

Dear society presidents,

I have had a request for the script of the Mission Grant presentation given to explain the Mission Grants adopted by the 2008 LWML Nebraska District South convention. This person was going to use these explanations one at a time in her church bulletins or newsletter during the next biennium to urge the congregation to pray for these projects and to give mites to support them. They could also be read as part of mite dedications at LWML meetings. I felt this was an excellent idea and I encourage your society to use them also. Gail Otten, past VP of Gospel Outreach

### **2008-2010 Mission Grants summaries**

**\$30,000 in Scholarships** for Nebraska District South students that are enrolled in a LCMS college or seminary and are going into full-time professional church work. This provides \$250 per semester for the Spring 2009 semester through the Fall 2010 semester for up to 30 students.

#### **\$7,200 for a Slovakia Family Center.**

In the second largest city in Slovakia, there are thousands of families and young people that do not know about Jesus. We can best reach them by the creation of a "Family Center". Here we can have a kindergarten, a library, a center for mothers and children. It is a way we can bring love, and social assistance to families and individuals. Complete costs for establishing this center are only \$7200. The LWML would provide funding for the entire project of a "Family Center" to assist in bringing Jesus to some of the poor mothers and children in Slovakia.

#### **\$4,800 for a school in India.**

Rev. Herb Hoefler, veteran LCMS missionary has opened a special Mission Outreach in India that builds schools in several locations at the amazingly low cost of \$5,000 each. These schools have a Christian Curriculum and these "Jesus Schools" have brought many of the poorest of the poor to know about their Savior. LCMS does not have enough pastors and leaders to go to these remote areas. Through the Christian teachers in these schools, many children hear about Jesus for the first time. This grant would provide funding to completely build one school for the children of India, to bring them to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

#### **\$7,500 for Themba Girls High School in South Africa.**

"Themba" means "hope" in the Zulu, the predominant South African tribe served by the Themba Trust foundation. The Themba Trust is a non-government organization that operates high schools and other youth development programs to serve South Africa's rural poor. Many South African children lose their parents to HIV/AIDS and thus have little hope for education. The Themba residential high schools are giving hope for a new life through faith in Christ. This LWML grant would provide scholarship funds for three girls to attend the Siyathemba Girl's High School, where they are educated in Lutheran theology with an emphasis on Gospel proclamation and church service to the community. They also receive training in agricultural technology, vocational/technical training and home economics. This funding would include tuition, text books and other academic supplies, room and board, uniforms and shoes for these girls.

#### **\$7,500 for computers for Lutheran Bible Translators.**

LBT is the only Lutheran organization whose purpose is to help bring people to faith in Jesus Christ by making the Word of God available to them in the language they most easily comprehend. LBT is opening new Scripture translation projects around the world. Each new translation team will need computers to advance their work. Computers enable the translation work to be completed at a quicker pace and more people will have the Good News of the Gospel sooner. The funding provided by this grant will provide three computers, external hard drives and software packages to these translation teams.

#### **\$6500 for Team China**

Macau is a port city on a tiny peninsula of southeast China. It is a crowded city with 26,200 people per square mile. More than 33% of the people follow one of the many Chinese folk religions, but these practices are largely culturally conditioned and lack a strong sense of personal commitment. 60% claim no religion. LCMS began work in Macau in 1988. A church-planting team made up of career missionaries, who design curriculum and supervise several long and short term volunteer missionary teachers, established Concordia English Center. The center uses a combination of English-as-a-second language teaching, small-group Bible studies and various fellowship activities to gather and evangelize both Cantonese residents of Macau and Mandarin-speaking migrant workers from the People's Republic of China. This grant would support the outreach ministry of the missionaries in Macau, reaching hundreds of people with the Gospel message.

#### **\$5,000 for Lutheran Blind Mission.**

In the United States alone there are 12 million blind and visually impaired children and adults. 95% of them are un-churched. Lutheran Blind Mission seeks to reach them for Jesus by preparing Christian Materials in Braille, Large-print

and Audio cassette. Lutheran Blind Mission has a work center at the LCMS Nebraska District Office in Seward, NE. This work center produces over 5,500 copies of the Lutheran Witness in large print each year. This grant would purchase supplies of paper, spines and envelopes for the work center in Seward and other work centers around the United States that produce large-type materials for the visually impaired, so that they too can see Jesus.

**\$9,000 for Church Planter Training in Nebraska.**

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod set a goal at it's 2007 convention to plant at least 2,000 new churches by 2017. The past year the Nebraska District LCMS partnered with congregations to plant three Anglo churches in Columbus, Lincoln and Seward as well as three Hispanic plants in Omaha, Crete and North Platte and a Sudanese plant in Grand Island. At this time, the Nebraska District is partnering with congregations to explore Anglo church plants in Elm Creek, Sutherland and Omaha, Hispanic plants in Lincoln and the Hwy. 30 corridor of Columbus, Schuyler and Fremont and an Asian plant in Lincoln. As the District plants churches, one of the greatest needs is to train church planters. The LCMS is offering training through the Center for U.S. Missions and the seminaries various programs. This grant would allow LWML District South to partner with the Nebraska District LCMS to cover the cost to train church planters. New Anglo and ethnic church plants will allow more people to hear the Word of God and eventually new LWML societies may be formed.

**\$5,000 for the Children's Ministry of Word of Life Lutheran Church in Lincoln.**

A new mission church called Word of Life Lutheran Church is being planted this year in Northwest Lincoln. The first service was held September 28th. The church will meet at the Fallbrook Educational site, which is the new satellite campus of Concordia University in Lincoln. Dr. Larry Oetting was accepted into the DELTO program three years ago with the understanding that, God willing, he would lead a new mission plant in this area. St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Malcolm is the mother church of this new mission church. This grant will be used to initiate and support a Children's Ministry at Word of Life. This ministry will eventually include a Sunday School, mid-week session and a Vacation Bible School. There are many non-churched families with children living in this area. Plans for the children's program are to involve Concordia students in their instruction. This grant will increase the effectiveness of this mission for children of that area.

**\$7500 for Outreach to the Un-churched by Family Shield Ministries, St. Louis.**

Family Shield Ministries sponsors a weekly hour-long live radio program heard each week over KFUE, the radio station owned by the LCMS, and over 11 stations heard in 9 states. This includes KNGN in McCook, NE. The program addresses family life, apologetics and spiritual growth. Other services include educational programs, print resources, family outreach and a cult ministry. Family Shield Ministries receives calls for assistance each week from persons who have heard their radio program. Each year they hear from over 300 un-churched individuals. They seek to build positive relationships with them as well as helping Christians learn to share their faith with others. This grant would help fund the part-time position of a Missionary-at-Large/Evangelist, who would work with the ministry in the St. Louis area as a pastor to the un-churched, who contact the radio program wanting help, support and resources of family issues. He would also be involved with recruiting and training volunteers interested in assisting Family Shield Ministries in outreach efforts at partner ministries and special events. Results of this kind of outreach to the un-churched will, God willing, result in persons who are not connected to Christ or a Christian congregation to be led to an appropriate congregation, when they can grow in their faith.