

# 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*



**2012**

## **in brief**

During 2012, there were trips taken to **Russia (3x), South Africa, Guatemala (2x), Kenya, India (2x), Pakistan, Burma (Myanmar), Sri Lanka, Ghana, Togo, Liberia, the Philippines, and Vietnam!**

## **January**

During January, there was a mission trip to India with a team of six as well as a trip to Guatemala!

## **February**

During February, a trip with a team of four went to Pakistan for the first time in ten years and then continued on to Myanmar (Burma). There was also a trip with a team of three to Russia.

## **March**

The team which went to Pakistan and Burma last month continued on to Sri Lanka for several weeks before going home.

## **April**

A team of two went to Ghana, Togo, and Liberia. A short trip was made to Guatemala in April as well.

## **May**

A team of nine went to the Philippines. Five of them continued to Vietnam while the other four stayed in the Philippines. There was also a month-long trip to Russia!

## **June/July/August**

The trip to Russia finished up in June. Foreign Mission missionaries attended the convention and spoke at various other youth camps and churches throughout the summer.

## **September**

A trip was made to India.

## **October**

A team of two went to South Africa for three weeks. A team of two went to Russia with an additional stop in the Ukraine.

## **November/December**

A team of five went to Kenya for three weeks.

One or both of our traveling full-time missionaries, Dennis Hilman and Leona Matson, were on most of the trips mentioned above as well as at least one of the board members or our administrator, John Ruotsala. Our full-time missionary in Guatemala, Ryan Ruotsala, was also working tirelessly in Zacapa. In addition to the trips and the full-time work in Guatemala, there was also ongoing work such as skype sermons, monthly pastor support, weekly Spiritual articles sent by email, and much more!



## Priorities in the field

Last year, this year, and as long as the Lord allows our priority is to follow the **command of Jesus and preach His Gospel** to all people wherever we go!

With His guiding, we **teach and hold seminars** so that local pastors can continue to preach the Gospel of salvation once we leave. Due to lack of time, finances, language skills, and cultural understanding, we know that local pastors are often the best evangelists in their own countries. We trust that God is with them just as He was with the Ethiopian eunuch after Philip was taken away.

We **share God's love** wherever and however we can! This is God's work! All glory and praise to Him! Please also remember that this is **Your Foreign Mission**. It isn't the work of just a small number of people, but the work of everyone who supports the work through prayer, encouragement, finances, volunteering time, or joining us on a mission trip. Thank you so much for this essential support! We pray that you would continue to help Your Foreign Mission throughout 2013.

## 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).

### Changed by God

...we spent an evening of precious fellowship with Pastor Vitaly and members of his Lutheran Church... The theme was how the Lord has been changing us. The Pastor... was at the very first meeting I ever attended in his area about 11 years ago. I remember how he pointed out... "We Orthodox do not need you Lutherans here!" **I smile and rejoice to think how God shortly after came into his heart in a big way....** So we were able to look at each other and at our own hearts and see how we have matured over the years, because of Christ's grace and love, and how we have come to realize more and more our eternal need of Jesus.  
Greg Greve  
(Russia, Nov 2012)

### The power of prayer

"If there's anything you want prayers for, please ask one of us. We would be happy to pray for you." Pastor Colin closed his sermon, and the music began to play... Probably more than fifty percent of the chairs emptied.... **Every single person was prayed for, and many of them opened their hearts.** Mothers came with their children. The hurting and the worried came. Any care was recast upon God, and asked of God to place His hand in every one of the situations. And yet, "I feel like so many of them were praying for **me** at the time (Fratt Aho)." The power of God was in that place. **God's power** was in that gymnasium!  
Tamasen Tervo  
(Philippines, May 2012)

### Home visits in Sri Lanka

Our outreach brought us on the twisting, turning roads past tea groves and down a narrow bumpy road to [a small house]. In the rainy season you have to walk through water up to your ankles... [and beware the leeches!] Thankfully it is the dry season! [We had a service and] they fed us a delicious Sri Lankan lunch...  
[We also] hiked down a hill as the sun was setting to visit another woman who had found a baby in the tea bushes about 14 years ago.... Wow, amazing how God wanted this baby to grow up in a Christian home... **[Everyone we met seemed] to want fellowship and have a hungering for God's Word...**  
Kathy Traffie  
(Sri Lanka, February 2012)

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