

# The Foreign Mission of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America



*Endeavoring to obey the Word of our Lord...Go ye into all the lands and preach the Gospel to every creature*

## Looking back at 2013

- We continue to work regularly with Christians in 13 different countries.



- Trips were taken to **India, Ghana, Togo, Liberia, Philippines, Guatemala (2x), Vietnam, Myanmar, Russia, South Africa, and Kenya!** A few stories from some of these trips are on the next page.
- The priority in the field is always to preach the Gospel. This is done through preaching, pastors' seminars, women's Bible Studies, youth camps and Bible Studies, Sunday School lessons and camps, etc.
- Because of earmarked donations we were able to donate Bibles, drill wells, hold medical camps, send money for disaster relief, support poor/orphaned children, etc.
- Weekly spiritual articles were sent to people in over 15 countries via email.
- Full-time missionary Dennis Hilman was engaged to Marilyn Stenersen. They were married on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.
- Full-time missionary Ryan Ruotsala continues to live and work in Guatemala. During the summer, he was examined by the Central Board and entered into the ministerial role.

## Looking forward to 2014

- There are many trips planned for 2014:

### January - March

**India** (Jan 21 to Feb 6)

**Guatemala** (January-March)

**West Africa** (March/April)

### April - June

**Philippines/Vietnam** (April/May)

**India/Nepal** (April/May)

### July - September

**Philippines** (August/September)

### October - December

**South Africa** (September/October)

**Myanmar/Pakistan** (October/November)

**Kenya** (November/December)

If you are interested in coming on a trip in 2014, contact the FM Administrator at [foreignmission@comcast.net](mailto:foreignmission@comcast.net)

- We constantly receive requests from people around the world asking us to partner with them. Communication with these people is ongoing.
- We will continue to offer spiritual articles via email, Skype sermons, monthly pastors' support, etc.
- Full-time missionary Leona Matson is resigning. She may continue to volunteer part-time depending on where God leads her in 2014. She asks for your prayers as she starts a new chapter in her life.



## Stories from the field

The stories below are all extracts from larger blog posts. The full stories (and many others) can be found at [www.foreignmissionnewsblog.blogspot.com](http://www.foreignmissionnewsblog.blogspot.com).

### Sisters in Christ



We thank God that we had the opportunity to fellowship with sisters in Christ here in India. It is sweet to hear the Christians in India call you “sister, sister”....

[During a ladies Bible Study we attended] We also heard from an Indian woman who now is a Hindu converted Christian, however, she asked for prayers because her family is Hindu and does not want her to be a Christian. She had to leave the study early because her family was looking for her and did not want her to be with the Christians. Still she was risking her safety to hear from God and to worship with other believers.

Jolie Ingvalson  
(India, January 2013)

### School Visits



The school day begins with an assembly of about 1000 plus children... They begin by singing several hymns of Zion and then recite a prayer together. In this prayer they ask God to watch over them this day and His help in being able to treat each other in a Godly way, and praying that God would be with them, helping them to learn...

I was asked to speak to the children. While preaching I noticed big smiles of the faces of some of them. Later the Bishop related that these were children from the Bethlehem church and they would be telling their friends that it was "my moruti" (their pastor) who was speaking.

Bob Maki  
(South Africa, October 2013)

### Guatamalan convention



Our theme this year was the “Church of Christ”. During the recent months, we have been seeing a growth in people who want to get more involved in God’s work.....

We started with two services Saturday afternoon, and concluded with...each congregation [giving] testimony of God’s goodness in their lives through song and personal testimony. The young teens and older youth all were part of various skits that reinforced the idea of our lives...being built on the ROCK of Christ, and the important place the church has in reaching out to the hurting and desperate with the GOOD NEWS...

Ryan Ruotsala  
(Guatemala, June 2013)

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