

# July 2024 Mission News &

## Helping Hands

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

# Chile

## Worker Training in Chile

**“To Timothy, my true son in the faith. Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord” (1 Timothy 1:2).**

by Pastor Mario Gálvez  
Family of God Lutheran Church, Santiago, Chile

In our national church, the Confessional Lutheran Christian Synod in Chile, it is now five years since the last American missionary from the ELS left Chile. We are very grateful for his service. It has been a very eventful time, and we thank God for his great blessings by the Holy Spirit. Sadly, our enemy devoured some who were like fluctuating children and they were carried away by the wind of false doctrine without being able to grow into Christ our Lord who is the head of the kingdom of grace.

As a pastor, it is always a challenge to get people in general and even our members in particular, to understand the need to stay connected to the Word of God to remain spiritually alive. We need to attend services and reflect on Bible studies which provide us with the Word of God. It is the means by which the Holy Spirit works powerfully to protect us and strengthen us in faith—faith that allows us to believe in the saving work of Jesus which we proclaim with our mouth and believe in our hearts.

As a national church body, we have relied, first, on online courses taught from abroad for training laity and future pastors, especially at a higher level. This was our only option due to lack of time and resources. However, in our experience, having reflected on these courses, we have concluded that, although they

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**NOTE** Chile is a long, narrow country stretching along South America's western edge, with more than 6,000km of Pacific Ocean coastline. Santiago, its capital, sits in a valley surrounded by the Andes and Chilean Coast Range mountains.

## From the Editor

Rev. Thomas Heyn  
Board for World Outreach  
Administrator

As we find ourselves here at home in a slower time for the church in these summer months, world mission outreach continues in what are busy months of summer elsewhere. We hope you enjoy the article by Pastor Gálvez from Chile as he describes the challenges and the joys that he sees in the Santiago congregation, Familia de Dios (Family of God) Lutheran Church. We thank you for your interest in our ELS world mission outreach and your prayers and support that make it possible.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...”  
(Matt 28:19).



## Chile continued

**We have learned that delivering the Word face-to-face not only produces faith, but also creates the camaraderie essential in evangelistic and missionary work.**

prepare students academically, they do not always produce roots in the students and there is insufficient contact to get to know the students in depth, which affects the student's pastoral work, reflected in the lack of service and love towards his neighbors.

The development of the church, from the first days, teaches us that the relationship of the apostles with their first disciples and collaborators was very close: Paul in his relationship with Timothy, Titus, Silas, Barnabas and also Apollos. Peter with Mark, Silvanus and also John. They encourage us to conduct this kind of collaboration. This closeness created fidelity and deep friendship between collaborators, who thus communicated motivated by the truth that made them free. All of this was key to the expansion of the Christian church in the first centuries.

Since last year, and by the grace of God, motivated by his teachings in his Holy Word, we no longer only run Sunday school classes, but also classes for our adult members during the week, "layman doctrine" and seminary level classes. Through these studies, we have found strength and power in the Word of God, which has united us. I have found that, in the words of our students, they enjoy their learning with joy, which they say "produces peace and strength in our lives and the desire to relate and invite new participants, in love to the one who loved us first."

God is good and his mercy is forever. Last month, we enjoyed the first fruit of this renewed effort, calling a new worker for the work of the ministry in our national church. This servant of God, **Pedro Soto Núñez**, has begun officiating in our congregations of Santiago and Linares, serving in their Sunday worship. We are very happy for his interest and concern. It has made a difference with other very good students, but who have, until now, lacked pastoral interest, discipline and responsibility when working in our congregations.



Pedro with Pastor Mario

**We request your prayers, especially for our workers and for the growth of our national church, supported by the Word of God and its power.**

**We have learned that delivering the Word face-to-face not only produces faith, but also creates the camaraderie essential in evangelistic and missionary work.** It is not enough to simply deliver theory, but by sharing among brothers, pastoral practice occurs naturally and efficiently with the grace of God. We request your prayers, especially for our workers and for the growth of our national church, supported by the Word of God and its power. Blessings to each reader, rejoicing in the love of the Father. ■



Pedro at Unidos por La Fe in Linares ▲



Pastor Mario and Pedro at Familia de Dios in Santiago ▲



Pedro at Familia de Dios in Santiago ▲

## Special Seminary Opportunity

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WELS) made a generous offer for world theological educators to attend their Summer Quarter at the end of June. We have five men from three of our fields who attended. This was a wonderful opportunity for these educators to enhance their knowledge and expertise for teaching in their seminaries. The cost for travel and lodging was approximately \$2,000 per student. Can you possibly help with the cost for one of these students to attend? If so, please direct your gift as indicated at the end of this newsletter.

# NEWS

## From Other Mission Fields

**PERU** The Peruvian pastors continue their work with the Shawi pastors in the jungle churches. We look forward to further mission development in Cajamarca in the northern Andes. The third story addition to Martín Lutero School should be completed soon after experiencing some delays due to zoning issues.

**KOREA** Pastor David Choi began new mission outreach in the center of Seoul, Korea. Seventeen people attended. They also gather with Pastor Choi during the week for Bible class and English conversation class. Pastor David Choi recently attended a conference with other Southeast Asian pastors to discuss how to do additional outreach.

**INDIA** The pastors have started seminary training for a new cohort of about twenty students in June. Work at the schools and orphan homes is always ongoing.

**AUSTRALIA** Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Brisbane, Australia, continues the process of calling a pastor to come to Australia to lead their congregation.

**LATVIA** Seminary teaching continues with the four men enrolled in seminary studies. New outreach opportunities are being explored.

**CZECH REPUBLIC** The BWO continues to evaluate the status of St. Paul's congregation in Pilsen. Pastor Martin Vrsecký serves the congregation part-time while he manages and teaches religion at Martin Luther School. Petr Krakora, a former pastor of the congregation, has joined another church that is not in fellowship with St. Paul's congregation.

**UKRAINE** Administrators Nick and Kerry Laper will be returning to Ukraine. They will train a capable Ukrainian manager to oversee the work. 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

## You Can 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](http://els.org) and click on "Donate" in the top banner on the right-hand side. You may also scan the QR code to be taken to the donations page.

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

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