've been living in Tanzania, where temperatures are almost always between 70-90 degrees. It's been quite a climate shock for missionaries Jim and Judy Bangsund, who are spending their sabbatical year at Luther Seminary.

Jim and Judy have been in Tanzania for 18 years. They live and work at Makumira University College (MUCO), the primary theological seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) and the oldest campus of the ELCT's national Tumaini University. MUCO offers Bachelor of Divinity and two-year Master of Theology degrees.

Judy teaches worship and music. She has also been traveling to all 20 dioceses of the ELCT to help lead regional seminars for choir directors. Jim teaches Old Testament and Hebrew. He is author of the Hebrew textbook used at MUCO and is working on a book, *Leaning Into the Future: The Gospel According to the Old Testament*, that is already being



used in MUCO's MTh program.

During this year at Luther Seminary, Judy is working to complete her Master of Divinity degree, so she can be ordained as a pastor of the ELCA and return to her work in Tanzania. Besides deepening and broadening her ministry, she says, this will give her more credibility as a teacher to future pastors at MUCO in Tanzania. Jim is refreshing his

Old Testament skills, writing and revising his book, and helping develop MUCO's plans to offer a Ph.D. He is also exploring how to offer online classes over the MUCO Website.

Jim and Judy enjoy the many aspects of being missionaries, and are grateful for the chance to strengthen family ties this year, as well as the opportunities for study and collegiality at Luther. They welcome the chance to share the joys of a missionary career and the adventure God has led them on.

For further information, visit their Web site:

<http://www.bangsund.co.tz>

– EH

✂ **SEMINARY PLANS NEW M.A. DEGREE**

Next year, Luther Seminary hopes to offer a new Masters degree program related to global mission and awareness. It will center on Mission and World Christianity. The first students in this program should begin their coursework in Fall 2004.



News Notes

✂ **COMPLETE STUDIES HONORED**

Luther Seminary recognized students completing their studies mid-year at a special worship service on Sunday, Dec. 7. For international students returning home, it was particularly important to have a sense of closure for their experience here. Earlier that afternoon, the Global Mission Institute coordinated a

"Service of Thanksgiving, Blessing and Sending" specially for the four international students.

Dr. Charles Amjad-Ali brought an insightful message and each student was addressed and prayed for individually.



Magdi Gendi, Ph.D. student from Egypt, was surrounded by friends, family, faculty and supporters at the sending service.

Ellen Andreyana, Joseph Umar, Magdi Gendi, and Nelli Vahter and their families will be greatly missed.

✂ **STUDENTS TOOK THEIR EDUCATION TO THE WORLD**

Seminary students studied in eight different Cross Cultural Education sites this January. Three groups traveled internationally to Guatemala, Germany and Mexico. One student was in Tanzania. Other groups connected with multi-cultural contexts domestically. We look forward to hearing their stories as part of February's Mission and Ministry Forums!



✂ **A MEAL SERVED WITH LOVE, SHARED WITH LOVE**

As a follow-up to the wonderful African meal served to the Luther Seminary community last spring, in November the community gathered around a variety of international foods at the Global Agape Feast. International students and friends provided authentic dishes from more than 20 different countries in a showing of wonderful hospitality.



Terri Spiers of LWF, right, provided Fair Trade coffee.



Check out GMI's new Web site!



www.luthersem.edu/gmi

It's full of information about GMI: its mission, its projects and its people. Follow the links at the left to find our purpose and vision statement, information on staff and international students, a calendar and listing of events, volunteer opportunities, resources, past issues of the Global Vision and great photos!



Together in mission

How can reaching out to others restore our own broken communities?

The 20th Annual
Lutheran Mission Conference
Saturday, March 27, 2004
Luther Seminary, St. Paul MN

Keynote Speaker

Rafael Malpica Padilla,
executive director,
ELCA Division for Global Mission



Lively Worship
Stimulating SPEAKERS
Practical Resources
Networking

YES!
I want to be a member of the GMI!

The GMI challenges and encourages the Luther Seminary community and the greater Church to discover its many relationships with world Christianity by providing programs in global mission education to students and scholars, and by serving as a missional resource to congregations.

Why is your support of the GMI important?

The work of the GMI is supported entirely by the gifts and grants of individuals, congregations, foundations and corporations.

How can you become a member?

Membership begins with a gift of \$250 to the GMI. Membership may be renewed annually. GMI membership automatically qualifies you as a PARTNER of Luther Seminary.

Benefits of Membership

1. The satisfaction of knowing your investment strengthens global mission in the ELCA and around the world.
2. Prompt thanks and recognition from the GMI and Luther Seminary.
3. Automatic membership into Luther Seminary PARTNERS.
4. An annual GMI Watanabe Calendar (mailed late fall)
5. Invitation to an annual GMI donor recognition event.

6. *Global Vision* newsletter, featuring news and information about global mission.

Global Mission Membership Levels

- GMI Missioner (\$10,000 or more)
- GMI Investor (\$5,000-\$9,999)
- GMI Builder (\$2,500-\$4,999)
- GMI Sustainer (\$1,000-\$2,499)
- GMI Founder (\$500-\$999)
- GMI Sponsor (\$250-\$499)
- Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home phone/Business phone _____

E-mail address _____

Please mail to: **Global Mission Institute**
Luther Seminary
2481 Como Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

Have you included the GMI in your estate plans?

By including the GMI in your estate plans, you will help share the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the world. For more information on various planning options, please check here.



GMI Calendar

Mission and Ministry (M&M) Forums

Olson Campus Center, Luther Seminary, 12:30-1:30 p.m. most Thursdays starting Feb. 12. Bring a lunch. For topics, call 651-641-3390, or check the events calendar at www.luthersem.edu.

February 23-27 Cross-Cultural Emphasis Week

Special chapel service, Feb. 26, 10 a.m. Chapel of the Incarnation. Forums each day by Cross Cultural Education students, 12:30 p.m. Olson Campus Center.

March 27 Annual Lutheran Mission Conference

Plenary speaker: Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director, ELCA Division for Mission. Workshops, worship, networking. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Luther Seminary. Call 651-641-3487.

March 29 "Israel and Palestine: What the Media Doesn't Tell You About the Church and the Struggle for Justice"

Presentation given by Ann Hafften, coordinator for Mid-East Networking, ELCA Division for Global Mission. 7 p.m. Olson Campus Center Board Room.

April 18 GMI Donor Dinner

A gathering and celebration of GMI supporters. 5-7 p.m. Olson Campus Center.

April 25 & 26 International Festival

A celebration of the seminary's international community. April 25: Dinner, 6 p.m., Stub Hall Lounge. Program, 7:30 p.m., Northwestern Hall Atrium. April 26: Special chapel service led by international students, 10 a.m., Chapel of the Incarnation. Displays, Olson Campus Center Narthex.

Prayer Concerns

- ✘ We pray for those who returning from January travel, especially the cross-cultural education students at various sites and the international students who are returning to their home countries following studies here at Luther Seminary.
- ✘ As faculty and staff of Luther Seminary further develop the World Christianity and Islam strategic initiative, we pray for guidance and direction from the Holy Spirit.
- ✘ We give thanks for the many individuals and congregations who are involved in the ministry of the Global Mission Institute in such tangible ways. Praise God for their support and direction.
- ✘ As the Prince of Peace is present and active in our world, we pray for peaceful resolutions to the many conflicts around us in the global community.
- ✘ We give thanks for the faithful service and leadership of retiring GMI board members Bob Engwall, Bob Bagley and Wendell Frerichs.
- ✘ We pray for the leadership of the Global Mission Institute. May the new members of the managing board and the staff be inspired by the Holy Spirit, especially as the GMI seeks a future director and gears up for new programs with which to be involved.

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