

CROSS TALK-CM



MISSION NEWS
FROM CHRIST MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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CMLC Special Mission Projects

Christ Memorial supports many and various mission projects through out the year. As our recent Special Mission Weekend so wonderfully pointed out, the opportunities for you to

become involved range from financial support, prayer support, participation in mission activities in St. Louis, and joining with other CMLC members in a trip to interest-

ing places around the globe to spread the love of Jesus Christ throughout the world. This edition of Cross Talk will update you regarding a few of these mission opportunities .

God's Word of Life and Multilingual Education— by CMLC supported missionaries

As education specialists, we work with people in the minority communities of Asia and Africa who have traditionally been “left out” of government education systems. The task is to help develop programs that enable minority children to start school in a language they speak and understand—their mother tongue—and then, with that foundation, to learn the national language and often an international language as well. What does that have to do with Bible translation and the Word of Life? Actually, quite a lot! If we can be permitted to paraphrase Romans 10:13-15: “For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ But how can they call on his name if they don’t know about him? And how can they know about the Lord if they don’t have a Bible in a language they understand? And how can they have a Bible if their language hasn’t been put into written form? And what good is the written language

if no one can read it? And what better place to learn to read and write your mother tongue than in school?” Imagine this: a Christian family has devotions every evening. For many years, they used a version of the Bible in the national trade language. Now they have the Bible in their own language. The grandchildren in the family are attending a mother tongue education primary school and have learned to read and write their home language as well as national language. Now, as the time for evening devotions nears, they come to sit with their grandparents. The grandmother picks up the Bible and gives it to one of the grandchildren. She tells the child which verses to read. As the child reads, the family listens quietly as the Lord speaks to their hearts. (This real life experience was recounted to us by a Christian friend and educator in Papua New Guinea.) That story, and others like it,



continues to motivate us as we struggle with the challenges of supporting efforts to bring relevant education to marginalized people in the remote areas of the world. In 2009, the task took us to the far reaches of the globe. 2010 will hold more of the same!

Stephanie Roegner in Taiwan

Stephanie Roegner serves the Lord as a missionary in Taiwan, where she works as an English teacher at Concordia English Language Academy elementary school. She teaches not only English, but also God’s great love for the students. In the last few months, many of the missionaries and students have been impacted by a powerful typhoon and the H1N1 virus! Pray for Stephanie, the impact of God’s love in Taiwan through her work, and her funding needs, which are great. You can see more about Stephanie’s work in Taiwan at www.lcms.org/internal.asp?NavID=11843.

WHO RECEIVES “SPECIAL MISSION PROJECT” MONEY from CM?

- MISSIONARIES DOING LITERACY WORK IN ASIA
- SOCIOLINGUISTIC CONSULTANT, CURRENTLY FOCUSED ON ASIA
- MISSIONARY AND TEACHER IN TAIWAN
- APPLE OF HIS EYE MISSION WORK TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY
- CHRISTIANS FRIENDS OF NEW AMERICANS OUTREACH TO IMMIGRANTS IN THE ST. LOUIS AREA
- YOUNG LIFE IN GERMANY
- PAPUA NEW GUINEA LITERACY BIBLE TRANSLATION
- SPANISH STANLEY, CONCORDIA SEMINARY STUDENT FROM INDIA



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Christian Friends of New Americans



There are over 100,000 immigrants and refugees living in the greater St. Louis area, and the vast

majority of these do not have a church home. These immigrants and refugees remain almost invisible, as they usually seek to “fly below the radar screen” for a variety of reasons. Unless deliberate attempts are made to reach out to these people, contact will be incidental at best.

CFNA focuses its ministry on outreach to this community through programs such as scholarship assistance, employment assistance, health education, a variety of sports activities, after school tutoring and VBS, as well as ESL and Citizenship classes. Recently CFNA enlisted the services of a missionary

(Rev. Adefris Mekasha) to provide leadership required for the spiritual nurturing of these people including devotions, and Bible classes.

Please pray for CFNA’s ministry and consider volunteering your time to help the many immigrants and refugees in our midst. Visit CFNA at www.cfna-stl.org.

Standing in Two Worlds - Pastor Bill and Gail’s Sabbatical to Alaska

by Pastor Bill Simmons



Fort Yukon is located at the northernmost bend in the Yukon River, eight miles above the Arctic Circle. The Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich’in Tribe of the Kutchin Athabascan people are the indigenous resi-

dents of Fort Yukon. They maintain much of their native culture while at the same time embracing aspects of western culture. I describe them as a people living in two worlds. They rely on salmon and moose as staples for their diet, yet they drive ATV’s and watch cable television. They encourage a “subsistence” (traditional) way of life, yet many of the young people leave

the community for Fairbanks and beyond in search of a job and a future. They live with feet in both worlds. Perhaps Fort Yukon is a picture of the dual citizenship that we have as Christians. As Christians we remember that this world is not our final destination, that we are also citizens of another country. “You do not belong to the world,” Jesus says. “I have chosen you out of the world.” Gail and I grew in

awe as we saw God’s handiwork in some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. And we have grown in faith as we saw the Holy Spirit working in the lives of people who were very different from us in culture yet similar to us in their faith in the Lord Jesus. And that common faith bridged our differences and allowed us to part as friends in Christ.

CMLC Small Groups in Mission (“SGiM”)

The Christ Memorial SGiM emphasizes involvement of our small group ministry in relational and community-building through service and sharing the Gospel. SGiM has been working hard on a number of projects:

Lift for Life Gym – On the third Tuesday of each month, a meal is prepared at CMLC and is transported to Lift for Life Gym for 60-80 hungry children. The Gym, located

downtown, is a safe place for kids who are living in the city. Many of the children would not have a nutritious meal if not for the gym’s meal program. An ongoing connection is developing with this community. We pray that the Holy Spirit will provide opportunities for sharing Christ’s love with these children and their families

Send Me St. Louis – This organization’s mission is to grow Christ-centered volunteerism in the St. Louis com-

munity. Send Me actively seeks to connect volunteers with organizations addressing community needs. Send Me has a day of volunteerism scheduled on February 20th. Please consider volunteering! **“Kiss South County.”** Please keep February 13th in mind as CMLC and SGiM undertake a simple project in which we will share a few Hershey kisses, the love of Christ, and information about CMLC with those we meet in the South

County area. All are welcome and encouraged to join us!

Other ongoing SGiM outreach projects include:

- CFNA (see above)
- Nurses for Newborns
- Ride On St. Louis
- The Good News! Connection in the College Hill area of St. Louis.

For more information on SGiM or the Small Group ministry, contact Kristi Roegner or Rev. David Vaughn through the church office.