

September 2024

Mission News & Helping Hands

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

India

A Blessed Summer at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

by Rev. Kalyan K. Gollapalli, President
Lutheran Mission of Salvation - India

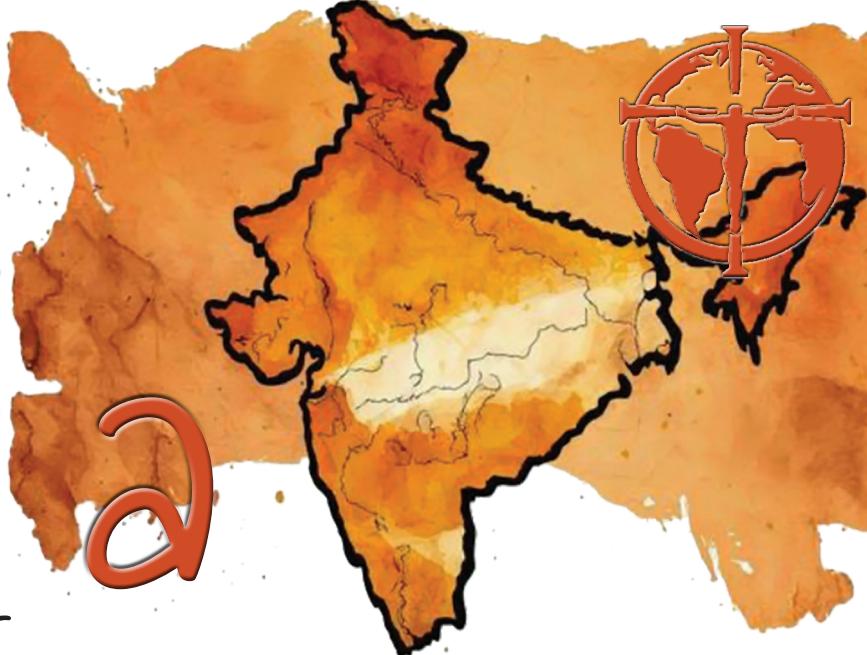
My time at the 2024 Summer Quarter at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS) was an experience that I will cherish. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to attend, and I wish to share some of my experiences during the Summer Quarter.

I enrolled in four one-credit courses.

1. *Congregational Organization and Management*: We learned practical tools and strategies for effectively managing and organizing a congregation. It emphasized the importance of leadership, communication, and administration in fostering a healthy and vibrant church community.
2. *Leading Teens and Young Adults*: We explored the unique challenges and opportunities associated with ministering to younger generations. This was particularly relevant given the growing need to engage youth in the church and equip them with a strong foundation in the faith.
3. *The Psalms*: Studying the Psalms was a spiritually enriching experience. The course emphasized that Christ is the sum and substance of the Psalms, which deepened my understanding of how these prayers and hymns point to Him. We studied several Psalms during the course, revealing their significance.
4. *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament*: This course enhanced our ability to preach Christ-centered sermons from the Old Testament and to show how the entire Scripture points to Christ and His redemptive work. It introduced me to some specific approaches to text study and analysis.

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Week Two
International
Educators



From the Editor

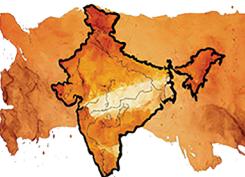
Rev. Thomas Heyn
Board for World Outreach
Administrator



Five pastors from our BWO world fields participated in the Summer Quarter studies at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary at the end of June. One of the Latvian men reported on their experiences in the recent Thoughts of Faith newsletter. In this issue, the two men from the Lutheran Mission of Salvation-India report on their experiences. It was a great opportunity for our ELS to sponsor these men. They will share the benefits of what they learned with their seminary students in India. We thank you for your prayers and offerings that enable our ELS Board for World Outreach to share the gospel with the people of many nations.

"The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2).





continued

The opportunity to study alongside fellow pastors and theological educators from diverse backgrounds was special. The exchange of ideas created an intellectual and spiritual learning environment. These courses have provided me with fresh insights and a deeper understanding of God's Word. I haven't experienced this since my graduation from Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary in 2010. The knowledge acquired, the experience gained, and the connections made are not only a great benefit to me, but I believe our seminary students in India will also benefit from them as I share my knowledge and experiences with them.

One of the highlights of my time at WLS was the opportunity to present a PowerPoint on the ELS mission work of LMSI in the WLS chapel to a gathering of professors, several WELS pastors, and their wives. It was a privilege to raise awareness of the challenges and triumphs of our mission efforts and to witness the interest and support of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

I was honored to take part in the Mission Festival at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Green Bay, WI. I had the privilege of preaching during the festival and presenting the work being done in the LMSI. It was a wonderful experience to meet the pastor's family and the congregation members and to take part in their festival feast. The warmth and hospitality extended to me by the congregation was truly heartening. I am especially thankful to Rev. Peter Heyn for providing me with this opportunity.

I would be remiss if I did not express my heartfelt gratitude to the anonymous donor who generously covered the tuition for international pastors attending the Summer Quarter. This act of kindness made it possible for us to participate in this invaluable program, and I am very grateful to be one of the beneficiaries.

Additionally, I am deeply thankful for all the care and support provided during our stay at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. From the daily chapel services that nourished our souls to the various get-together events that fostered fellowship and camaraderie. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the members who contributed to making the 2024 Summer Quarter a memorable experience.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude, especially to the BWO Administrator, Rev. Thomas Heyn, to the ELS Board for World Outreach (BWO), and to all those who supported my participation in the Summer Quarter. Your support, both financial and spiritual, enabled me to attend this program. Without your encouragement and support, it would not have been possible.

In conclusion, I am thankful for the opportunity to attend this enriching program and look forward to future opportunities to engage in such studies and fellowship. God bless His worldwide Kingdom work. ■



Week One International Educators ▲



Rev. Kalyan with Rev. Peter Heyn family ▲



LMSI presentation at WLS seminary ▲

Summer Quarter Reflections

by Rev. Simeon Samuel Mamidi, Pastor and Professor
Lutheran Mission of Salvation- Hyderabad

In the summer of 2024, God blessed me with an opportunity to go to Mequon, Wisconsin to attend the Summer Quarter at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. I am sincerely thankful to the BWO and to the ELS for this opportunity which I would never have if I had to do it at my own expense. I hereby express my gratitude and share with you how beneficial the program was for me as well as for the seminary program and the churches in the Lutheran Mission of Salvation Hyderabad.

Also, it was such a blessing to be able to visit the churches, meet the pastors of the Synod and present the work of the LMSH as well as to share the word of God with our brothers and sisters in Christ!

The courses were very interesting and profitable to study and enhance my knowledge in the Word. I am excited to use these studies in the seminary program in the Lutheran Seminary in India. This program is definitely a blessing for the Lutheran Seminary in India in both districts as it helps us to strengthen our curriculum by adding these courses to our seminary program.

While I was on the campus, studying through the five courses that I signed up for, I met many pastors of different age groups who came to the Summer Quarter to study God's Word. I had conversations with many of the pastors and professors. These conversations helped encourage and motivate us to carry on His work for His Kingdom.

Also, it was such a blessing to be able to visit the churches, meet the pastors of the Synod and present the work of the LMSH as well as to share the word of God with our brothers and sisters in Christ! It was great to get to know other pastors and to share experiences with each other about the administration of the church.

All this would not have been possible without your support and encouragement. Thank you for trusting me. I extend my sincere



Rev. Simeon with Rev. Paul Lange ▲



Rev. Simeon at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church ▲

thanks to the BWO, the Administrator, Rev. Thomas Heyn, the ELS, and to all who made this possible for me to attend and study these courses. I appreciate the many gifts given toward this program and I assure you that I am using this opportunity to grow in God's Word as well as to help our students in India to grow in knowledge and faith. ■

Thank you for your gifts

A donor made a generous offer to cover tuition expenses for world theological educators to attend the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Summer Quarter at the end of June. Five educators from our world fields attended. The cost to the BWO for travel and lodging was approximately \$2,000 per student. Although a significant portion of these expenses were covered, some expenses remain. If you could possibly help with remaining costs, please direct your gift as indicated at the end of this newsletter.

NEWS

From Other Mission Fields

CHILE—Pastor Mario Gálvez continues training workers for future expansion of the mission in Santiago. He recently attended a conference in San Antonio, Texas to discuss working with and using the WELS Academia Cristo program for additional outreach in Chile.

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. Worshipers also gather with Pastor Choi during the week for Bible class and English conversation class. We are sad to inform our readers that Hope Lutheran Church in Anyang closed, but we will continue to serve its members and utilize Rev. J.W. Kim, who retired from congregational ministry.

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 Vrsecky serves the congregation part-time while he manages and teaches religion at Martin Luther School.

UKRAINE—Administrators Nick and Kerry Laper returned to Ukraine. They have recruited a very capable Ukrainian administrator to succeed them in overseeing the work. You will learn more about him in the next issue of the Thoughts of Faith newsletter. 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 and click on "Donate" in the top banner on the right-hand side. Or 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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