

June 2012

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## New Home Mission Starts

In the spring of 2012 there were 15 requests for new starts / new ministry totaling just over \$800,000.00 with the BHM EC approving ministries of just over \$400,000.00. The approved requests are:

- 1 Lafayette IN - New Start
- 2 Laramie WY - New Start
- 3 Anchorage AK - Faith-Enhancement
- 4 Corona CA - East Riverside-Enhancement
- 5 Houston TX-Christ the Lord-Enhancement
- 6 Boulder CO - Peace-Enhancement
- 7 Appleton, WI-Bethany-Enhancement
- 8 Yakima WA-Grace—Enhancement
- 9 Milford IA-Shepherd of the Lakes-Enhancement

In addition to the above ministries, starting July 1, 2012, Home Missions will serve 17 Multi-Cultural Ministries, 7 ministries in the Establishment Phase, 27 ministries in the Development Phase, and 7 ministries in the Enhancement Phase. Assisting and serving with our district mission boards are Mission Counselors; Pastor Mark Birkholz, Pastor Peter Kruschel and Pastor Ed Shuppe. Home Mission's Hispanic Consultant is Pastor Tim Flunker.

## Home Mission Structure

At the September 2010 meeting the Board for Home Missions (BHM) went to a regional structure for two years. At the September 2012 BHM meeting, the BHM will evaluate whether the BHM continues with a regional approach for its structure. While each district mission board kept its form and function in its respective districts, district mission boards have been grouped together in regions to help facilitate training, to encourage accountability, and to assist in mission efforts. There are four regions; the East (Michigan, North Atlantic, Northern WI, Southeastern WI), the North (Dakota-Montana, Minnesota, Nebraska/Colorado, Western WI), the South (South Atlantic, South Central), and the West (Arizona-California, Pacific Northwest).

## Mission Promotions

As a church body, we have worked at sharing the ministry activity in World Missions. We haven't always been as consistent in doing that with Home Missions. Home and World Missions now have a person on staff who helps to promote Home and World mission activity.

Through the coordinating efforts of this staff person, we are hoping to make many more presentations to our church body about Home Missions. We will use District Mission Board members, mission pastors and others to make these presentations. If you have a date when you would like to have a "Mission Sunday" or a mission presentation, contact the Promotions Office at: [missionspromotions@wels.net](mailto:missionspromotions@wels.net). We will see what assistance can be offered.

## Mr. Mel Shuler Retires

On June 30th Mr. Mel Schuler will officially retire as Director of Mission Operations. For over 11 years Mel has been serving Missions, first Home Missions and then in 2008 serving both Home and World Missions. He has worked with the staffs of Home and World missions and the two staffs are now combined as the Missions Staff. He has helped tremendously on the financial end and has served well in many ways. On April 26, at the Synod Administration Building, there was a service of thanks to the Lord for his 11 years of ministry. Son, Pastor Paul Schuler, conducted the Service. Words of appreciation and a breakfast meal followed. We ask the Lord's blessings on Mel and wife Shirley during his retirement years.

## Hispanic Ministry

The BHM Hispanic Outreach Consultants (HOC), Pastor Tim Flunker, serves the WELS as a Mission Counselor to the missions doing Spanish work under the auspices of the BHM; as a consultant to the PSI program at WLS; and as a consultant to established congregations who see the opportunity and express the desire to do outreach among Hispanics.

By the grace of God, 16 locations in the USA offer weekly Spanish worship services with an average attendance of over 1500 per weekend. The BHM mission in Antigua also offers a Hispanic worship service. There are also 12 other places which offer weekly Bible classes in Spanish, taught by the bilingual pastor or by a bilingual lay leader. Besides those efforts, there are over 75 locations doing the initial outreach to the Hispanic through community events or regularly scheduled ESL classes. The HOC serves each and every one of these locations with advice, direct counsel and assistance as needed.

The HOC also assists the WELS by helping train native Spanish-speakers in their own congregations so that they are able to assist the pastor in serving the members and/or prospects who speak Spanish. An extensive curriculum is being developed to help guide native speakers into areas of elder work, evangelism and teaching. Should an individual desire to continue his education to perhaps become ordained and serve the WELS full-time, the HOC consults with the Pastoral Study Institute (PSI) program at Seminary to help identify, teach and maintain accountability with those individuals and congregations.

The HOC also can help new congregations begin outreach efforts to Hispanics in their neighborhood. In the past fiscal year, 7 new places started or received direction from the HOC to help them start Hispanic outreach. The majority of these places receive no direct fiscal subsidy from the BHM except for providing the HOC to assist the congregations. The overall philosophy for reaching out to Hispanics in the USA is found on the WELS website at the Home Missions site.

## Hmong Ministry

In July 2011 the BHM EC made the decision to support Hmong and Asian ministry through the Hmong Asian Committee (HAC). This committee is comprised of Pastor Bob Edwards, Pastor Bounkeo Lor, Pastor Pheng Moua and Pastor Dan Solofra. Pastor Keith Free, Home Mission Administrator, serves as chairman of HAC. Since the BHM EC decision, Pastor Free has been able to visit all the Hmong ministry sites. To some extent, he has been learning about the culture, philosophy and workings of Hmong ministry. Through its work, the HAC has been a valuable asset in supporting Hmong ministry.

## Campus Ministry

The WELS Campus Ministry Committee (CMC) is an eight-member committee of laymen and pastors that serves under the Board for Home Missions. The CMC exists to assist congregations in ministering to college students and other young adults with the Means of Grace so that they may grow in the faith, be trained for service in Christ's kingdom and reach out to the lost of this world.

The sheer numbers indicate that vast majority of WELS high school graduates will not attend Bethany Lutheran, Wisconsin Lutheran or Martin Luther College. Instead they will enroll in some other institution of higher learning. To help serve the spiritual needs of those students the CMC has identified nearly 400 pastors as campus ministry contacts (cf. WELS yearbook). Our Synod strives to maintain an updated database of college students. There are typically over 8,000 names in that database. It is imperative for each congregation to regularly submit new names and update the current students on that list. For that reason the lists are mailed out to WELS/ELS congregations twice a year.

Please consider finding someone in your congregation to contact all the college age students in your congregation each year to find out their educational plans for the fall. Contact information for college students should then be sent to Karen Marshall (WELS Campus Ministry Committee Secretary) [cm@sab.wels.net](mailto:cm@sab.wels.net) or (414) 256-3279 or fax to 414-256-6480 or mail: 2929 N. Mayfair Road, Milwaukee, WI 53222. Or visit the Campus Ministry website at: [www.wels.net/campus-ministry](http://www.wels.net/campus-ministry). Contact Karen if you have questions about campus ministry.

While college students are away at school we encourage local congregation to continue regular contact with them. Please consider sending your college students your congregational newsletters, a care package and/or bulletins. Arrangements can also be made through the CMC to send students the Meditations and Forward in Christ during the school year for free. Six times each year the Forward in Christ features a column called Campus Cornerstone which is geared for college students.

## Minnesota Missions

The following ministries in our District are supported by Home Missions:

- Apostles', Dardenne Prairie MO - Development Phase
- Immanuel Hmong, St. Paul MN - Development Phase
- Life Lutheran, Rochester MN - Mission Establishment Phase of a second site for Resurrection Lutheran
- Shepherd of the Lakes, Milford IA. Mission Enhancement