

Global Vision



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

Vol. 14, No. 1, Pentecost 2003

Missiology Expert Joins Luther Seminary Faculty



Andrew's Lutheran Church in Glenwood, Ill., which gave him the opportunity to directly apply his work in missiology to an American congregation. This is a key reason he is such a good fit for Luther Seminary, former academic dean Marc Kolden said. "[It fits with the seminary's] commitment to prepare its graduates to be missional leaders for American congregations. This is necessary now that the U.S. is no longer a country in which it is nearly automatic for people to be Christians. Now, pastors in local congregations need to be missionaries just as much as those in Africa and Asia."

Bliese concurs. He believes all leaders trained for ministry will have to work within a context of religious and ethnic diversity. In today's world, mission is "glocal" — both global and local.

"Our goal at Luther is to prepare leaders who are capable, ready and able to cross cultural and religious boundaries with the gospel," Bliese said. "Our focus is to constantly improve our 'sending' capacity. We are preparing leaders for true discipleship and their apostolic calls within a world that is rapidly changing. Therefore, we want to remain both faithful to our Lord and on the cutting edge of theological education and ministry."

He sees a strong presence of the GMI as essential to meeting those goals. And he feels that the GMI is poised to make them happen. At LSTC and C.A.P. he was instrumental in starting mission-oriented organizations. But the GMI's history sets it apart, he said. "I've never worked with the potential resources that I see here — the constituency, the infrastructure — the foundation that has been created is absolutely solid."

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The relationship between Richard Bliese, Luther Seminary's new academic dean and associate professor of mission, and the GMI seems to be, well, a match made in heaven.

"[Luther Seminary] is the place to be. It's as simple as that. There is so much innovation and energy here," he said. "Mission is essential to the seminary's strategic plan and is being put together with the Lutheran identity of confessing in new and exciting ways. The best missiologists are gathering here, and I'm honored to be part of that."

After earning his master of divinity degree from Christ Seminary-Seminex, St. Louis, Mo., in 1981, Bliese spent ten years as a missionary in Germany and Zaire. There he also worked extensively with the Centre D'Accueil Protestante (C.A.P.), an ecumenical center for education, research and technical assistance. He returned to the United States to study and teach at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC). While at LSTC, he served as part-time pastor at St.

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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 writes regular updates for the readers of Global Vision. She welcomes your questions and feedback at rswanson@luthersem.edu



The final worship service of the academic year in May is always a joyous occasion. There is much to celebrate. We bid farewell and give thanks for the graduating seniors and for the calls that many have already received. Many of us breathe a sigh of relief that another year has been successfully completed and we look forward to a more relaxed summer. Students dream about having more leisure time, and professors dream about the possibility of time for their scholarly pursuits. No matter what the hopes and dreams are, everyone is in a celebratory mood. The closing anthem is always Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." This is not a polished performance, in fact it is often a cacophony joyful sounds – a joyful celebration for a year completed, a job well done.

At its last meeting, the GMI managing board did not stand up and sing the "Hallelujah Chorus," but we did pray and give thanks for the successful completion of the visioning process that has engaged our time and energy in this last year. On a personal note, I want to thank the board for its hard work and diligence over this past year. We hope that the statement we have written not only gives a sense of our historical past, but also roots

our present life and ministry in that past as we think and dream about future possibilities.

Let me share a couple of thoughts about this document with you. The mission statement reads: *The Global Mission Institute fosters understanding and experience of Christian life and witness throughout the world for Luther Seminary students and faculty and in area congregations.* God's work and mission in the world has always been at the heart of who GMI is. GMI was formed in response to the many voices of mission-minded individuals in congregations, like you who read this newsletter, who felt it was crucially necessary that knowledge of the global church and the possibilities for Christian service in that wider context should be a part of the theological and spiritual formation for pastors and trained lay leaders. Rooted in this deep love and concern for the global church, the GMI continues to lift up and provide opportunities for students and faculty to experience world Christianity. We seek to strengthen those ties we have with mission-minded congregations in the area as we also seek to create new ones.

But mission statements without a vision of the future tend to remain stuck in the past or muddled in the present and often lie dormant for a period of time. So the board did its best to dream boldly about the present and future involvement of the GMI with Luther Seminary and the community. We dreamed about a seminary where every student would, in the course of their regular class work, have a cross-cultural experience. More than that, we dreamed about a seminary where every student might have first-hand experience of living and studying in another country. We dreamed about the possibilities of once again fostering new relationships with a few seminaries and Bible schools around the world. We dreamed that these relationships would be two-way: Luther Seminary would be able to send students and professors there to study and learn and we would also host students and professor here at Luther. We dreamed about helping to develop a lay theological training course for business personnel and short-term missionaries.

We dreamed many dreams and we invite you now to share your dreams. Those of you who have been passionately involved in the GMI over the years, you have dreams and ideas. We are eager to hear them. Please call, write or e-mail your thoughts and dreams so that together we might make the GMI even more bold in its future initiatives as we move into the 21st century world of many cultures and religions. May the Spirit continue to blow through our work as we celebrate the diversity we have in the unity of the Body of Christ.

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Global Vision

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International Student Profile:

Ellen Andreyana

Most seminary students pursue degrees in the hopes that their training will lead to fulfilling – and paid – careers in ministry. Ellen Andreyana’s expectation is a bit different.

Andreyana’s call to serve as a church musician is strictly volunteer. She is one of several organists at the Indonesian Presbyterian Church in Salatiga, a congregation of about 2,000 people. It’s “something I like to do,” she says, but not something that financially supports her family. To do that, she teaches English and piano at Satya Wacana Christian University in Salatiga, a position she will return to after she graduates with her master of sacred music degree in December.

Yet, she says, she has wanted to be a church musician since she was 14 years old, when she first started playing for worship.

“I began playing piano when I was seven, but when I was a teenager I found I really enjoyed playing hymns and church music,” she said. Her family had always been active in her congregation, and growing up the church community was someplace where she always felt welcome and wanted. She has offered her time and talents to the church ever since.

Andreyana became acquainted with Luther Seminary’s Master of Sacred Music program when a visiting professor recommended she apply for an ELCA scholarship to come and study at the seminary. Andreyana feels her time here will benefit not only herself, but her university and her colleagues at Indonesian Presbyterian.

“Most of my students and [friends at church] will not have the opportunity to study abroad. I want to share my experiences with them.”

She is grateful the seminary staff shares her view.

“The goal of the [MSM] program is to become a church musician, but since I’ll be teaching as well, my instructors at St. Olaf [College, which partners with the seminary in offering the MSM curriculum] have been teaching me to be a performer as well.”

Andreyana has been instrumental in helping raise funds and awareness for international student scholarships through her participation in several “Music with a Mission” concerts over the past two years.

Though performing still makes her anxious, she has become more comfortable with the public role. And, she is looking forward to her final project for her degree, a recital which will be held at 4 p.m. in the Chapel of the Incarnation on Dec. 21.

Still, Andreyana feels her time at the seminary has produced more fruit than simply augmenting her musical gifts. In fact, most of the growth she has witnessed has been within herself.

“When I came here, I was homesick, shy, introverted. But now they have trained me to be a leader. I’ve become more confident, more straightforward. I’m able to take care of myself. I’m more likely to express my ideas to others.”

Her internship as choir director and musician at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Paul has been invaluable as well.

“The people at church have been so welcoming of my ideas. They really appreciate me as a person. Pastor Joy Johnson has given me great support as a student who is learning about Christian leadership. My host family and families at church have welcomed my husband and me into their family gatherings and taught us more about American and Minnesotan traditions and cultures,” she said.

Andreyana is excited – and a little apprehensive – to take what she has learned back to Indonesia.

“I am anxious to start practicing my leadership at home. I want to communicate in an effective manner,” she said. “I want God to use me to help people in my country learn more about Christianity in a musical way.”

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“Now they have trained me to be a leader. I’ve become more confident, more straightforward ... I’m more likely to express my ideas to others.”

'Healing the World' focus of LWF Assembly

Seminary well-represented at Winnipeg gathering

By Sara Trumm

Every six years, leaders from Lutheran Church bodies and congregations from around the world come together for a Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Assembly. This 'Communion of Churches' works together to encourage and strengthen the work of Lutheran Christians on a global level. The gathering is an exciting time to discuss congregational ministry, theological study, and social program emphases as well as electing leadership and making future decisions for the LWF itself. Because this year's gathering took place in Winnipeg, Manitoba, North Americans took advantage of the close proximity and participated as much as possible.

Several students from Luther Seminary, as well as faculty and staff, took part in the events of the assembly. Many Luther graduates serve in the LWF headquarters in Geneva or as delegates in their home countries. Current Luther students were able to connect with these alumni at a special reception hosted by Luther Seminary. I was fortunate to be one of the six Luther Seminary students who took part in the LWF consortium course. Prof. Gwen Saylor, from Wartburg Seminary, facilitated the class through advanced study and online discussion of the history of LWF and the experience of being at the conference itself.

While much of the on-site education came through observation of the main assembly workings, I think all of the students were pleasantly surprised at the amount of input and involvement we were given as we added our voices during Village Group Sessions. Village Groups were smaller groups of assembly participants that discussed important topics facing the Lutheran

Church, and all people, in the world today. The themes at this event, centered around the main theme of "For the Healing of the World" were: Justification, Communion, Healing Divisions within One Church, Multi-Faith Contexts, Removing Barriers that Exclude, Ministry of Healing, Justice and Healing in Families, Overcoming Violence, Transforming Economic Globalization, and Healing Creation.

Students compared the diversity of their own perspectives as well as those of the participants from the various Village Groups they attended. It was enlightening to encounter so many different insights and reactions! Cultural barriers in communication and language challenged all participants to ensure that all voices were heard. Significant efforts were made to provide immediate translations and clarify misunderstandings, but it was apparent that these struggles not only reflect concerns within the LWF, but on a larger scale in the worldwide church.

the opportunity to get a jump-start on topics of particular concern in the lives of young people. These representatives then called on the larger assembly to take action on their concerns. During one large group Bible study session they cried out to the larger group to break the silence regarding issues that prevent them from making informed decisions, such as AIDS prevention.

Luther students commented not only on the privilege and responsibility that people from the United States have within the world community, but also the shame and humility they felt in recognizing some of the harmful ways that the U.S. has faced international issues of economic globalization, environmental preservation and military power. Bishop Mark Hanson's election as the new president of the LWF heightened discussion regarding the voice of ELCA congregations within our own government as well as ELCA leadership in promoting healthy global cooperation and communication.



Elaine Brant, '97, and Deb Ost, M.Div. intern, were two of the Luther Seminary-affiliated attendees.

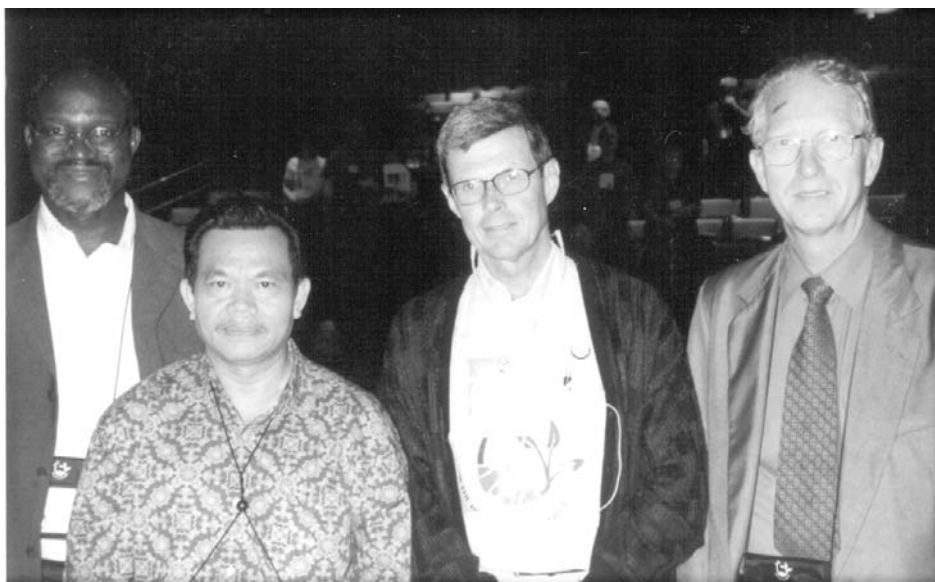
Equality and balance was also emphasized in the leadership role given to women, indigenous persons and youth. I was particularly impressed with the articulate and bold statements made by the younger delegates. A pre-assembly youth meeting provided

Perhaps the most talked-about issue surrounding this Tenth Assembly of the LWF was the 53 participants from Asia and Africa who were denied

See ASSEMBLY, page 5

visas and were unable to attend the gathering. This not only posed difficulties in fair voting practices and equal input from around the world, but it also highlighted the unjust treatment of those from the southern region in many areas of international relations. Assembly participants took part in a silent march and prayer vigil in the center of Winnipeg to show their support of the missing friends and to protest the visa denials by the Canadian government. Efforts were also made within the assembly itself to allow non-delegates in attendance to vote on behalf of their missing countrypersons.

Overall, the gathering was a wonderful opportunity to see the global church at work. The struggles and joys of living in a community of faith were magnified in such a vibrant group. Hope for healing in many areas of our lives together was shown in abundance and participants left with



Others at the Assembly included: Musa Filibus (Nigeria), LWF area representative for Africa; Ginda Harahap (Indonesia) LWF area representative for Asia and LS doctor of ministry candidate; Mark Nygard, '76, missionary in Senegal & Cameroon and Assembly volunteer; and Ingo Wulfhorst and LWF staff with dialog and Interfaith.

a greater sense of calling to serve in a hurting world. And for the Luther Seminary students, a broader ministry perspective has now opened our eyes to new possibilities to witness to God's work in the world.

For online information on the LWF and the Winnipeg Assembly, to read the concluding LWF Assembly Message, or look at the gathering's Resolutions and Statements, go to www.lwf-assembly.org

✘ INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY JOURNEYS OUT

International students enjoyed two field trips this past summer. Students and their families journeyed to Taylors Falls and took a riverboat cruise in June. In August, they visited the Minnesota Zoo. Both events were well attended and a great opportunity to see more of what the Twin Cities area has to offer. Many students also attended the State Fair in August.

✘ MUA RELEASED, RETURNED TO U.S.

The Rev. Naw-Karl Mua, '96 Luther Seminary graduate and pastor of Light of Life Lutheran Church in Maplewood, Minn., was imprisoned in Laos this summer after he was charged for his alleged involvement in the murder of a soldier in Laos. He was released and returned to the United States after pressure was put on the Laos government by U.S. officials. The experience has brought attention to the many human rights violations in Laos.

✘ TANZANIAN MISSIONARIES VISIT LUTHER

Jim and Judy Bangsund, missionaries in Tanzania, are part of the Luther Seminary community this year as Judy finishes her

master of divinity degree and Jim is a visiting scholar. Judy and Jim, '78, have been teaching at Makumira Seminary, west of Mt. Kilimanjaro on the slopes of Mt. Meru. We are thankful for the experience they bring to us and we welcome them for this upcoming year.

✘ INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ARRIVE

Luther Seminary welcomes 14 new international students this semester. All students arrived early to attend orientation sessions. They come from Liberia, Nigeria, South Korea, India, Malaysia, Kenya, Iceland, Norway, Guyana, Indonesia and Ethiopia.

✘ MILLER RECOGNIZED FOR UNITY EFFORTS

Dr. Roland Miller, professor emeritus of missions and former director of the GMI, will receive the Race, Church and Change Award at Luther Seminary on Oct. 14. The award honors Miller's work in facilitating dialogues between Muslim and Christian communities. Miller "is a prime example of this award's purpose — to recognize those who bring about healing and reconciliation," Rod Maeker, director of cross-cultural education, said. See the calendar on p. 8 for more information about the day's activities.



ELCA MULTICULTURAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP EVENT

Before the ELCA National Youth Gathering, about 200 youth from around the country and around the globe met for the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE). The theme for MYLE was "Bathed in His Image: Washing Away MYLEs of Hate." The leadership event allowed opportunities for youth to gather in ethnic caucuses to discuss issues particular to a specific ethnic community. In addition, speakers shared stories of faith and life from ethnic groups, such as Palestinian-Americans, American Indians, Asian-Americans, and Hispanic-Americans. Reflection groups of youth and adults gathered to share reactions about the various speakers and experiences. Reflection groups also took part in creating prayer stools for each individual. The prayer stools allow an individual to kneel in a meditative posture. The prayer stools were used during the closing worship service of MYLE. Youth who attended MYLE entered the Atlanta Youth Gathering with a renewed sense of identity in relation to God and the rest of the church.

Students from Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Maple Grove, Minn., try a little "hands-on" faith building in the Globe by making bricks for Operation Bootstrap Africa.



Photo courtesy of Erin Holloway

SNAPSHOTS

from the National Youth Gathering

BY ROSS MURRAY, '03

UBUNTU

Probably the nicest part about the ELCA National Youth Gathering was how well it related to life together for a youth group. Ubuntu is a Bantu word, which loosely translated, means "humanity." However, the meaning goes much deeper. It means that one person cannot fully be who she is until someone else is who he is fully meant to be. It holds an imagery of the body of Christ. When one member suffers, all members suffer with it. When one member rejoices, all rejoice with it. Think about this in terms of group dynamics. We live ubuntu by understanding our experience at the National Youth Gathering as a group experience. We were able to fully care for one another, and care for people outside our group. It is ubuntu that inspired hundreds of youth to serve the city of Atlanta through various service projects. It is ubuntu that compelled our youth to share stories of their day with one another, understanding that one individual's story is woven into the group story. We return home with a sense of ubuntu. I am because you are. We are because Christ is.

THE LEARNING VILLAGE AND THE GLOBE

Imagine, if you will, a huge room, filled with massage stations, a full soccer field, inflatable sumo wrestling, college recruiters, and a big pile of mud. This is just a smattering of what the Globe was able to offer participants to the ELCA National Youth Gathering. While some people learned about handicapped accessibility through a simulation of going to the bathroom in a wheelchair, others were able to make prayer stools (much like those made at MYLE). My group, from Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, tends to rush toward the basketball courts, where a tournament was taking place. For those who want something active, but lack basketball skills, gigantic boxing gloves (as big as your arm) allowed our youth to take their aggressions out on each other. For those who wanted to look more in-depth at a particular topic, the learning village provided workshops on topics ranging from the welcoming church to hip-hop worship. Some were more active, while some were just opportunities to gain information and reflect on spiritual practices, the life of the church, and their own personal faith. Between the Globe and the Learning Village, participants were able to take incredible memories away from the Gathering.

BLIESE, from page 1

It's a foundation Bliese feels is ready to bear the weight of a larger, more substantive role in shaping the global classroom. He is passionate about developing partnerships between Luther Seminary and "four or five key schools and organizations around the world where we can work on developing relationships that bring about change." These partnerships could include an exchange program between students and faculty, one that allows for a "permanent" visiting scholar position.

"We need that diversity on campus. We don't have enough of it. Students have the right to demand it. We need powerful voices here on campus who can speak to the condition of the global Christian church and our place in it, even when that is hard to hear."

And he sees the GMI as taking the lead in establishing and nurturing these partnerships.

"That's what the GMI has the vision and potential for – not only to be the caretaker, but to bring forth the urgent need for mission."

Although, as academic dean, Bliese clearly has more than enough duties on his plate, he doesn't hesitate for a moment to confirm his intention to be active in shaping and guiding the GMI's future.

"This is central to the mission of this school. What could be more important?"

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Or call Brad Reiners, associate vice president of planned giving, for a no obligation proposal at 651-641-3450; toll-free: 888-358-8437.

Your Membership to the GMI

The Global Mission Institute provides information and assistance to those who are preparing to be leaders in global ministry. The GMI can only operate with the help of Christians dedicated to the mission of the gospel. Membership to the GMI helps sustain this valuable resource for the church.

Who Qualifies for Membership?

Membership begins with a gift of \$250 to GMI. There is no upper limit. Membership may be renewed annually. GMI membership automatically qualifies the donor 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.
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4. An invitation to an annual recognition event.
5. *Global Vision* newsletter, featuring news and information about global mission.

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GMI Calendar

Mission and Ministry (M&M) Forums

Olson Campus Center, Luther Seminary, 12:30-1:30 p.m. most Thursdays. Bring a lunch. FMI: call 651-641-3487.

October 14 Race, Church and Change Award Presentation

Recipient: Roland Miller, former GMI director. Presentation and reception, 10 a.m. Chapel of the Incarnation. Panel discussion on the state of Muslim-Christian relations, 3 p.m. Northwestern Hall Auditorium.

October 21 "The Legacy of Jesus for Jews and Christians"

Lecture given by Dr. Amy Jill Levine, Vanderbilt Divinity School. 7 p.m. Chapel of the Incarnation. Jointly sponsored by Luther Seminary and the Jay Phillips Center for Jewish Christian Learning.

October 30 "Baptism Traditions from Around the World"

International students share their cultural and family celebrations and beliefs about baptism. 7:30 p.m., Chapel of the Cross, Northwestern Hall, Luther Seminary.

November 14 Global AGAPE Feast

Foods from around the world will be shared in a special community meal hosted by GMI. If you'd like to bring a dish to share, call Sara at 651-641-3390. Otherwise, come and be fed! 6 p.m., Stub Hall Lounge, Luther Seminary.

Check out our new Web site! Learn more about how we lift up global and missional issues here on campus and beyond. Enjoy information about who we are, resources available to you, upcoming activities, and international student biographies! www.luthersem.edu/GMI

Prayer Concerns

- ✦ As congregations and schools begin their education programs more rigorously, we pray that increased knowledge of our world opens new doors to understanding, dialogue and exchange in this global community.
- ✦ We pray for the ongoing work of the Lutheran World Federation. May member congregations and leaders feel renewed and energized to continue working for the healing of the world.
- ✦ We celebrate the safe release and return of Rev. Naw-Karl Mua from prison in Laos and join him in prayers for all those oppressed by the government of Laos — religiously, ethnically, and in prisons there.
- ✦ We ask for God's guidance for those who are new or returning to the Luther Seminary community. As each person and family adjusts to the transition, may they be inspired to serve in whatever way God reveals.
- ✦ We give thanks for those individuals, organizations and congregations who support the work of the Global Mission Institute with their gifts of time, money and prayer. May they continue to be blessed, and to share those blessings freely.
- ✦ We give thanks for the work of Roland Miller and offer prayers for God's continued presence in the conversations between the Christian and Muslim communities. Help us all to have open hearts, open arms and open minds as we work together for peace and understanding.

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