

Asia in Mission

Easter Greetings from the Lutheran Church in Korea

"After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.'" (Matthew 28:1-6)

Just as the women set off to the tomb early that Sunday morning, the Lutheran Church in Korea celebrates the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ by joining the early morning Easter service at 5 o'clock. By worshipping the Risen Lord, we proclaim our traditional faith, bearing witness not only among the many other church bodies of Korea, but to the many non-Christians in our country. The message of our resurrection faith is broadcast across the country as we rejoice in the words of the angel: "He is not here; he has risen, just as He said" (Matthew 28:6).

May you enjoy a happy and holy Easter!

Rev. Dr. Hyun Sub Um

President, Lutheran Church in Korea



Rev. Dr. Hyun Sub Um

Japan

Easter: A Time of New Beginnings

The joy of Easter shines in Asia! With each spring (February – March) new graduates are finishing their studies and seminarians are receiving calls. The Japan Lutheran Church (or Nihon Ruteru Kyodan— NRK) is still aglow with the recent graduation of Seminarian Tomhiro Fujiki. On March 10, Mr. Fujiki was recognized in a special worship service and ceremony held at the NRK congregation Tokyo Center Church for having completed his seminary instruction. He has already received a call as pastor to Roppongi Lutheran Church and is scheduled to be ordained and installed on April 7. The sermon for the worship service, which was on Exodus 3:1–5, was deliv-

ered by Rev. Shin Shimuzu, NRK president Yutaka Kumei, the Chairman of the NRK Theological Education Committee. In addition to faculty of the NRK theological training program, in attendance were Mr. Fujiki's parents, Japan Lutheran College president Kazuhiro Ichikawa, Japan Lutheran Theological Seminary president Naozumi Eto, and college/seminary professor emeritus Chizuo

Shibata.

Mr. Fujiki's journey of faith began February of 2004 at one of the smallest congre-

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Seminarian Fujiki (center) with staff from the NRK Theological Institute. L-R: Rev. Jonathan Blanke, Director Mamoru Saito, Seminarian Tomohiro Fujiki, Shin Shimizu (NRK Theological Education Committee Chairman), and Rev. Shinri Emoto

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Korea

Luther University Graduates a Record 119 Students!

The Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK) celebrated a record 119 graduates from Luther University (LTU) this spring. On February 15, 2013, these bachelor and master students from LTU graduated

in the 2012 Graduation Ceremony at LTU's Chapel. Founded in 1966 by the Lutheran Church in Korea, Luther University was established for the theological education of its pastors. Today LTU has a total of six departments for Bachelor studies (Theology, Counseling, English, Performing Arts, Social

Welfare, and Speech-Language Pathology) and three Graduate Schools (Theology, Social Welfare, and Speech-Language Pathology). Pastors and professional church workers continue to be formed and equipped for ministry in the LCK.

Vietnam

On March 6, 2013 the Vietnam Business Forum published an article highlighting the achievements of the Hanoi-based LCMS school. The article is excerpted below with permission.

Concordia Hanoi: Creating a New Identity for Vietnam's Education & Training Sector

The achievement is pretty spectacular, especially considering that Concordia International School Hanoi was founded only two years ago. In the last decade, the Vietnamese economy has been booming, attracting foreign investors and international companies toting foreign managers with families. Other international schools in Hanoi were at full capacity and turning away students, which led to high-level managers not relocating their families to Vietnam, and

those companies having to restart the head hunting process. Hanoi was in dire need of quality international educational institutions.

Since its opening, Concordia Hanoi was meant to not only serve the expatriate families that would live and work in Hanoi, but also the growing number of Vietnamese families looking for an international education and have their children matriculate to overseas universities. Just this March, Concordia accepted its first Vietnamese student into its Middle School, opening up the educational possibilities to qualified local students.

A unique characteristic of Concordia is the close-knit community within the school. Community is one of Concordia's key values and something that the school put a great deal of



Current students at Concordia International School Hanoi

effort in working towards. To date, the administration at Concordia has successfully brought both international and local schools to-

gether to collaborate on many levels. Concordia's Athletic Director, Patrick Frerking, in conjunction
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Japan

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gations of the NRK, Ikegami Lutheran Church, which happened to be located near his home. In April of that year he matriculated to Japan Lutheran College. In October of 2004 he was baptized. With the encouragement of Christian friends and church members he entered the seminary at the completion of his college course of study, in 2008. Last year he delivered a message at one of the Japan Lutheran College chapel worship services entitled "A Gift for Mother's Day," in which he described his love for his parents and his joy that his mother was demonstrating an interest in reading the Bible, a gift from her seminarian son. His development and maturity in the faith are signs of God's manifold blessing and grace at work in his life.

Japan Lutheran College News

At a faculty development meeting on March 13 the Religion Committee at Japan Lutheran College introduced the fundamentals of Lutheran worship to all staff and faculty and reported the good news that 63, the average attendance at non-compulsory daily chapel services at the college, is the highest it has been in recent years.

Total student enrollment, together with daytime faculty and staff employed at the college, stands at around 550. The Word of God is proclaimed and the college community comes together in a variety of settings which include daily worship, weekly matins, and monthly evening prayer, giving Christians a chance to introduce non-Christian friends to a variety of worship opportunities.

This occurs alongside regular

Sunday morning worship services for many, but for students being trained for service to their community as counselors, social workers, and teachers, it provides a critical introduction to the Christian faith that supplements what is taught in the classroom. Every year, as many as 10 students are baptized.

Church Supports Japan Lutheran College in Rebuilding Library

As Japan marked the two-year anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2013, five months have passed since the Japan Lutheran College and Japan Lutheran Theological Seminary library has been rebuilt. The Japan Lutheran Church (or Nihon Ruteru Kyodan—NRK) actively supports the mission of Japan Lutheran College in its outreach and training of students to serve

the wider community. The earthquake in 2011, which triggered a devastating tsunami in northeast Japan and a nuclear disaster in Fukushima, caused damage and loss of life even in the Tokyo area, rendering the stacks of the library unsafe to enter. Reconstruction to the library was completed in mid-October and a final accounting of the costs was made public soon after.

In response to this need, the NRK, drawing also on donations from LCMS and other organizations around the world, donated over 24 million yen (US\$280,000) to Japan Lutheran College to help defray the costs of the library repairs from the college budget. The NRK is happy that it was able to contribute to the college in this way and thankful for the support from members of the LCMS. Japan Lutheran College is grateful for these gifts and wants to share the news with others.

Thailand

Planting the Seeds

Since 1990 the Concordia Day Care Center (CDCC) has provided educational and medical services for at-risk children, in addition to providing a safe haven for at-risk preschool children. The CDCC is a project of the Concordia Welfare and Education Foundation – Thailand (CWEFT), located in the Bangna slum area on the outskirts of Bangkok. Children in the Bangna slum are at risk for a variety of reasons, including extreme poverty and malnutrition. This year marks the second year that CWEFT staff, Ms. Sangchan “La” Tasu, has been able to serve at the CDCC by providing weekly Christian education lessons.

One young girl at the CDCC has shown particular spiritual growth and improvement as a result of the tireless efforts of the regular CDCC staff, as well as La’s and other volunteers work. Niew is now 4 years old and has been attending activities and programming at the CDCC since she was very young. Despite her difficult situation, young Niew has made remarkable progress, not only in her overall development, but also in her spiritual walk. She is now able to sing Christian songs of praise and worship in both English and Thai, and has an impressive attention span and memory for such a young child.

Niew’s most recent accomplishment was to not only memorize the Lord’s Prayer, but also confidently recite it in front of her classmates at the CDCC. In the more than 20 years that the CDCC has been reaching out to the youngest residents of the Bangna slum, there are so many stories like Niew’s: stories where children with nothing learn that they are worth so much and loved so much by the true God. Stories

where the Word of God has been implanted in their young hearts to carry with them as they grow in their faith.

CHE Trainings

Concordia Welfare and Education Foundation—Thailand (CWEFT) worked with the Community Health Education (CHE) project to coordinate health trainings for rural residents in Northern Thailand and Bangkok this past February. The most recent trainings were held on February 6-8 in Chiang Rai province, February 11-12 in Chiang Mai, and February 14-16 in Bangkok. The trainings aim to provide participants with an understanding of common chronic diseases like hypertension and diabetes, as well as infectious diseases. They also included presentations on how to diagnose conditions, along with basic preventative measures such as proper nutrition. Participants learn how to initially diagnose and recognize common conditions so they will know when to see a doctor. There is basic medical care available, but villagers must travel long distances to reach hospitals, and when they do

arrive there are often further difficulties because of language and culture (many villagers speak local dialects and live traditionally). With the CHE training, villagers better understand their own health and are better able to advocate for themselves when they do need a doctor.

In addition to the health training aspect, CHE trainings also include Bible study and prayer to encourage participants. At the end of each training, CWEFT staff and CHE leaders asked if they could pray for the participants (many of whom were not Christian). The answer was a resounding, “Yes!” from each of the participants. This is the first time there has been such a unanimous and energetic response to the trainings—not only because of the health training aspect, but more importantly, for the spiritual encouragement and prayer.

In addition to CHE trainings, the Lord has also opened doors for CWEFT to further build relationships with many of the participants over the last several years. Local churches now regularly visit with villagers and training

participants to follow-up with them and share resources and materials to encourage them to continue to look after their physical and spiritual well-being.

One participant at the recent Bangkok training had this to say to CWEFT and CHE staff, “Please pray for me and my daughter. I know your God is great and He is moving in you. No one cares for us like CWEFT. You always show love for our children and our older people. You help us even though we are not educated and very poor. We have heard so many stories from you about God and His love, and we want to know your God more.”

Praise God for his work in the hearts and lives of all the people who are touched through the CHE trainings and other human care work through CWEFT. Please continue to pray for CWEFT staff and volunteers as they work to meet needs throughout Thailand. For more information on CWEFT or to volunteer with one of its outreach ministries, please contact CWEFT Executive Director, Ms. Oratai “Dang” Thaweessin at : dthaweessin@gmail.com.



CHE Training facilitators, Mrs. Toni Hayes (far left) & Mr. Steve Hayes (far right), together with some participants from the recent training in Northern Thailand

Taiwan

New Dawn Visits Taiwan

The China Evangelical Lutheran Church, together with LCMS missionaries in Taiwan, were excited in early March to host New Dawn, a traveling music ministry group of Lutheran Youth Encounter. New Dawn had a busy schedule while they were in Taiwan, attending classes and performing concerts almost every day. The group served at Concordia Middle School (CMS), Chia-Yi Girls' School, and at a church in the city of Kaohsiung. One of the most encouraging parts of their visit was when some of the students from CMS and Chia-Yi Girls' School came to Friday Night Bible Study for the first time.

The church was crowded with many new faces.

When they were not at schools, New Dawn was active in other ministries, such as spending time with new Taiwanese friends, and encouraging everyone in their lives and work. Praise God for New Dawn's service in Taiwan, and please pray for the seeds that were planted during their visit.

English Day Camp

On February 28, 2013, Salvation Lutheran Church held an English Elementary School Day Camp centered around the story of Jesus Feeding the 5,000. Along with New Dawn (a Lutheran ministry team from America), a group of LCMS missionaries, congre-

gation members, and the church's youth group led the camp and its accompanying activities for the 44 participants. The day consisted of Bible time, games, skit rehearsal, and singing. The majority of the kids who came were from the neighborhood around church, some coming to church for the first time. The parents were invited to attend the closing event where participants shared in skit and song the story they had studied that day. The kids performed very well and it was a blessing to open the



Children participate in Bible activities at Salvation Lutheran Church's recent English Day Camp

church up to newcomers and parents from around the community.

Regional News

SAIL Leadership Training

As part of a training series under the Community Health Education (CHE) Program, a Savings and Internal Lending (SAIL) Leadership Training of Trainers (TOT) was conducted in February 27-March 1 at The Empress Hotel, Chiang Mai, Thailand. The training focused on how to organize a savings group program intended to increase community financial security and to offer loans to their savings group members for income generation and pressing life circumstances.

The SAIL Leadership Development Training program began with the Course Overview and the conceptual description of the program, then went on to discuss the necessary skills like record keeping, loan distribution and policies, and ended with the training evaluation and assessment. In summary, the program, which aims to organize local savings groups, con-

ducts income generating activities such as microloans using the capital generated by its saver-members. Therefore, the program is self-sustainable and more favorable for community members since it encourages complete financial transparency, thus providing the necessary accountability, while exhibiting

extraordinary growth with resilience.

In addition to microloans, the SAIL program also allows the members to borrow from the funds in cases of emergency and urgent needs. Since the Savings Group members need to meet regularly, it may also strengthen the member's social bonds and camaraderie.

The 3-day training, which was attended by 21 participants from Hong Kong, Thailand, Cambodia, China, and the Philippines, was led by local CHE facilitators. Trainees learned the essence of the overall structure and benefits of the program. Follow-up activities, assessments and seminars are anticipated to follow.



Participants at the recent SAIL (Savings and Internal Lending) Leadership Training

Macau

Official Church Plant in Macau for Christmas

The Christmas Eve service was a special time to celebrate Jesus' birth. It was also exciting to learn that only weeks before, Vicar Dan Ho learned that "Concordia" had become an official church plant of the Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod. The service was followed by a fellowship meal. Many new Christians have asked for prayers for their family members who are not yet believers. Please pray that church members' families will come to faith and worship Jesus as their Savior. Pray for this new church to grow. Pray for Vicar Ho and his family, especially for the health of their new baby that is not yet born. Finally, please pray that the team at Concordia English Center will be encouraged in their faith as they share it.

Orphanage Outreach

For the second consecutive year during the month of December, students and staff from Concordia English Center, Macau collected clothes, blankets, toys, and perishable food for the orphans of Macau. On January 7 the students and staff delivered six large bags full of these items to the Foun-



Participants and training leaders at the recent teacher training in Macau

tain of Hope orphanage in Taipa. On January 14, students gathered for a tour and opportunity to learn more about volunteering at the sister orphanage, Cradle of Hope.

Building Relationships by Breaking Bread

A highlight of living in Asia during the months of January and February is that you get to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Chinese people celebrate by spending time with their families, lighting firecrackers, exchanging red pockets (envelopes with money for children and single adults), and eating a lot of good food.

Concordia English Center

(CEC), Macau held a Chinese New Year party that was planned and put together by students at the center. The event included a meal hosted by a visiting team from Lutheran churches in South Dakota, USA. CEC teachers are thankful for the opportunity to share their time with such wonderful students, and the students are interested to learn more about the faith of their teachers.

English Language Teacher Training

There are no classes taught during the Chinese New Year, so it is a great time for teachers to travel, and it is also a great time for them to get together and discuss their

teaching to improve in their vocations. English teaching is such an excellent outreach tool, but as with any gift, it is best when given in honor to God. Six Chinese teachers and five LCMS missionaries in Macau were joined by a few short-term teachers serving in Hong Kong, where they took turns demonstrating their teaching for each other, learning about giving assessments and tests, and discussing other topics of faith and outreach. LCMS missionary Matt Myers led the workshop, and Pastor Joel Scheiwie led a Bible Study and discussion of outreach principles.

Hong Kong

Martha Boss Memorial Wall & Annual Meeting

On January 27, 2013, a permanent memorial wall was unveiled at the Martha Boss Community Center (MBCC) by Rev. Dr. Allan Yung, Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod President. The MBCC, of the Hong Kong Lutheran Social Services (HKLSS), was completed in 1985 to commemorate the pioneering works of LCMS missionaries in Hong Kong. After more than 27 years of service, the

MBCC has served as HKLSS Headquarters and serves as a hub for Gospel activities throughout Kowloon City in Hong Kong.

When the Memorial Wall was unveiled, there was also an annual planning and staff meeting held at the center with nearly 800 staff gathered under the focus "To Serve Like a Mustard Seed."



Rev. Dr. Allan Yung, Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod President (front, third from left) with representative from Hong Kong Lutheran Social Services and the Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod at the recent memorial wall unveiling and staff meeting at the Martha Boss Community Center

Korea

Luther University Alumni Events

On December 12, alumni of Luther University gathered at Luther Tower in Seoul for a Homecoming Day. The event was organized by Luther University and alumni representatives to include graduates from each graduating class. It aimed at not only promoting the love and interest for their alma mater, but also at making alumni conscious and proud of the fact that there are graduates of Luther University in many fields of society. The alumni not only met within their annual groups, but also shared with members of other graduating years.

For the improvement of exchanges and cooperation between alumni of various annual groups, Rev. Hee-Joong Kim, a graduate of the very first graduating class, was elected to serve as the first Alumni President.

The Lutheran Church in Korea established Luther Theological Academy to educate its own pastors in 1966. In 1984 Luther Theological Academy moved to Yongin City in Gyeonggi Province (on the outskirts of Seoul) and grew into what is now Luther University.

Mission Training Seminar

On March 1, the Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK) held a Mission Training Seminar at Luther University under the theme "You Turn" which meant "a new vow for a turn to mis-

sion."

The seminar was organized by the mission committee of the LCK General Assembly and was attended by about 250 lay participants from various Lutheran congregations. It consisted of an opening and closing worship service, a time for song and prayer, lunch and dinner.

The LCK organized this seminar for lay church members to promote mission activities of Lutheran congregations. Luther University cooperated by giving permission for the use of its main lecture hall, cafeteria, and other facilities.

Continuing Education Seminar for Pastors

From February 25-27, this year's continuing education for Lutheran pastors took place at Luther University. The program was organized by Rev. Chul-Hwan Kim (Ph.D. in Mission Theology, senior pastor of Seoul Bethel Church) and had the theme *Carl Braaten's "Principles of Lutheran Theology"*. The lecturer was Rev. Il-Young Park (Doctorate in Systematic Theology, former President of Luther University). A special report was given by Rev. Dong-Jin Kim, pastor of Malgeunsam Lutheran Church in Goyang City north of Seoul which runs a shelter for cancer patients, who re-

ported about his visit of Diaconal Institutions in Germany. Participants included 40 pastors and pastors-in-training of the Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK). Continuing educational seminars are held annually by the LCK for the theological improvement of its clergy. Luther University offered one of its lecture rooms and a dormitory for use during the event.

Korea Lutheran Hour Publishes Lent Meditations

The Korea Lutheran Hour has published a booklet with 2013 Lent Meditations under the title "Sitting in Dust and Ashes" chosen from Job 42:6 (Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes).

Meditations had previously been translations of booklets published by Lutheran Hour Ministries in the USA. This time, however, for the first time the Korea Lutheran Hour Lenten meditation included meditations written by pastors of the Lutheran Church in Korea, making them especially meaningful. The publication was supported by Lutheran Hour Ministries in the USA and is sold to churches throughout the country.

Subway Links Lutheran University with Seoul

With the new Bundang Line for the subway system opening on December 1, 2012, "Sanggal" or "Luther University" is now also an official stop on the subway as

well. This station is just a five-minute walk from the entrance to LTU. From Seoul Gangnam, which is one of the most frequented traffic areas in Seoul, it now takes only 40 minutes to reach LTU on the new line. It is expected that this subway connection will boost the development of Luther University.

LTU Founder Remembered

To honor the memory of Dr. Won-Yong Ji (Prof. Emer. of Concordia Seminary), founder of Luther University (LTU) and also one of its professors, the LTU board of directors has decided to send the President of the board of directors, Rev. Hyun-Sub Um as representative to Dr. Ji's funeral in St. Louis MO on April 2.

There will also be a memorial worship service at LTU on April 26, jointly held by the relatives of Dr. Ji, the Lutheran Church in Korea, and Luther University. To honor the service of Dr. Ji, together with the memorial worship service, LTU's library will be named "Pyeon Un Memorial Library" - Pyeon Un being Dr. Ji's Korean honorific pen name



Alumni at Luther University's recent Homecoming Day

Philippines

Joint English Teaching Workshop

A Communication Skills Development workshop took place at the Vox Dei School in Cavite, Philippines on February 25, 2013. Participants included teaching staff from both the Gloria Dei Lutheran School in Manila and the Vox Dei Lutheran School in Cavite. The workshop was led by John Plagens, Professor of English at Japan Lutheran College in Tokyo. Also in attendance were Mr. Ed and Mrs. Bella Jiloca, Principal of Gloria Dei, Mr. LJ Abadiano, Principal and Administrator of Vox Dei, and Mrs. Caroline Matencio, President of Vox Dei.

The workshop focused on communication skills useful for teaching subjects in English. John made sure that there were enough activities to keep the energy level high for participants, who gave up a national holiday for this event. In addition to reviewing teaching techniques and methodology, the workshop gave good opportunities for the two staffs to meet and share mutual challenges and concerns.

Baby Boy Receives Much Needed Care

In November 2012, a young baby with a cleft lip and palate was admitted to Concordia Children's Services (CCS) in Manila. He was very small and had to be fed with formula through a dropper for the first few months. The CCS nurse and the caregivers were all very caring and nurturing.

Because of this loving and necessary care, he was able to achieve an ideal body weight to safely undergo the first phase of his surgery to correct his condition. At eight months old, the

baby was ready to undergo this first operation which was sponsored by the Cranio Facial Foundation and done in early February.

The surgery was a success and, according to the surgeon, the boy will be ready for the second surgery in six months. The board, staff and volunteers of CCS continue to hope that the second operation will be successful and that it could normalize his feeding so that a third operation will not be necessary. The baby has been recuperating very well after the operation, and everyone in CCS agrees that this baby now has the sweetest smile of all.

For more information about CCS and its programs, visit: www.concordiachildrens.org or email: office@concordiachildrens.org

Deaconess Training Program Success

In partnership with the LCMS, the Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP) requested an expert on the deaconess program to come and introduce the LCP President and the LCP Seminary dean to the program. In response, LCMS sent Deaconess Grace Rao, Director of Deaconess Ministry at LCMS Mercy Operations, to meet with LCP representatives in August 2012 and February 2013. Grace taught Luther's catechism and the



Lutheran Theological Seminary Dean Rev. Rico Taran, Jr. (back, left), LCP President Rev. James Cerdenola (back, right), and Deaconess Grace Rao (front, 2nd from right) with participants at the recent deaconess training program

role of women in the church to the nine women who participated in the first training.

Marigold Lasegan Guay, one of the participants, said, "the training was a great opportunity to review our doctrine. Deaconess Grace is an excellent lecturer and friend." Virgie Roa, who was the oldest student at more than 60 years old, commented, "Thank you for allowing me to join the training. I learned a lot and am reminded of my

doctrine. I hope I will be able to attend again when Deaconess Grace comes back in late September."

The recent February training lasted more than two weeks and was well-known throughout the LCP. There has been increased interest, with many more people hoping to take part in future trainings. Lutheran Theological Seminary Dean, Rev. Rico Taran, Jr. is

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(seated, left to right) Bella Jiloca (Gloria Dei Lutheran School Principal), Ed Jiloca (Gloria Dei Lutheran School), John Plagens (Japan Lutheran College), LJ Abadiano (Vox Dei Lutheran School Principal & Administrator), Caroline Matencio (Vox Dei Lutheran School President) with participants at the recent Joint English Teaching Workshop in the Philippines

China

2013 Teacher's Retreat

The report card is in and REACH (Resiliency Education: Advocacy, Collaboration, Hope) volunteer teachers get an A! In fact, these hard-working teachers put the "A" in Advocacy. They are literally the core of the Hong Kong based Concordia Welfare and Education Foundation's (CWEF) REACH program where 40 teachers work with more than 300 at-risk young people in nine different schools to address resilience factors of

planning, confidence, communication and problem solving, and emotional management through teamwork and participatory learning.

What happens when these teachers get together for a retreat? Team building, mountain climbing, and a brand new outlook for REACH's curriculum. This January, eleven teachers from participating REACH schools gathered together for a two-day retreat led by CWEF's local Program Director and

Education Director.

Teachers from the different schools got to know one another better by participating in some of the team-building activities in which they lead their students. During the retreat REACH teachers also shared experiences, advice, struggles, and activities with one another and CWEF staff in order to make the program even better for the student participants. One teacher

shared that, "Many students want to join the class. The students were very engaged and involved in the activities. They showed creativity and enthusiasm in the activities, especially when we played games such as 'guessing emotions'." Not only did the teachers share their experiences and class ideas with one another, but they also went on an outing in the mountains for some fresh air and relaxation.

Philippines

(Continued from page 7)

also looking forward to future trainings, as they provide yet another avenue for the local to church to further impact its community.

New Dawn Visits the Philippines

Lutheran Youth Encounter (LYC) is a Christian organiza-

tion that partners with Christian communities to strengthen their youth ministry. New Dawn is a team of young volunteers from LYC.

New Dawn recently spent time serving in the Philippines. Team members included Annie Musfeldt, Rachel Selbo, Taylor Montgomery, and Kevin Zimmerman. They arrived in the

Philippines on January 11. They were able to travel throughout the Philippines visiting schools, local Lutheran churches, orphanages, and communities.

Besides smiles and joyful hearts, the New Dawn team also leaves behind its message: "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all

my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:3-6)."

Vietnam

(Continued from page 2)

with other area athletic directors, has developed Hanoi's "All Schools Sports League" with the goal to compete in areas of basketball, volleyball, football/soccer and many other sports. The IT departments of the different schools, led by Concordia Director of IT, David Elliott,

meet on a tri-monthly basis to discuss how technology can be integrated into the classroom and serve as a learning tool for 21st century students. Teachers and administrators have led training programs for teachers in both local and international schools in Vietnam.

Concordia as an institution is unique in that it is part of a family of schools: Concordia International School Shanghai and Hong Kong International School, both of which have been ranked among the top international schools in the world. Over 90 percent of the educational faculty at Concordia

holds a Masters Degree or higher and amongst those educators, the average teaching experience is 18 years. Couple that expertise with the small class sizes and Concordia packs a powerful educational punch.

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