

November 2023

Mission News & Helping Hands

Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Board for World Outreach
*Sharing the Gospel in
South America and Asia*



India

The ABCs of Supporting a Church in India

*by Dan Browning, Asia Committee of the BWO
With the assistance of Simeon Mamidi, Pastor at St. Peter's
Ev. Lutheran Church*

Together our ELS congregations assist and support, by prayers and dollars, our brothers and sisters in the faith in the far-away land of India. Surrounded by a culture and society centered on an idol-based religion, we support the Lutheran Mission of Salvation-India (LMSI), a Scripture-centered and confessional Lutheran church body numbering over 22,000 members (larger than the current total ELS membership). LMSI is largely centered in the geographic areas in and around Hyderabad and Rajahmundry.

These are exciting times in the Hyderabad district, and its flagship congregation, St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Several years ago, the leaders and believers of St. Peter's prayed, planned, and embarked upon an ambitious and much-needed remodel and addition. For over 20 years, St. Peter's was a two-story structure. On the ground floor was housing for about 25 orphans under the care of the congregation, while the second floor provided the congregation with spaces for worship and gathering. St. Peter's is now a five-story structure. The project is entering the important final stages as LMSI gets ready to dedicate the new structure in January 2024.



From the Editor

Rev. Thomas Heyn
Board for World Outreach
Administrator

This month we share an update on an important church project we support in Hyderabad, India. We look forward to the dedication of this renovated church for sharing the Gospel in a land where the vast majority of people do not know the true God nor the Redeemer of the world. We appreciate your prayers for the work in our world fields and your financial support that makes this work possible.

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15).

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The Hyderabad and Rajahmundry districts operate their respective seminary programs for a combined total of fourteen promising Gospel Workers (small village congregation leaders) who have the talent and dedication to undertake seminary level instruction monthly over a span of five years.

Along with the planned dedication of the St. Peter's facility in January, the seminary students from both districts will gather at St. Peter's in Hyderabad for a final series of classes taught by visiting BWO Administrator Pastor Thomas Heyn. The students based in and around Hyderabad will then gather with family and friends for a graduation and ordination service as pastors. The same will occur in Rajahmundry for its newest pastors a few days later. To God be the Glory!

The much-needed expansion and remodeling of St. Peter's will satisfy many long-awaited needs.

Note Recently, one congregation gave \$80,000 for construction projects in India as a "challenge gift". We are grateful for the many who have responded with gifts totaling \$57,000. Part of that will support projects in Rajahmundry, while much will help the St. Peter's project. There is still opportunity and need for your help as noted above. Gifts for this project can be designated as noted in the story. On behalf of your brothers and sisters in India, thank you.

The top fifth floor will be a covered, but open-air terrace for large gatherings and fellowship festivities.

The third and fourth floors will become a spacious sanctuary with a balcony for the growing congregation.

The second floor will become a seminary classroom and dormitory spaces for visiting seminary students each month.

The first or ground floor will remain the living quarters for the orphans. Their space has not been improved or refreshed for over 22 years.

There is still much to accomplish before the activities and celebrations planned for January 2024. The Board for World Outreach welcomes the financial assistance of ELS congregations, groups, schools, and individual donors. The list (right column) indicates what is needed and the approximate costs. Donations are welcomed for specific project phases (please indicate by letter) or in general ("Z") where the project needs funding. Thank you in advance for your generosity in making this multi-purpose facility (worship, seminary classrooms and dormitories, orphanage improvements) a reality for our fellow believers in LMSI.

The ABCs

A. Painting completion on the Terrace (top) level	1,300
B. Flooring tiles for the Terrace level	5,000
C. Installation of tiles on the Terrace level	4,500
D. Toilets and Washrooms on the Terrace level	1,700
E. Lighting and Fans on the Terrace level	1,000
F. Doors throughout the facility	4,000
G. Painting of the Sanctuary space (second story)	6,600
H. Sanctuary floor tile (medium grade quality)	5,800
I. Sanctuary tile flooring labor and supplies	4,900
J. Lighting, fans in Sanctuary	3,000
K. PA system and cabling in Sanctuary	3,500
L. Sanctuary altar furniture and Baptismal font	6,500
M. Staircase (5 floors) stair step tile	1,200
N. Staircase tile installation	1,300
O. Staircase and Balcony safety railings	3,500
P. Staircase painting	2,500
Q. Staircase safety/security iron gates on 4 floors	1,800
R. Seminary/Dormitory level painting and flooring	12,000
S. Seminary level washrooms, showers, toilets	2,000
T. Exterior painting for entire 5 floor building	5,000
U. Orphanage level painting	2,000
V. Orphanage level refreshed bathrooms and fixtures	1,900
W. Orphanage level kitchen remodel	2,000
X. Orphanage level tile flooring and install	1,400
Y. Flooring for ground floor parking area	4,000
Z. WHEREVER A GIFT IS BEST NEEDED	\$\$\$\$\$



▲ St. Peter's proposed project when finished



▲ view of the sanctuary and the balcony from the altar area



▲ seven foot lighted cross stands 70' above ground level



▲ washrooms on terrace level



▲ President Solomon Mamidi and family, Pastor Simeon Mamidi and his wife are in the back on the right



▲ orphans served at St. Peter's with orphanage "mother" and President Solomon Mamidi at the back

News from Other Mission Fields

Peru—The Peruvian pastors continue their work with the Shawi pastors in the jungle churches. Pastor Gutiérrez regularly visits the congregation in Cajamarca. The third story addition to Martín Lutero School should be completed in the next few months.

Chile—Pastor Mario Gálvez reports that he has several adult confirmation classes in Linares and in Santiago. The congregations continue to grow in each city.

Korea—The pastors, together with Ashley (David Choi's wife) and Friends Network worker Doug, are using English conversation gatherings to reach out to their Korean neighbors. These conversation gatherings are popular because they give the Koreans opportunity to converse with native speakers of English. Some weekly sessions are dedicated to studying the Bible in English.

Australia—Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Brisbane, Australia, became an official field under the BWO at this year's synod convention. We look forward to working with them in their outreach efforts.

Latvia—Seminary teaching continues with the four men enrolled in seminary studies. Pastor Thomas Heyn taught a four-day apologetics class on the field visit in September.

Czech Republic—The Europe Committee of the BWO is helping to provide pastoral help for St. Paul's congregation in Pilsen after the recent resignation of Petr Krakora. Pastor Martin Vrsecky continues to manage and teach religion at Martin Luther School.

Ukraine—Administrators Nick and Kerry Laper are returning to the U.S. for several months. Together with the Europe Committee, they are working with another couple who may replace the Lapers when the Lapers retire next summer. All counseling centers are open and providing services. The mobile clinics also continue their work.

Although the war with Russia is a challenge for the work of Gift of Life, the Lord continues to bless this work for his glory and the blessing of many.



How Can You Help?

Pray for each of the mission fields, for the national pastors of these churches as well as for the members of their congregations who live where the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not always welcome. May God work all these challenges for the good of his people, as he has promised.

Please—prayerfully consider a gift or regular donation for 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 and click on "Donate" in the top banner on the right-hand side or simply scan the QR code which will take you to the donation page.



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