

Growing Global Partnerships

Luther Seminary over time has partnered with theological schools across the world. The Global Mission Institute, now the center for such partnerships, is working to build and sustain these relationships for the full benefit of both the seminary and each international partner.

Under a structure recently formalized by Luther Seminary, the GMI seeks to develop partnerships in five regions: Sub-Saharan Africa, Southern India, China, Europe and Latin America. While several other relationships are under negotiation, the GMI is in the process of signing formal agreements with eight partner schools in the focus regions:

- Gurukul Lutheran Theological College & Research Institute, India
- Johannelund Theological Seminary, Sweden
- Lutheran Seminary and Martin Bible School, Slovakia
- Theological Institute of the Ingrian Lutheran Church, Russia
- Trinity Theological Seminary, Ghana
- Tumaini University, Tanzania
- Universidad Biblica Latinoamericana, Costa Rica
- University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

The various partnerships allow for not only faculty and student exchanges but also the sharing of educational resources and cooperation through technology. GMI Director Frieder Ludwig notes that he team-taught a course, *Confessing Christ in Asia*, with a professor at Gurukul Lutheran Theological College & Research Institute, via the Internet. Students at the Universidad Biblica Latinoamericana also observed a course taught by a Luther professor, Ludwig says.

He said that exchanges, now coordinated by the GMI, allow Luther students to experience Christianity across the international spectrum, even where it is the minority.

“If we think about Paul’s letter to the Ephesians that we are coming together to form one body but coming from different backgrounds, different traditions, I think that means that we need each other to correct each other and to learn from each other, to perceive from each other mutually about what it means to be a Christian,” Ludwig says of the partnerships’ theological importance.

Further formalized partnerships with China, Germany and Norway are top priorities; however, the GMI is also seeking to intentionally develop partnerships already established or currently being pursued. ☺

Andrew Behrendt (M. Div. Jr)



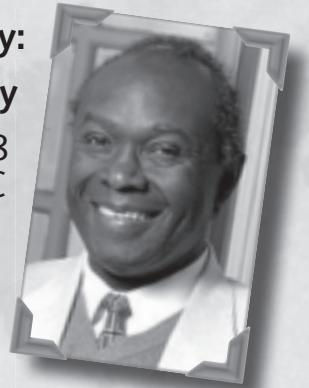
Rector Tapio Karjalainen from the Theological Institute of the Ingrian Lutheran Church, Russia along with Luther Seminary President Richard Bliese.

THE HEIN – FRY LECTURE SERIES

Living Together in the 21st Century: Lutherans and World Christianity

April 16, 2008
Chapel of the Incarnation, OCC

Speaker: Dr. Lamin Sanneh
D. Willis James Professor of Mission and
World Christianity & Professor of History,
Yale Divinity School.
www.luthersem.edu/lectures/heinfr



Students Step Into the Unfamiliar

People of color will make up the majority of the U.S. population by 2030. Today they account for only three percent of the ELCA. These are factors that Rod Maeker, Associate Director of the Contextual Leadership Initiative (CLI), cites as a rationale for Luther’s cross-cultural experience requirement.

Cross-cultural education is “a very important part of our mission,” Maeker said, to train leaders for a multicultural world. Students spend two to three weeks immersed in an unfamiliar community answering the question, “What does the gospel look like in this particular cultural context?” Each year, these trips are organized by the CLI, a joint effort with Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, Calif.

Offerings in 2008 include trips to Los Angeles, Chicago, Guatemala, the Holy Land, Mexico City, Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and Shalom Hill Farm in rural Minnesota. Two others are exploring Hmong culture in St. Paul and Hispanic ministry in Minneapolis.

William Siong (’04) acquaints students with Hmong food, music, story telling and religious beliefs. “Without an open mind, there is no understanding of other cultures,” Siong said. “We are not only learning strategies and theories but [having] actual experiences with the cultures.”

Patricia Lull, Dean of Students, led a group to San Lucas Toliman, a Roman Catholic parish located in the highlands of Guatemala, for the fifth time in January. “In this gracious parish we come to see God’s world in a fresh way. Generosity is experienced in the midst of poverty; new questions arise about the impoverishment of affluence,” Lull said. “But most of all, students see what it means to live daily as God’s disciples in a setting where the biblical narrative is always contemporary.”

The trips “help students see a much, much bigger world,” Maeker said. But awareness is just the beginning of what can be gained. Considering that one of the fastest growing Lutheran churches in the world is in Tanzania, Maeker said, “Can we learn from them how to be the church?” ☺

Allison K. Schmitt (M.A. ’07)



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**Global
Insight**

Global Insight



A look at
what's happening
at the

**Global
Mission
Institute**

Winter 2008



UPCOMING EVENTS

Farewell for Frieder Ludwig

Wed., Jan. 23, 10 a.m.
Service and reception
Chapel of the Incarnation, OCC

Lay School of Theology Course

Toward an Understanding of Islam
Instructor: Steven Haggmark, Associate
Professor of Islamic Studies and
Christian Mission & World Religions
Mondays, Jan. 28 – Feb. 25, 12 – 2 p.m.
www.luthersem.edu/layschool

Music with a Mission Concert

Sun., Feb. 24, 3 p.m.
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Mpls.

Aus Lectures

Speaker: Dr. Robert A. Kolb,
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
Tues., Mar. 11, 10 a.m.
Wed., Mar. 12, 11 a.m.
Chapel of the Incarnation, OCC

GMI Donor Dinner

Sun., Mar. 30, 5 p.m.
Olson Campus Center

Hein-Fry Lectures

Speaker: Dr. Lamin Sanneh,
Yale Divinity School
Wed., Apr. 16
10:45 a.m., 1:15 p.m., & 2:15 p.m.
Chapel of the Incarnation, OCC

For a complete listing of Luther Seminary events
visit: www.luthersem.edu

YOUR GIFTS HELP SPREAD THE GOSPEL!

Your gifts continue to make a difference as Luther Seminary students, equipped with a global perspective, go out and share the message of Jesus Christ around the world. Your gifts to the GMI help:

- Establish partnerships between Luther Seminary and theological schools around the world.
- Welcome international students to Luther Seminary and support them as they prepare for ministry back in their home countries.
- Provide resources, speakers and mission education for congregations.
- Encourage and send students to study abroad.
- Send theological books back to schools in developing countries and in the nations of the former Soviet Union through the LILAP program.

Thank you for supporting this important work and helping to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth!

For more information on how you can support the GMI, please contact Lisa Cohen at 1-888-358-8437 or visit www.luthersem.edu/gifts.



Dr. Paul Kirkegaard could be called a "dental evangelist". He offers free dental care to Luther Seminary's international student community. Kirkegaard is pictured here with former visiting scholar Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu.

