

November 2021

Mission News & Helping Hands

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



India

Much for Which to Thank God!

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

In recent issues we have heard of the many needs in India. And you have responded! This issue includes stories of heart-felt thanks for your support. They show how your gifts have helped individuals as well as the church-at-large. In spite of challenges and difficulties, God, through the generous love of his people for their fellow believers, blesses both those who need help and those who provide it. These are his blessings on his people through his people.

We appreciate your prayers for the work in our world fields and your financial support that makes this work possible.

“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.” (Ps 118:29).

A



No doubt 2020-21 has been a tumultuous and frustrating year for many throughout the world. The tragic events of the pandemic, the devastations caused by the earthquakes, hurricanes and floods, the latest acts of terrorism, the surge of unemployment, the high inflation rates, the worship service bans, the insane shootings and persecutions this year—all these caused many to question God and His love.

But for us it has become an opportunity to show Christian love and share the Gospel during this disruptive time. And we have much for which to thank God this year too. We know that for those who love God “all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” We also have much for which we thank all of you for enabling us to reflect Christ’s unchanging and undeserving love upon the world through your support. Your gifts and donations have borne much fruit this year too.

Here is a brief and general overview of the things we have been able to accomplish with your help and support.

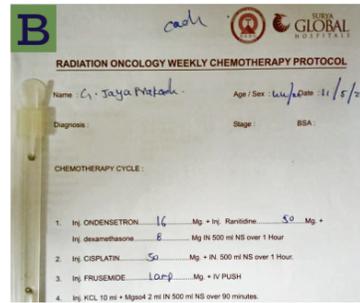
Covid, Medical and Flood Relief: We have provided much needed financial assistance for Covid treatment to many families of the LMSI. Medical bills of many needy victims have been covered. Help, relief, and repair assistance was provided to flood victims as well.

I would like to share two stories. The wife of one of our LMSI elders was, as usual, frying some papads. A papad is a thin cracker or flat bread. A small amount of dough is shaped into a thin, round flat bread and dried in the sun and then cooked by deep-frying. Accidentally, the hot oil splashed on her and burned her cooking hand. She experienced second degree burns. Thanks to the medical help provided by the LMSI she got proper treatment (photo **A**). (By the way, cooking in south Indian kitchens is not easy, because they are tiny, low-lit and do not have proper cooking equipment and ventilation.)

Rajahmundry, continued on the next page

Rajahmundry, continued from Page 1

The other story is about Joy Prakash, serving at St. John's Lutheran Church in Kathipudi village. He was diagnosed with tongue cancer and was under chemotherapy. The treatment was necessary although he was not able to afford such an expensive treatment. So, he had borrowed money. The LMSI, from its medical relief fund, was able to help pay for a small portion of his medical expenses for which he, his family and church members are very grateful (photo B). By the way, if you remember, I once wrote an article in October 2020 about his church calling it "The Happy Half Church."



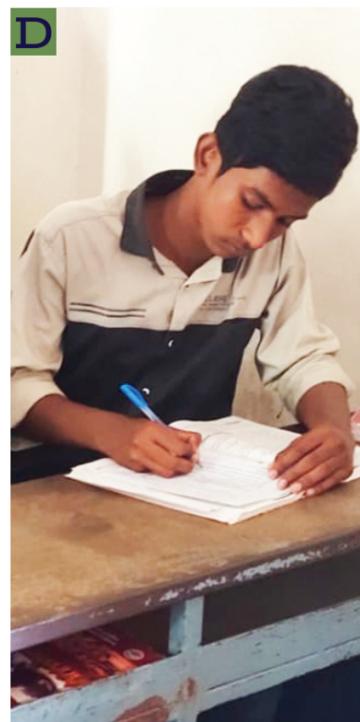
Children Homes' Extra Protein:

Thanks to the generous help of Cross-stitch, 207 children of the Rajahmundry region received proper nutrition and nourishment, for which all the children are very grateful (photos C).



Student Scholarship:

With the help of the scholarship fund, we have been able to pay the education bills for four students this year. All of them are very grateful (photo D).



Church Repairs and Construction:

In addition to helping cover the costs of various repairs of several churches, we are able to begin and continue the construction work of the Grace and Truth Lutheran Church located in Simhachal Nagar, Rajahmundry (photos E).



Please be aware that your continuing help and support is dearly and heartfully appreciated by the thousands of the Lutheran Mission of Salvation of India and they remember all of you in their daily prayers.

To God alone be the glory now and forever. Thank you.



With Gratitude from Hyderabad

Rev. Solomon Mamidi, President, Lutheran Mission of Salvation of India, Hyderabad (LMSH)

Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, He is ours and we are His.

With gratitude and praises to the Lord, I bring this update from Lutheran Mission of Salvation of India, Hyderabad. We thank the Lord for many reasons just as the Apostle Paul goes breathless in thanking the Lord for His eternal blessings as he writes to the Church in Ephesus. The LMSH joins me in praising the Lord continuously for His countless blessings and for His providence through the toughest times that India and the LMSH went through during the first and the second or the deadly wave of Covid. There was sufficient vaccine, although the vaccine still needs to reach a lot of rural areas where the LMSH serves.

When Jesus multiplied bread and fish, many people received the food; but when Jesus tried to feed their souls, everyone except his disciples left Jesus. We thank God for the little children that the Lord drew to us to make them rich in His inheritance and strong in His Word. We thank God that these little children in LMSH, drawn by the Lord, are being well-fed spiritually and physically. We thank you for your kind support which provides protein-rich food to the children. After the Covid crisis, the LMSH through your support has started providing protein packs and monetary support to the children thus providing protein and supporting their immunity with good healthful food (photo F).

We are very sad to report that we lost a few gospel workers and a seminary student to Covid, but we rejoice in hope that we shall see them again in heaven. Although these children are adopted into the family of God, they need to be reached to provide their basic essentials. Seminary student Godwil's children are adopted and accepted for orphan support (photos G). There are many more who need to be adopted and provided for. As Ephesians 2:10 says, we believe this is the good work that God has in store for us, to be able to help more children who are a part of the church and who lost their parents or a parent due to Covid.

The construction of the LMSH headquarters at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Hyderabad is going well with the funds you have provided (photo H). With your further help, we look forward to completing the rest of the work. "A wise man builds his house upon the rock." We believe and pray that St. Peter's (petros, the rock) will be a place where the Lord draws many more people to this new church and seminary so they may build their lives on the solid foundation, our cornerstone, Christ.



Thank you for your continued support towards LMSH and more importantly, for praying for us and for remembering us in fellowship and love.

News From Other Mission Fields

KOREA—Pastor-candidate David Choi hopes to obtain his visa and travel to South Korea where he will be ordained and installed to begin his work with Seoul Lutheran Church.

PERU—Seminary classes in the Amazon will begin among the Shawi after more than a year's hiatus due to Covid restrictions. A new teaching team, Pastors Segundo Gutiérrez and Andres Robles, will make the trip to continue this important training.

CHILE—Pastor Mario Gálvez is beginning to serve the congregation in Linares twice monthly in addition to serving his congregation in Santiago. This is the first time that the Linares congregation will have regular pastoral services since Missionary Tim Erickson returned to the United States. They are truly grateful. This fall, we hope to begin online seminary training for one or two Chilean men.

LATVIA—Work continues with a new evangelism and apologetics center in a historic part of Old Town Riga. Plans are underway for the Latvian pastors to begin the seminary training of two or three men.

CZECHIA—Instruction at Martin Luther School is underway. Pastor Petr Krakora may begin some important translation projects to prepare devotional materials for distribution to students and their parents.

UKRAINE—The counseling centers and medical clinics continue looking for new ways of offering their services. Plans are underway for upgrades and purchase of new equipment for the clinics.

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 to remain faithful in their homelands as they hear and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. May the Lord continue to care for them and strengthen their faith as he works all things for the good of his people, as he has promised.

Perhaps you can help provide for one of the needs described in this issue's articles. Please prayerfully consider a gift or regular donation for the work in the various fields. 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.

For more information please contact us at:

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