

June 2008 Pray For Us

Seminary Graduation—*The LCMS has two seminaries, Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., and Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. Each year, fourth-year students graduate and begin serving at their first calls.*

Remember the seminary graduates as you pray:

1. with thanksgiving for all of the students finishing their studies at both seminaries and beginning to serve congregations and ministries across the United States—may they see their new congregation's community as a field ripe for the Lord's harvest.
2. that all new pastors would see their congregations as a mission outpost, providing the true light of Gospel truth to a broken world in need of a Savior.
3. for congregations, as they prepare to receive their newly graduated pastors—that they would have hearts full of love and patience as they work together to share the Jesus' love.
4. for the seminary graduates who completed the Center for U.S. Missions' Church Planting Assessment Center prior to graduating and who are serving as church planters in their first call.
5. that the newly graduated deaconesses who work with underserved segments of the population would be given many opportunities to share Christ's love.
6. that new pastors would be empowered by the Holy Spirit to effectively train their congregation's members in sharing the Gospel with the unreached or uncommitted people in their lives.
7. for the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology and the Center for Hispanic Studies at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, as they strive to equip leaders for cross-cultural ministry in the United States' ever-changing cultural context.

2008 Missionary Orientation—*Each June, LCMS World Mission holds orientation to equip new long-term and career missionaries with the knowledge and tools they need to serve the Lord around the world.*

Remember missionary orientation as you pray:

8. for the logistical details of orientation as it's held at Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn., such as room assignments, scheduling, guest speakers, and travel. When these go smoothly, missionaries and staff can more easily focus on orientation's fellowship, Bible study, and practical training.
9. that the new missionaries and LCMS World Mission staff would be blessed with positive fellowship and that meaningful relationships would be formed, even in the short time they are together, so that they can continue to serve each other well when missionaries arrive on the field.

10. that during orientation, the new missionaries would be encouraged and assured by the Holy Spirit of His call to proclaim the Gospel in other countries.

11. that the missionaries would be able to take in and retain the practical knowledge shared at orientation and all the necessary paperwork would be smoothly taken care of in preparation for their international service.

12. for the second week of training for career missionaries. As they prepare for service durations of several years or more, may God provide the information and advice needed to serve Him and others as Christ served when He was on earth.

13. for the second week of specialized English-as-a-Foreign-Language training, which is essential instruction for the many long-term missionaries who work as English teachers in their fields of service.

14. that God would share His wisdom and knowledge with the new missionaries through the orientation facilitators, Bible study leaders, teachers, and LCMS World Mission staff who contribute to the missionaries' training.

India—India was the first foreign mission field to receive LCMS missionaries, in 1895. In 2008, the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC) celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Remember India as you pray:

15. for Concordia Seminary, Nagercoil, and its new principal, faculty, and Bachelor of Divinity (BD) students—that they will be “filled with the knowledge and fear of the Lord.” The seminary is upgrading its program to the BD-level after 78 years. College graduates of the church can then study the confessional Lutheran tradition, instead of studying at ecumenical seminaries.

16. for the 28 young men and women who are now in the second year of their three-year probation period before ordination/consecration, serving in totally unchurched areas. They face considerable opposition and danger in the Lord's service.

17. for the many new congregations that God is raising up through the work of the probationers-as-church planters, pastors, evangelists, and lay evangelists. These new believers face a great deal of pressure to reconvert.

18. for the pastors and deaconesses of the IELC as they gather for their annual refresher course June 18-20 at the seminary. May the theme of “The Mission of God” equip them for the great *Ablaze!* challenge to which they have committed themselves—reaching 25 million new souls with the Gospel by 2017.

19. for the pastors, deaconesses, LCMS representatives, and leaders from the 400 congregations of the church gathered today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the IELC as a separate church body—that the event will affirm their confessional Lutheran heritage and revitalize them for their mission calling.

20. with thanksgiving for the mission societies (Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Jesus Is Lord Mission Society, India Mission Society) that are helping the IELC purchase sites and provide roofs for incomplete chapels. By the power of God's Spirit, congregations are growing out of their old facilities and many new congregations are forming.

21. with thanks for the *Fan into Flame* campaign, which has provided upgrades for Concordia Seminary, Nagercoil, facilities for the BD program. Much more needs to be done (men's hostel, library books, faculty housing, roads, chapel, etc.), and God will provide.

22. for the IELC's three hospitals and six institutions for the handicapped. These are a great service to the nation of India and highly acclaimed by all. The recipients of these ministries receive regular chaplaincy services of worship and prayer and Bible study. Pray that these testimonies of God's love and these ministries of His Word will work powerfully in people's hearts.

23. for the IELC's 82 schools, serving about 4,000 children. Dr. Marlin Schulz has served as the education consultant for the school project to rebuild the old structures and train the teachers. Remember Dr. Schulz and other education workers in the schools.

24. in thanksgiving for the efforts of Wheat Ridge Ministries to provide self-support for the widows of the IELC. Every congregation has 10 to 20 widows, many of them with school-age children. The program is aimed at these young widows to provide income (through cows, goats, or sheep) so they can keep their children in school.

25. for LCMS long-term missionaries David and Beth Hoepfner, who work as education consultants in the IELC school system.

26. with praise as His Spirit raises up 30 young women and men from the congregations in urban Mumbai to train as church planters over the next two years. These enthusiastic youth train on weekday evenings and weekends when they are off work—may their zeal for outreach remain strong.

27. for Rev. J. Samuel, the newly-elected IELC president, and for all the newly elected officials—may they continue to lead His people in harmony and zeal in their mission calling. The church has suffered from a lack of stable administration for many years.

28. for the IELC's 25 deaconesses reaching out to the women of India, many of them serving without any salary. Pray that God would raise up more young women for this ministry and bless efforts to establish an IELC Deaconess Association in partnership with the LCMS Deaconess Association.

29. for Rev. Dr. Herb Hoefler, the LCMS area director for India and Sri Lanka, as he seeks to provide support and vision for God's people. Pray for continued health and protection as he travels around South Asia each January and February and for continued guidance in his ministry as missions chair at Concordia University, Portland, Ore.

30. that pastors and laypeople of the IELC would continue to be *Ablaze!* with God's love and that the Holy Spirit would continue to work through them in bringing the Gospel to India's people.