

# ELS Mission Fields

2022 year-end recaps  
of our world mission fields

January 2023  
**Mission  
News &**

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



**Peru** ► Despite the difficulties experienced during the Covid pandemic, we continued our church work in the coastal, sierra and jungle regions of our country. Once again we can worship face-to-face. We continued to preach and teach the Word of God and to visit our brothers, encouraging them to remain faithful to our Lord Jesus amid the difficulties in our lives. We have worked to unify and reorganize the synod and improve its administration.

Ministry continues in Lima and Chimbote (north of Lima). Brothers in the city of Cajamarca hope to have a chapel for their worship. We seek ways to better serve the sierra. Three times a year we visit three native communities among the Shawi (Louis Terry, Taiwan, and Nueva Chazuta) to share God's Word and sacraments.

The vicars support the various congregations in Lima and Chimbote. One of them teaches religion at the Martin Lutero school in Lima.

We are grateful for your support of our evangelism work in Peru.

*Pastor Segundo Gutiérrez*

*world mission field recaps continue on the next pages ►*



Chimbote outdoor service ▲



Cajamarca group ▲



Taiwan baptism ▲

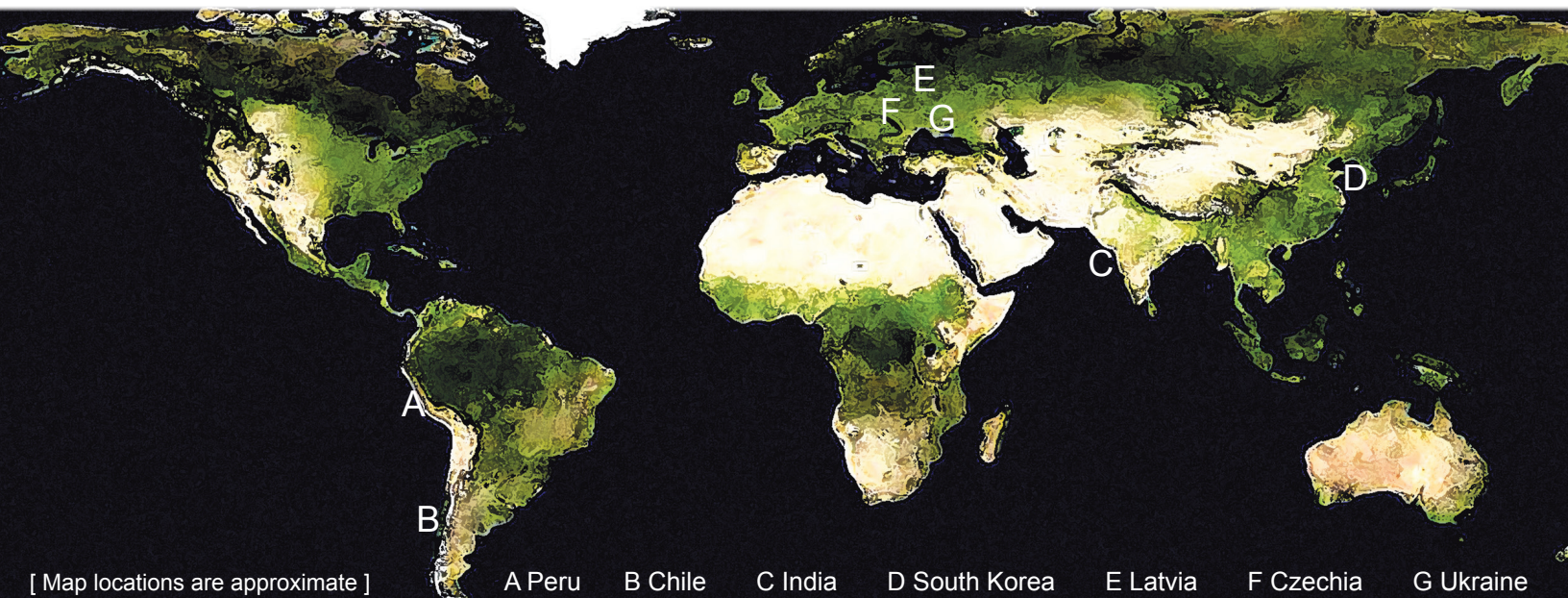
**From the Editor**  
*Rev. Thomas Heyn,  
Administrator  
Board for World Outreach*



As we begin 2023, we thank the Lord that travel to our ELS mission fields is once again possible. Most of the fields were visited in the last half of 2022. We happily report that the pastors and congregations in these fields are "back to normal" for the most part.

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 2023.

"Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever" (1 Chr 16:34).



[ Map locations are approximate ]

A Peru

B Chile

C India

D South Korea

E Latvia

F Czechia

G Ukraine



Congregation at Linares ▲



Congregation at LaCisterna ▲

**Chile** ▶ In 2022, the congregations in Chile were blessed with a full-time pastor who could dedicate his pastoral work to “United by Faith” in Linares and “Family of God” in La Cisterna. Separated by 218 miles, services were held on Saturday mornings in Linares and Sunday mornings in Santiago. We also were able to reach many corners of the world with our online services.

We remodeled our church in Linares to have a church open and ready to receive the community.

We held many classes, baptisms and confirmations ending the year with the marriage of Matías and Luisa, confirming her as a member of our church. We have prayed for many sick people. We have buried the faithful and gave spiritual care to many elderly people, bringing them the gospel message that rejuvenates their spirit. For 2023, we pray that our Savior gives us the strength to continue preaching his life-giving message. May our seminary student Sergio remain faithful, and may the Holy Spirit reinforce him in his pastoral work. May the family of faith grow in Chile and be sheltered at the feet of our Savior.

*Pastor Mario Gálvez*



Berry and Lyn ▲



Pastor David and Ashley ▲

**South Korea** ▶ Under the Lord’s grace, we want to share our gratitude for 2022 and our church plans for 2023.

In October 2022, our church had its first wedding. The bride, Lyn, is from China Shandong province. She had lived in South Korea for over ten years. The groom, Berry, is from Wisconsin. He is a lifelong Lutheran and is now serving at a US military base in South Korea. They met through an online dating website and fell in love with each other.

Pastor David Choi and his fiancée, Ashley Mozak, have also decided to have their wedding ceremony in Seoul Lutheran Church on February 25, 2023. All the church members are happy about their wedding news and look forward to another lovely Christian wedding ceremony in Seoul! Please keep them in your prayers!

The members of Seoul Lutheran Church are looking forward to having Lutheran pastors, missionaries, and teachers from around the world join us in June at the 2023 CELC conference. The conference will be held in Seoul Olympic Parktel, a 10-minute drive from our church building. This Hotel is located inside Seoul Olympic Park, the most beautiful and famous park in Korea!

*Pastor David Choi*

**India** ▶ [Rajahmundry District] We thank the Lord for subduing the COVID threat. Most things are getting back to normal. Public worship services are no longer restricted.

At Grace and Truth Lutheran Church, we removed the old structure, built a new one and renamed it Ananda Memorial Lutheran Church in honor of the previous president, Rev. Ananda. The building was dedicated to the glory of the Triune God on September 18, 2022, by visitors from the ELS.

In the Rajahmundry region, we provided 207 children with spiritual nourishment as well as food, shelter, and education. The children especially thank Cross-stitch for their gifts which provide extra nutrition and clothing.

With a special gift from the ELS, our seminary was able to purchase an Interactive Smart Board to enhance the teaching. The seminary students appreciate it very much.

By the grace of God, the Lutheran Mission of Salvation of India has been able to continue its gospel work despite many obstacles. We know the world is in turmoil with wars and corrupted governments. But we also know and trust that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

We thank the ELS for your support through your prayers and offerings. May God continue to bless our work together in 2023.

*Pastor Kalyan K. Gollapalli*



St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Hyderabad ▲



exterior of St. Peter's Lutheran Church ▲

[Hyderabad District] By God’s grace and by your prayers and support, the Lutheran Mission of Salvation-Hyderabad was able to continue its work in the land of a million idols after COVID subsided completely.

We continue to train leaders to become pastors who will serve in either constructed buildings or rented places. They will care for many children with good food, lead young women to become nurses and, most of all, preach the gospel in everything that we do, to glorify His name alone.

We have installed the latest version of digital boards in the seminary, which improved the level of teaching and learning. We showed some videos such as the Life of Jesus, Apostle Paul, Luther, and now can use many other online resources. We are very thankful for the upgraded Logos Bible software which is used in the seminary program.

The Hyderabad district will soon complete the new headquarters of the LMSH with a church, St. Peter’s, that can accommodate 400 people. For any big event we will no longer have to rent other church buildings for such occasions. The headquarters will include an orphanage, the dormitory for seminary students, seminary classrooms and an office. We have completed the exterior work of the building and need to complete the interior.

*Pastor Solomon Mamidi*

**Latvia** ▶ It was difficult for the congregations to gather as the coronavirus surged during the past year. Recently, however, the people can again gather for the Lord’s Supper.

Seminary training began for several men, including one of the lay leaders in the Kekava congregation. When he retires in a few years, he will be able to begin new work as a pastor. Teachers from ELS, Germany and WELS came to help us. We thank you for your prayers, brotherly love, and financial support.

The church looks forward to doing more outreach through its apologetics and evangelism center that is getting underway. Thanks to the many donors who helped with the funds for winterizing the church at Jelgava.

Thankfully, our church life in Riga, after two years of challenges and restrictions, has been normalized. People are back in the pews. We have regular services, Bible studies, adult instruction and confirmation classes, and our children are back in Sunday School.

*Pastor Uģis Sildegs*



Kekava congregation ▲



Jelgava congregation ▲

The war in Ukraine started in February, which continues to this day, creating a sense of insecurity and severely affecting the prices of energy resources. Inflation exceeded 20% at the end of the year in Latvia. Pastor Taras Kokovsky visited Kekava, this summer. He discovered that the Ukrainian refugees in Latvia are mostly Russian-speaking people from Eastern Ukraine with no interest in religion.

In the Kekava congregation, we baptized children and adults, celebrated marriages and life slowly got back to normal. We have two Bible lessons a week and a Divine Service with Lord’s Supper each Sunday.

Pastor Uldis Fandjevs in Ozolnieki recently baptized Alice Danieka, who was only a few months old. But more than 20 years ago, he baptized her mother, Dace.

In Jelgava it has been rather challenging: COVID restrictions, war in Ukraine, endless streams of refugees, upward spiraling inflation, rising utility prices and now winter with many unresolved issues.

But the Lord never fails! What a joy to meet so many guests visiting our church again. We also strengthened our own fellowship during our CLCL Church summer camp in August. So many wonderful things God has granted us during this year of 2022.

*Pastor Ivo Sildegs*



Ozolnieki congregation ▲



## 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 for the work in the various fields. Every field, and some more than others, have 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 [www.els.org](http://www.els.org) and click on "Donate" in the top banner on the right-hand side or simply **scan the QR code** below to take you to the donation page.*

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

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website: [els.org/our-work-together/world-outreach/](http://els.org/our-work-together/world-outreach/)

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Advent program ▲



Marriage blessing ▲

**Czechia** ► The past year has seen various evangelism and outreach activities in the Czech Evangelical Lutheran Church and Martin Luther School in Pilsen, Czechia. The members of the church as well as the staff, the parents and the children of the school joined in collecting material and giving financial aid to the suffering inhabitants of Ukraine. Pastor Krakora has shared the blessings of God's grace with a newly married couple in an outdoor park setting. Translation into Czech and printing of a Christian children's book, *Little Lamb Babe*, brought joy to many school children. An Advent children's singing program brought many unchurched people to hear the greatest story ever told. In short, the Lord was again gracious and active in the lives of His people in our corner of His world. All glory to Him!

*Pastor Petr Krakora*



Bible study Ternopil ▲



Deaconess Ludmyla ▲



Missile strike, Kyiv ▲



Aid received for distribution—  
Natalia and Volunteer Mariya ▲

**Ukraine** ► "Safe at home!"—unless it and everything you own has been destroyed. The war with Russia has left millions of Ukrainians homeless with just the clothes on their backs. Your support of Gift of Life is an efficient way to give hope to people in need, people who suddenly find that everything they own has been blown up. Your generous donations to Gift of Life have helped to pay for day-to-day expenses. Food supplies and hygiene products have been a welcome help to those who never expected to be homeless. Your gifts are given through the clinics and life centers, and they come with Gospel messages.

Those who still have homes often have no electricity because Russia is bombing the power grid. But our Medical Clinic on Wheels continues to see patients using a generator. The life centers in Ternopil, Kremenetz and Kyiv Right Bank continue and even increase their ministry. Ukrainian Lutheran Church pastors continue leading Bible studies, and the Deaconess provides outreach at the clinics. Bible study attendance, both in person and online, has increased. Praise the Lord! Our counselors share the saving message of the risen Savior. They conduct Schools of Motherhood and Fatherhood, provide qualified psychological counseling, and art therapy classes for those suffering trauma due to the war.

Security and safety in this world are fleeting at best and will still end in death for all people. For us, however, there will be lasting peace and security through our Mighty God. In Jesus our future is secure. Homeless we may someday become, but we fear not, because heaven is our home.

*Nicholas and Kerry Laper*