

# WORLD MISSIONS

## WELS MISSIONS OVERVIEW 2016

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**CAMEROON:** The Cameroon mission field is working to develop financial programs to encourage independence for the Lutheran Church of Cameroon (LCC) as well as putting considerable effort towards the development of a sustainable worker training program, with hopes that the LCC will be able to continue the work with less support. A major piece of that puzzle is the acceptance of national pastor Israel of a call to teach at our worker training program.

**MALAWI:** The Malawi field has been focusing on strategic planning, working with the Lutheran Church of Central Africa (LCCA) to form a clearly defined program for LCCA ministry. In April 2016, the Malawi mission team met with representatives from the WELS Board for World Missions, the Administrative Committee for Africa, and all WELS missionaries in Africa to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of ministries and to plan future work.

**NIGERIA:** In Nigeria, All Saints Lutheran Church and Christ the King Lutheran Church Synods continue their faithful work and their fruitful fellowship with one another, with WELS, and with the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference. Forty men are studying to qualify for pre-seminary enrollment. The Lord's work in Nigeria currently offers many opportunities that are a financial challenge for the

Nigerian Lutheran Church, even though it has been blessed with unexpected gifts and donations.

**ZAMBIA:** Seminary programs are making good progress in training and standardizing methodology.

**INDONESIA:** Gereja Lutheran Indonesia (GLI) continues to proclaim the gospel in six major geographical regions of the country. Plans are being made to build a new multipurpose facility for worker training, publications, and administrative offices. The Asia Pacific Rim administrative committee of WELS and Kingdom Workers has partnered with GLI to plan and implement the building of the first GLI Lutheran Elementary school. Opportunities for outreach are numerous.

**THAILAND:** Mission starts in the Hill Tribe villages are meeting with success as national pastors reach out with the gospel. The church in Thailand is growing closer to realizing a constitution and organizational structure for a national church body.

**PHILIPPINES:** The native Philippine missionary serves a small flock of faithful believers in a suburb of Manila. They are using videos and printed materials from Multi-Language Publications (MLP) to reach out to the unchurched in their community and looking to begin ministering to prospects in outlying areas. A special focus is on early childhood ministry.



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**EAST ASIA:** In East Asia, five missionaries are training new believers and support 52 lay missionaries whose 300-plus students meet weekly around God's word in Bible classes. More than 50 students receive training through Christian Studies Institute classes, and over 150 students study online weekly with a WELS Chinese pastor based in the United States. Six churches have been started by local leaders, and five other groups are organizing into churches. In Hong Kong, new believers are being trained to serve in churches throughout East Asia. Asia Lutheran Seminary professors serve more than 80 students, 16 of which study full-time at the Asia Lutheran satellite seminary. Missionaries help strengthen fellowship ties with the Hong Kong-based church, Salem, and the church in Taiwan. WELS Multi-Language Publications provides Chinese Lutheran materials, which are being distributed through bookstores, e-book platforms, and online social networks.

**ALBANIA:** The national pastors continue to reach out with the gospel to give hope to needy souls in this poor Eastern European country. Plans are underway to celebrate the mission field's 20th anniversary in 2016. The new seminary student (the son of a national pastor) has completed the first level of studies and has begun the second. The Durres congregation has maxed out their storefront space with 80-90 in worship on a weekend.

**INDIA:** Despite a 20-month single vacancy and four-month double vacancy, the CELM seminary continues to train 42 men for the public ministry and continues to offer continuing education to our 45 graduates on a regular basis. The field has an active translation and publications program in addition to building one to two new chapels every year on a self-help basis. WELS Christian Aid and Relief annually funds humanitarian aid (well digging and medical supplies) to show Christian love. Seven children's homes care for the physical and spiritual needs of 205 children, and one

elementary school offers instruction in God's word to 220 children—all outside the WELS budget.

**NEPAL:** In Nepal, only one half of one percent of the people are Christian. In spite of the small percentage of Christians, the mission in Nepal is being blessed by God in extraordinary ways. For the past seven years, more than 100 leaders of the church gather for seven to 10 days to attend workshops every spring and fall. In the morning, they study the Bible. In the afternoon, they practice teaching what they learned in the morning. Seventeen workshops have been conducted.

**PAKISTAN:** More than 47,000 people have been enrolled in the Bible correspondence and teaching school. In spite of the threat of persecution, the gospel is being shared boldly. 10,000 copies of *The Promise* have been published in Pashtu – the language of the northwest tribal region of Pakistan. The *Kuske Catechism* has been translated into Urdu and *The Promise* into Punjabi, a third language of Pakistan. The Sunday school ministry cares for 840 children. 175 children who are among the poorest of the poor attend seven "non-formal schools" after working in the fields all day to learn the stories of the Bible and how to read and write in Urdu and English as well as other subjects. Recently a television broadcast to the Muslim world was begun. Humanitarian efforts in free medical clinics and midwife training classes open many hearts and minds to the love of Christ.

**APACHELAND:** Five Apache men are now serving the churches and various ministries as pastors and evangelists. A long-range plan for Native American ministry is being discussed by the leaders of the ministries with the goal to continue to preach the gospel, serve the people, and grow the ministries on the Apache reservations. Blessings are abundant at both Peridot and East Fork schools as enrollments are on the rise, and the high school is looking forward to adding grade ten.

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