

September 2023

Mission News &

Helping Hands

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



From the Editor

Rev. Thomas Heyn
Board for World Outreach
Administrator

On one of our visits to Peru several years ago, we were joined by a man who was interested in the mission work we were doing in the Peru jungle. He discovered a great need for clean water in one of the villages and began thinking how he might help. Upon looking for people with experience in such projects, he discovered a woman with extensive experience in clean water projects in Peru. It eventually resulted in a water treatment project in the Shawi village of Louis Terry. The dedication of this project is the subject of this issue's main story. We hope you are blessed and edified by the possibilities and opportunities to bless God's people through such projects. Perhaps there is a project you can help with as well. We appreciate your prayers for the work in our world fields and your financial support that make this work possible.

"O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief" (Ps 143:1).



Peru

The Inauguration of Clean Water in the Community of Louis Terry

by Segundo Gutiérrez, President
Evangelical Lutheran Synod in Peru



One of the jungle communities benefiting from clean water in Peru is the community of Louis Terry. On July 12, the inauguration of delivery of water to this community took place. The people in charge of this great project, and the pastor of this community, German (pronounced Herman) Lancha, invited the president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Peru, Segundo Gutiérrez, and the treasurer, Andrés Robles, to participate in the inauguration of clean water in the Louis Terry community.

Thanks to the collaboration of strategic consultant, Samuel Schwan, this dream of the community came true. Thanks also to the team that worked hard so that this community can have clean water. Special thanks to Nancy Santullo, founder and Director of Rainforest Flow, and Caleb Matos Chávez, project supervisor.

In general, the communities of the jungle have a socioeconomic level of poverty. They lack water, electricity, and food. For

continued on the next page



Peru continued

this reason, there is malnutrition in the population, and due to the lack of clean water, they suffer from stomach infections and parasites. The Louis Terry community thanks God and everyone who has made it possible for this community to have clean water. We have been able to notice the great change that exists in this community. The clean water has not only brought improvement to their food preparation and personal hygiene, but we have been able to observe the joy and happiness reflected on their faces.

Thank God that this work has been able to be carried out in this community.

Editor's note

Within one month of installing the purification system in November 2022, the community of about 120 people experienced a 75% decrease in gastrointestinal infections. Each home now has a household sink with an underground drain. Village mothers and school children participate in ongoing health and hygiene classes.

On several occasions, people from nearby villages have come to see the project. When they visited, the pastor of Louis Terry has conducted a worship service. Upon hearing the Gospel message, some of them have remarked, "We would like to hear this message in our village." On one occasion, four people walked four hours to visit. On another occasion, several people walked two hours on footpaths to visit. This water project has not only brought physical water to Louis Terry, it has also resulted in bringing the Water of Life to visitors. We plan to follow up with these contacts to visit their villages and bring the Gospel to them. Praise God for his marvelous ways.



▲ consultant Samuel Schwan cuts the ribbon to inaugurate the clean water system



▲ Pastor Gierman Lancha leads worship

▲ guests at the reception



▲ traditional dance to celebrate the occasion



▲ clean water will mean healthier families and children



▲ a sand filter



▲ village lab station to monitor water quality



▲ laying pipes to conduct water



▲ the large bladder where bio-purification takes place

News From Other Mission Fields

Chile—Pastor Mario Gálvez serves two congregations about four hours apart. He visits Linares two to three days each week ending with Saturday worship, then drives back to Santiago for Sunday worship and pastoral work for four or five days. The training of one man for ministry continues through online instruction.

India—The pastors are continuing their work in reaching out to the villages. The leaders are teaching the final year of studies for the current class of seminary students who will graduate and be ordained in January. A new group of 18 to 20 students will start in June. *It costs about \$1,000 per year per student to provide seminary training. Perhaps you could support the training of one or two students.*

Several building projects are ready to be completed that will provide homes for worship and will help in the training of future workers.

Note

The above building projects require over \$160,000. One congregation recently gave \$80,000 for these projects as a “challenge gift”. Several gifts have come in to help with the challenge. Can you help provide for the remaining funds to complete these projects? Your gift of \$50, \$500, \$1,000 or more will help in this effort.

Korea—Seoul Lutheran Church hosted a successful triennial convention of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference the first week of June. Approximately 30 Lutheran church bodies from around the world—all of them in doctrinal agreement with the ELS—attended.

New outreach programs have started in the Anyang community, a city near the greater metropolis of Seoul. Pastor J.W. Kim is working with Pastor David Choi, his wife, Ashley, and Friends Network mission worker, Doug Tabor, to reach out to the community there through English language Bible studies and gathering in a coffee shop to practice English. They report many positive responses.

Pastor David Choi continues to explore ways to reach out to the Mandarin-speaking population in South Korea.

Australia—Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Brisbane, Australia, became an official field under the BWO at this year's synod convention in June. We look forward to working with them, not only in sharing the Gospel in their local area, but perhaps finding ways to share the Bible's message in other parts of this country and continent as well.

Latvia—A fourth man has now joined the other three in seminary studies. We look forward to more outreach opportunities in Latvia.

Czech Republic—The board continues to work in this field as it faces various challenges in sharing the Gospel.

Ukraine—Administrators Nick and Kerry Laper plan to return to Ukraine in late August. All counseling centers are open and providing services. The medical and dental mobile clinics offer their services in safe locations in western Ukraine. 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. The board is working with the Lapers in finding successor administrators when a transition becomes necessary in the future.

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 that often do not welcome the Gospel of Jesus Christ. 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, have many needs where God's people can provide much needed assistance. ***Some of those opportunities are mentioned above.*** 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.

For more information, please contact us in the following ways:

Board for World Outreach
6 Browns Court
Mankato MN 56001

website: els.org/our-work-together/world-outreach/

Rev. Thomas A. Heyn
Administrator
(608) 335-4612; theyn@blc.edu