

# In a Nutshell

Year-end recaps  
of our world  
mission fields

*By the mercies of the LORD we are not consumed, for his compassions do not fail. They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22, 23*

## Peru

After 50 years as an ELS mission, this church body has been taking on the responsibilities of a synod which is independent of U.S. missionaries serving in their country. They are dealing with inactive congregations by restarting them where possible and recognizing those areas where the work has ceased. Unused church properties are being sold so the proceeds can be used to build new churches in promising new mission fields. The existing congregation four hours north of Lima is relocating and building in a growing area in the city of Nuevo Chimbote. A new mission outreach in Cajamarca continues to grow in a city twelve hours from Lima.

While congregations in Lima, where the mission work began, continue to serve God's people, work among the Shawi people in the Amazon continues with mission outreach, schools, and the training of evangelists and pastors.

Map locations  
are approximate

- A Peru
- B Chile
- C India
- D South Korea
- E Latvia
- F Czechia
- G Ukraine
- H Kenya
- I Australia



January  
2020

Mission News &  
Helping Hands  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod

### From the Editor—

*Rev. Thomas Heyn, Board for  
World Outreach Administrator*

Soon we will be visiting the fields again. I thought it might be a good idea to recap what happened in our fields in 2019 and describe what we anticipate for 2020.

As always, we appreciate your prayers for the work in our world fields and your financial support that makes this work possible. May the Lord grant us a blessed 2020.





**Chile** Our brothers and sisters in Chile, especially in Santiago, the capital, have been living with political protests for a number of months. Demonstrations, sometimes violent, continue throughout the country. Since one focus of the protests is related to the subway system, and subway stations have been vandalized, it has been dangerous for members to travel to church by subway. Business places have been targeted. Highways become impassable at times. Nonetheless, the members help one another, offer rides, watch over their church buildings and exercise caution.

In Linares, south of the capital, two men continue studying to become pastors, while the pastor from Santiago has been trying to visit monthly when he can. Unfortunately, the protests have interfered with these plans.

**India** Our Christian brothers and sisters in India are always facing challenges and trials. This past year there were many affected by the numerous floods. We were able to provide some help with flood relief. The many orphans that are cared for in the orphanages received additional nutrition through various offerings that you helped provide.

Many congregations are currently served by evangelists. They await the day they will have their own pastors. To that end, seminary classes continue to train more pastors. New buildings are needed to replace those in disrepair and those needing to be expanded to accommodate growing congregations.

Several pastors used to travel to their congregations by walking or taking a bus. Some of them, thanks to your gifts, received motorcycles to help them get to the congregations under their care.

**South Korea**

After many years of service, Pastor Young Ha Kim is retiring and will return to the United States, with his wife, Margaret, to be near their children and grandchildren. We are thankful to both of them for their many years of faithful service and pray that God may bless them richly in their retirement.

Seoul Lutheran Church, under the guidance of Pastor Sam Choi, continues to grow. They are resuming a program to send English-speaking Korean children to study in U.S. Lutheran high schools. The goal is for the students to learn Lutheran teaching and return to Korea to be active members of the Lutheran churches.

A preaching station has begun in Ulsan where ten to twelve people gather monthly for worship and study.

A Bethany seminary student will serve in South Korea for his vicar year. We hope one or more mission opportunities develop from his time there.



**Latvia** Six pastors work in this Baltic country in northern Europe, once a bastion of Lutheranism, but now a country heavily caught up in secularism and materialism. These pastors reach out through their writings and webpages. New mission outreach is being explored in an area between two locations where they currently have churches.

This past year, some of you may remember that there was a wedding where the groom was the son of one of the Latvian pastors and the bride was from one of the Lutheran congregations in Peru. That couple is looking forward to the birth of their first child in the coming year.

**Czechia** Outreach is difficult in this former communist country. When Czechia came out from communism, it, like so many other former communist countries, embraced materialism and secularism. Outreach is slow and difficult.

But recent news from the Czech pastors showed a holiday service in the chapel of Martin Luther School in Pilsen. It was good to see such a gathering.

**Ukraine** The crisis pregnancy counseling centers provided much needed counseling and assistance to women in Ukraine. Although difficult to know precise numbers, countless lives of babies were saved. The Ukrainian couple that will replace Nick and Kerry Laper as administrators continue to make the transition to full-time administration.

The medical and dental mobile clinics continue to serve thousands of people in their annual cycle of visiting towns and villages throughout Ukraine. They are now in the garage in Ternopil for the winter months where people can come to them for much needed services.





## Other mission work

### Kenya

Online seminary classes were taught this past year and will continue as donations allow. President John Moldstad, seminary President Gaylin Schmeling, and Rev. Thomas Heyn, BWO administrator, met with representatives of the Kenyan group to discuss Bible doctrine. As of this date, there have been no disagreements over doctrine. The ELS leadership continues to see whether full fellowship can be established with this group of Lutherans in Kenya.

### Australia

A Lutheran congregation in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, has contacted the Board for World Outreach to provide counsel and non-financial assistance. The board agreed and will work with this congregation in the new year.



INDIA  
Motorcycles  
for pastors



## What can you do to help?

■ Pray for each of the mission fields in this newsletter. Pray for the national pastors of these churches as well as for the members of their congregations, that they might remain faithful in their homelands that often do not welcome the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And thank the Lord for their faithful service.

■ Please—prayerfully consider a gift or regular donation to the work in the various fields. Every field, and some more than others, has many needs where God's people can provide much needed assistance.

■ You may designate a gift to a particular field or project on the memo line of a check. You may also go to [els.org](http://els.org) and click on "Donate" in the top banner on the right-hand side.

■ If you have questions, please contact us in the following ways:

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