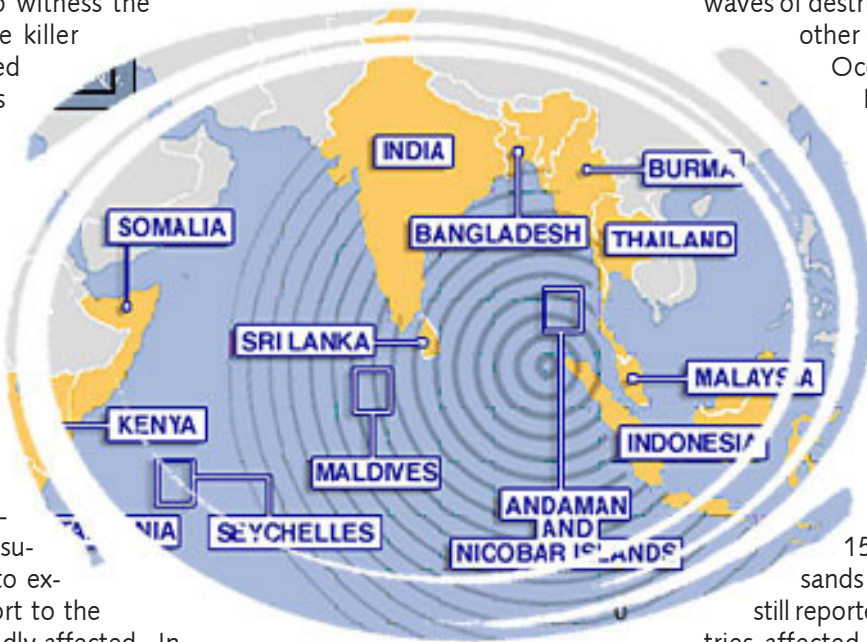


## THE DEADLY TSUNAMI - WAVES OF DESTRUCTION

Before the morning of December 26, 2004, many may not know what a "tsunami" (Japanese) is. But today the whole world gets to witness the deadly power of the killer waves that had caused hundreds of thousands of death and grave destruction of many kinds. The disaster that had struck without warning the day after Christmas turned out to be a living nightmare and was branded by some as The Day after Tomorrow. The world is still shocked at the devastating effect of the tsunami but are quick to extend help and support to the countries that are badly affected. Indeed this is not just an Asian catastrophe! The great number of deaths and casualties from the tsunami disaster in-

clude nationalities from every region and continent of the entire world!



The western coastline of Sumatra island was the first to be hit by the violent tidal waves fol-

lowing the December 26 undersea earthquake, recorded at 9.0 on the Richter scale - the biggest in 40 years! The waves of destruction affected a dozen other countries off the Indian Ocean including India, Sri Lanka and Thailand among the worst hit, and extending further to East Africa. Millions in South East Asia have been displaced and rendered homeless. Destruction of property and livelihoods is extensive. Two weeks after the disaster, the total death toll has hit almost 150,000 with tens of thousands injured and many more still reported missing. Many countries affected are still expecting the death toll in their countries to rise as rescuers continue to reach and cover more affected areas.

### WHAT CAUSES THE TSUNAMIS?

A tsunami is not a single wave, but a series of ocean waves generated by geological disturbances near or below the ocean floor. With nothing to stop them these waves can race across the ocean like the crack of a bullwhip, gaining momentum over thousands of miles.

Most are triggered when geologic forces displace seawater in the ocean basin. The bigger the earthquake, the more the earth's crust shifts and the more seawater begins to move. In a tsunami, waves typically radiate out in directions opposite from the seismic disturbance. In the case of Sumatra, the seismic forces ran north to south beneath the ocean floor, while the tsunami waves shot out west and east.

Tsunamis are distinguished from normal coastal surf by their great length and speed. A single wave in the tsunami series might be 161 km long and race across the ocean at 966 km/h. When it approaches a coastline, the wave slows dramatically but it also rises to great heights because the enormous volume of water piles up in shallow coastal bays. (AP - The Straits Times Interactive)

### contents

#### headlines

- Tsunami Terror 2
- Tsunami Reports 4
- Aftermath 7
- Passing On the Baton 8

#### regional news

- New President & First Women's Ordination 8
- National Recognition for Lutheran Work 9
- New Mission Movement 9
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 9

#### information sharing

- Travel Diary of the Asia Secretary 10
- LWF Capacity Building Workshop 11
- Churches say "No to Violence ..." 12

## Indonesia: Worst Hit

The west coast of the Indonesian island of Sumatra that is closest to the place of earthquake, was devastated by the tsunami. More than 70% of the inhabitants of some coastal villages were reported to have died. Death toll for Indonesia alone stands at 102,318 (Jan 8) mainly in the northern province of Aceh, and officials expect the number to rise. Heavy rains after the tsunami in Aceh have also increased the risk of cholera and other waterborne diseases.

Bishop Dr Bonar Napitupulu, head of the North Sumatra-based Protestant Christian Batak Church (HKBP), says there were overwhelming support from pastors and other church members to coordinate assistance in the worst hit areas. But the situation remains critical.

Aceh, Ms Ria Sidabutar-Pardede, reporting on Aceh from Jakarta on January 3 says the HKBP Banda Aceh church is flooded with mud up to a depth of 1.5 meters high with about 50 corpses that had not yet been removed for lack of equipment. Around 100 church members had died, 300 had been rendered homeless and 70 had to be evacuated to the HKBP hospital in Balige.

The church complex in Banda Aceh, including the pastor's home and synod building has been wiped out, Pardede reports. Transportation by road was still impossible. Air transport was available at a nearby airport but an evacuation fee costing USD 55 per person made it unaffordable. Pardede stressed the need to evacuate 25 patients to the HKBP Balige hospital, and move another 100 homeless people to the region capital, Medan.

The HKBP is badly in need of medicine, food and clothes. Beyond current needs there would be a post-disaster phase that would include traumatic healing and the building of a new life, Pardede, a member of the Advisory Committee for Theological Education in Asia (ACTEAS), adds. The 3 million-member HKPB, the largest of the 12 LWF member churches in Indonesia, has established three coordination posts, in Bedagei, Aceh and Nias Island. Assistance is being coordinated with support from the government and military, non-governmental organizations and other groups.

The Executive Secretary of the LWF National Committee in Indonesia, Rev. Harlen Simangunsong on January 5 also

reported on a city called Meulaboh in Aceh where more than 50% (27,000) of its 50,000 residents had perished in the tsunamis. According to the local news, 172 resorts and 1,550 villages in Aceh were badly damaged. More than 30% of government officers were either reported dead or had gone missing. Today emergency help from Singapore, USA, France and others had arrived in Aceh.

The initial emergency assistance to survivors is expected to last three months in the posts that have been set up. Coordination of emergency relief in Indonesia is carried out through Action by Churches Together (ACT) International, the Geneva-based global network of churches and related agencies responding to emergencies worldwide.

Nias, according to Bishop Geya and Rev. Tuhony of the Protestant Christian Church (BNKP), Nias, an Indonesian island off the west coast of Sumatra, 233 people were reported dead, 68 injured, 480 houses destroyed and 3890 became homeless. Five church buildings were also destroyed. The Church has been involved in the emergency relief and are also looking into the needs of the orphans, the rebuilding of houses, schools and polyclinics for the communities affected by the disaster.

## Thailand: Thousands of Tourists Dead, Many More Missing

Several of the southern provinces of Thailand, about 1,000 km away from Bangkok, have been badly hit by the deadly tsunami tidal waves, namely Phuket, Phangnga, Krabi, Ranong, Satun & Trang. Several villages had been completely wiped out, countless buildings, shops, houses, vehicles, fishing boats were destroyed or badly damaged. Mountains of rubble and debris that were once hotels, bungalows, restaurants, shops or fishing villages were seen everywhere along the beaches and on the islands. Rescue centres are crowded with relatives still searching for their missing loved ones among the dead.

Most of the hotels in the region, to which thousands of local and foreign tourists flock annually for their year-end holidays, especially the Phi Phi island and Khao Lak beach resorts, were fully booked and estimated to have had about 20,000 local and foreign tourists during the time of the disaster, according to figures and information released over local televisions and newspapers.

As of January 10, the official death toll for Thailand stood at 5,312 with another 3,295 missing, several hundreds of orphans and thousands of homeless families living in camping tents and on hand-outs by the government and both local and international humanitarian groups. The Prime Minister of Thailand says this figure is certain to rise. Half of the bodies retrieved so far are foreigners, from a total of 36 countries.

The disaster has created such an impact on the people here that it seems the whole kingdom of Thailand has plunged into the rescue and relief work in one way or another. At the sites, rescuers have been working around the clock on two rotation shifts. Forensic teams and their volunteers have also worked non-stop to identify bodies, while the health professionals were there to provide 24 hours treatment for the injured and offering mental counseling for victims.

Due to the great number of unidentified bodies of foreigners, bodies have been

ferried to Bangkok in refrigerated containers where, in most cases, identification can only be made through DNA testing, to which the Thai government has now resorted.

To prevent the outbreak of disease from the heavily decomposed bodies, other unclaimed bodies of the local people have been buried at a temporary burial ground waiting for families to identify them later through DNA test.

Though the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (ELCT) is not directly affected by the tsunami, several missionaries of the Lutheran Mission in Thailand (LMT) had helped tirelessly with the initial rescue and translation work both at the southern provinces and also in the hospitals in Bangkok. Representatives of the ELCT, LMT and the LWF Regional Coordinator for Asia had visited some of the badly affected areas in the south to access the needs. ELCT is gathering resources to help the people restore their lives and livelihood.

## India: Joint Effort - Lutheran Churches, World Service Field Program

In India, the death toll is said to have reached 9,995 (Jan 8) and hundreds of thousands are displaced in the coastal states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and the union territories of the Andaman and Nicobar islands. The United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India (UELCI), a body of 11 Lutheran churches, is jointly working with the LWF Department for World Service (DWS) field program in India to provide immediate relief support as part of an initial help to 13,500 displaced families in Tamil Nadu, mainly comprising fishing communities. The five areas of operation include Tranquebar, Nagapattinam, Karaikal, Cuddalore and Nagercoil.

The UELCI has dispatched four teams for relief work. Miss Vidhya Rani, Women's Secretary of the UELCI and her team had visited Velipalayam, Kesavapalayam, Akraipatti and other small villages in Tranquebar. The team has mobilized the young people in the villages in cleaning and disinfecting the surrounding. The team has already identified more than 1500 families for immediate relief measures. The visits were made in close cooperation with Pastors, Social Workers and other Church leaders as deputed by the Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The team led by Rev. Dr. Augustine Jeyakumar, Director, Division of Social Action, has been working in and around the Cuddalore area which is the third most affected area in the disaster. The team is

involved in helping 500 families in Koilpettai, Thanjavalli and Trichopuram. The church volunteers have already been recruited under the able leadership of Rt. Rev. Gideon Devanesan, Bishop of Arcot Lutheran Church.

The third team led by Dr. Raja Gerald, Youth Secretary, UELCI, has been touring the Nagercoil and Kanyakumari area which is the second most affected area. They have identified Melamanakudi, Keelamanakudi, Colachel and Kottilpadu as the most affected in the region. It has been reported more than 1000 people have lost their lives and almost 50,000 people (10,325 families) are being kept in camps. Almost 23 families from the India Evangelical Lutheran Church congregations have also been seriously affected in the disaster.

Another team is being dispatched to Chirala in Andhra Pradesh to meet with the President of Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church to plan for relief programmes immediately. The AELC has been maintaining feeding programmes in five centers in the region.

As of January 4, the non-governmental organizations and the churches are engaged in the second stage of the crisis face. The major problems at the moment are diarrhea, cholera and dehydration. Problems such as gastroenteritis, respirator infections and depression are also expected. Government sources had

reported that the epidemic is under control. However, it was reported that several thousands had been affected by the epidemic. Several children are in need of pediatric attention and some adults to be treated for major injuries. The Government has appointed a Relief Commissioner at the Chennai secretariat who is currently involved in coordinating the relief work of the Government as well as coordinating voluntary work

The UELCI has in the meantime, sent a joint appeal application (UELCI and LWS (I) for relief and rehabilitation to the ACT International Geneva. In its proposal it seeks intervention in three phases i.e., crisis, post-crisis and rehabilitation. It has also identified among other things an intensive comprehensive medical and health engagement including psycho-social counseling. It will work and implement its programmes through its partners and other programme units such as Lutheran World Service (India), Calcutta, NLHMB, IRDWSI and SWAP. Several teams from LWS (I), NLHMB, IRDWSI and others have already visited the affected areas.

Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, executive secretary of UELCI stresses the main emphasis of response should be the reduction of suffering and loss of the socially and economically marginalized people affected by the disaster. The DWS India and UELCI are working closely with another ACT member, Church's Auxiliary for Social Action.

## Sri Lanka - Aids through National Christian Council of Sri Lanka

At least 1 million people were directly affected, with infrastructure partially or fully destroyed as far as two kilometres inland, across 13 districts along the northern, southern and eastern coastlines. As of January 15, the death toll stands at 30,920 with 90,261 houses along the coast completely wiped out by the tsunami and another 41,960 badly damaged (Centre for National Operation [CNO], Sri Lanka). Overall, despite extensive damage to the country, the situation has been improving significantly. An increasing number of displaced populations are returning to their homes (545,492 compared to more than 850,000 on 29 December), while routine immunization activities are effectively conducted through

weekly clinics. Vector control activities are strong (fogging, spraying), as is disease surveillance. Sri Lanka is shifting increasingly from an acute emergency phase to one of consolidation and reconstruction, however the situation remains acute in several areas, particularly in Ampara and Kalmunai.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), health priorities include:

- Implementation of disease prevention activities
- Provision of medical services, including supplies management and

mobilization of additional medical professionals

- Strengthening of disease and water quality surveillance, as well as environmental hygiene promotion
- Improvement of sanitation infrastructure in displacement camps

Rev. Michael Sivalingam, president of the Lanka Lutheran Church (LLC) in his appeal for emergency assistance says many of our members are affected in the capital Colombo. Assistance to the LLC has been coordinated through the ACT local member, the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka.

## The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

In Geneva, LWF General Secretary, Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko, commends churches for the support they have shown in material, financial and prayer support for the tsunami victims and survivors. He points out that the tragedy also affected many nations outside South East Asia and Africa, as indicated by the number of dead from several countries in Europe and the USA. We

are grateful for this historic example of the outpouring of human compassion towards those in critical need. The challenge is to ensure that we maintain the assistance well beyond the emergency phase to full recovery and sustainability, Noko said.

In an expression of solidarity with the churches and people in Indonesia

(North Sumatra, Aceh and Nias) which is the worst affected, the LWF General Secretary is sending a team to assess the needs and to support member churches in their response. LWF member churches from within Asia as well as a delegation from the ELCA's Global Mission will also be visiting India and Thailand.

*No report was received from other member churches in the region about being directly affected by the tsunami - Ed.*

**If any church or individual wishes to help the affected member churches, please contact the following for more details:**

### Indonesia

- ✘ Bishop Dr Bonar Napitupulu (HKBP)  
Tel: + 62-633-217 07  
E-mail: hkbphq@hkbp.or.id
- ✘ Bishop Geya Arosokhi  
Tel: 62-639-214 48  
E-mail: ar\_geya@yahoo.com

### Sri Lanka

- ✘ Rev. Michael Silvalingam  
Tel: + 94/52-22975  
E-mail: llclanka@sltnet.lk

### Thailand

- ✘ Bishop Visanukorn Upama  
Tel: + 662/332 0054 extn 119  
E-mail: evluthch@loxinfo.co.th

### India

- ✘ Rev. Dr. Chandran Paul Martin  
Tel: + 91/44-2642 1575  
E-mail: uelci@vsnl.net  
E-mail: chandranuelci@rediffmail.com

**According to CNN, the official record of the dead and missing given by countries outside the tsunami affected areas on January 13 stand at:**

<b>Australia:</b>	13 dead	303 unaccounted for
<b>Austria:</b>	6 dead	nearly 500 missing
<b>Belgium:</b>	6 dead	
<b>Canada:</b>	4 dead	13 missing, 74 unaccounted for
<b>China:</b>	15 dead	29 missing
<b>Czech Republic:</b>	1 dead	7 missing
<b>Denmark:</b>	7 dead	
<b>Finland:</b>	5 dead	214 missing
<b>France:</b>	22 dead	18 injured
<b>Germany:</b>	60 dead	719 missing
<b>Israel:</b>	4 dead	6 missing
<b>Italy:</b>	20 dead	310 missing
<b>Japan:</b>	8 dead	
<b>Netherlands:</b>	6 dead	30 missing
<b>New Zealand:</b>	2 dead	64 missing
<b>Norway:</b>	16 dead	88 missing
<b>Singapore:</b>	8 dead	16 missing
<b>South Korea:</b>	11 dead	
<b>Sweden:</b>	52 dead	637 missing, 1201 unaccounted for
<b>Switzerland:</b>	23 dead	
<b>Taiwan:</b>	3 dead	45 missing
<b>United Kingdom:</b>	51 dead	402 missing
<b>United States:</b>	18 dead	17 presumed dead (755 inquiries remain)

“The numbers of orphans are relatively low in Aceh because the number of children who died was high; rarely was a child able to survive where adults could not”

*(Bangkok Post, Jan 8)*

“People blame me. They said I could have saved at least one (all her 3 young children were washed away by the waves, with the youngest right from her hands)!”

*Mary Jansia, 26, Sri Lanka  
(Bangkok Post, Jan 8)*

“This is not the time to give up, we have to fight” - a Sri Lankan man who had lost his home and 2 daughters

*(Bangkok Post, Jan 8)*

During the first two days in Phang Nga's Kao Lak, volunteer worker Ekkachai did not have to search for corpses because “bodies were everywhere”. We were so tired that I said to my staff of rescued workers, “You could pretend not to see them.” But of course we couldn't ignore them but collected every body we saw. We were not discouraged. We told ourselves that every one (of the bodies) wants to go home and we had to help them. We helped as if they were our own relatives. (Thailand)

*(Nation, Jan 8)*

Each day 10-15 relatives are able to identify and claim the bodies of family members. But the number of corpses awaiting the process is 4,000! (Thailand)

*(Bangkok Post, Jan 8)*

The trauma of trying to identify the body of a loved one. Should one be happy or relieved when the body is confirmed to be a relative/friend or to

continue the search with diminishing hope of ever finding the body (bodies)? - Thailand

*(TV Program Commentator)*

The bodies of foreigners are kept in refrigerated containers and Thais are temporarily buried in nearby cemeteries until relatives claim and retrieve them for cremation (Thailand)

*(Nation, Jan 4)*

“We have received reports of incidents of rape, gang rape, molestation and physical abuse of women and girls in the course of unsupervised rescue operations and while resident in temporary shelters, “the Women and Media Collective group said in a statement (Sri Lanka)

*(Nation, Jan 4)*

More than 270,000 people are in refugee camps in Aceh. But aid workers believe many more people are isolated with no fresh water, food or access to medical care.

*(Nation, Jan 4)*

“There was nothing left standing. The entire 20-kilometre stretch of the beach was wiped out. Concrete electricity and telephone poles were lying around like a game of pick-up sticks.” Jonas Hafstrom, Sweden's ambassador to Thailand.

*(Nation, Jan 8)*

I'm sure their bodies (wife, nephew & one-month-old son) are in this lake because my house sits on its bank. Maybe they are buried under the mud.” - a survivor from Khao Lak. (Thailand)

*(Bangkok Post, Jan 7)*

“The only thing I have ever seen like it is in photos of Hiroshima and Nagasaki” – British Int'l Develop-

ment Minister Hilary Benn after inspecting the city of Banda Aceh flattened and splintered by the tsunamis.

*(Bangkok Post, Jan 7)*

Down at Banda Aceh's destroyed port there was no fear when the sporadic tremors struck as the only residents there are bloated, decaying corpses.

*(Bangkok Post, Jan 7)*

The place is like Sodom and Gomorrah (after the destruction)!

*Bishop Upama (ELCT) during a visit to Phang Nga, Thailand*

“I really wished I could have helped my family but I just couldn't go back with the huge waves following so closely” – a 12-year-old orphan boy. (Thailand)

*(Bangkok Post, Jan 8)*

A woman contacted a local newspaper to help search for her husband, 46 and her 12-year-old son. She has already found the bodies of her two other children, age 9 and 7. (Thailand)

*(Nation, Jan 8)*

“I don't want to be here anymore. I've lost my whole family here,” Wisut Somabut, 12, said after seeing her parents and 3 siblings being swept away by the tidal waves in his home in Takua Pa district, Phang Nga. (Thailand)

*(Bangkok Post, Jan 7)*

I don't think anyone can do anything to expedite their grief beyond letting them express their grief, to cry and talk.

*A Sri Lankan Psychiatrist.  
(Bangkok Post, Jan 8)*



The power of the tsunami at 1 km from the coast



Listening, ministering ... ELCT Bishop Upama (far right) & Ms. Anneli Konni, FELM minissionary (r), Khao Lak, Phang Nga



Unidentified bodies are kept in refrigerated containers, Kao Yan Temple, Phang Nga



Sweden ... the greatest number reported missing in Thailand



Boat on shore, Phang Nga



Lost Owners ..., Khao Lak, Phang Nga



Emergency relief by Arcot Lutheran Church - distribution food and water in 9 villages near Cuddalore, India



Building of temporary houses for those affected



Life carries on ... compound of Phang Nga District Office



The calm after the storm, Patong Beach, Phuket

# Passing On the Baton

Message from the Director of LWF Department for Mission and Development (DMD)

Dear friends in Christ.

Looking back at the year 2004, and thinking of world-wide events, one can say that it was a year full of turmoil and violence. But thinking of the life of the Lutheran Communion, it was a year of hope and strengthening of the bond that keeps us together. Looking beyond the communion, we recall that last year we celebrated the 5th Anniversary of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification with the Roman Catholic Church.

This year, 2005, we are expecting great things as we witness together the in-breaking reign of God in Christ. It is with great joy that I inform the Churches in Asia that the new LWF mission document, "Mission in Context: Transformation, Reconciliation, Empowerment - An LWF Contribution to the Understanding and Practice of Mission" has now been published. All member churches and their institutions will receive a copy soon. I hope

and pray that the Churches will study this mission document in order to deepen their commitment to the call for mission and to revitalize their practice of mission.

I will be returning to my home Church in Madagascar in March, therefore, I wish you all God's blessing as you continue to serve God.

**Dr. Péri Rasolondraibe, DMD Director  
December 21, 2004**

## Getting to Know the New DMD Director

The new director of the LWF Department for Mission and Development (DMD), Norwegian theologian, Rev. Dr. Kjell Birger Nordstokke, 58, is expected to take up his new position in April 2005, succeeding Rev. Dr. Peri Rasolondraibe who will be retiring in March 2005.

Nordstokke brings to the LWF a wealth of experience in diaconical work. Since 1997 he has been director of one of the leading diaconal institutions in Norway, the Diakonhjemmet College and Hospital in Oslo, with responsibility for a staff of more than 1,400 persons. One of his main tasks as director is to elaborate the strategy of the institution and make it relevant as a church-based actor in civil society. The institution has close relations with several international partners including LWF member churches in Brazil, Southern Africa and Latvia.

Nordstokke served in Brazil as a missionary of the Norwegian Missionary Society (NMS) for ten years. He has published several articles in the area of missiology, working with issues

like contextualization, third world theology, theology of liberation, transformation, mission and diakonia, and has taught these subjects at academic level both in Norway and abroad. His 1991 doctoral dissertation at Oslo University was on the subject, "Council and Context in Leonardo Boff's Ecclesiology: The Rebirth of the Church among the Poor."

Ordained in the Church of Norway in 1973, Nordstokke pursued his undergraduate and post-graduate studies in theology in Oslo. From 1988 until 1990, Nordstokke was secretary for the Norwegian Catholic-Lutheran dialogue, working mainly with the understanding of justification. He was a delegate to the LWF Eighth Assembly in Curitiba Brazil in 1990 and participated in the Tenth Assembly in July 2003. From 1997 until 2003, he served as an LWF Council adviser on the Program Committee for Mission and Development. Since 2003, he has been a member of the governmental commission assessing the future of the church-state relations in Norway.

## REGIONAL NEWS



Front row: Rev. Timothy Fan (new President of LTC ROC), Lu Yi-In, Selma Chen & Lin Pei-Yu

### New President & First Women's Ordination

The Rev. Timothy Fan was elected as President of the Lutheran Church of Taiwan (LTCROC) during its Church Assembly on 24-25 September, 2004. On October 12, LTC also had its first women ordination. These first three women who made history in LTC are Lu Yi-In, Lin Pei-Yu, and Selma Chen.

By Rev. Selma Chen

# National Recognition for Lutheran Work in Korea

Seoul, Korea -- With plans to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the "Great Revival Movement" which began in Korea in 1907, a committee of Korean Protestant Christian church leaders has selected the ministries, *the Korea Bethel Series Bible Study program* and *the Korea Lutheran Hour mass communications ministry* of the Lutheran Church in Korea for special recognition. The same committee has also selected the late Rev. Dr. Won-Sang Ji (1927-1998) as one of the most influential Korean church leaders of the past 100 years.



The late Dr. Won-Sang Ji

Both the Korea Bethel Series and the Korea Lutheran Hour are specifically singled out for special recognition because of the impact and the contributions they have made to the growth, development, and building of the church in Korea.

In the category of "Church Unity, Reconciliation, and Relationships", one of the four names mentioned is the late Rev. Dr. Won-Sang Ji, who had served as the first president of the Lutheran Church in Korea and also the founder of the Korea Bethel Series Bible Study program and served as its Director from January of 1974 until his death in April 1998. Dr. Ji had also worked closely with the Korea Lutheran Hour mass communications ministry and helped to strengthen its impact through a close coordination with other mission outreach activities of the LCK.

The LCK introduced the Bethel Series Bible study into the entire church in Korea. In its 30 year history since the first training semi-

nar in 1974, over 9,800 clergy from all denominations and from all over Korea as well as other parts of the world, had been trained to use the Korea Bethel Series materials for the adult Christian education programs of their local congregations. More than 450,000 adult Korean Christians have used the Bethel Series materials in a disciplined, difficult, and demanding study of the Scriptures.

Most notable among those would be the Christian Correspondence Course program which has enrolled more than 750,000 individuals in the Primary and Advanced Courses during its 45 year history.

Dr. Ji himself had also served as the script writer and speaker for *Crossroads of Life*, one of the music and message format programs sponsored by the Korea Lutheran Hour.

According to Rev. Hong-Yeol LEE, who presently serves as President of the Lutheran Church in Korea and also as the Director of the Korea Bethel Series, "This is truly an unexpected and wonderful surprise. We are glad and honored for such recognition of our Lutheran church's efforts, not in competing with other denominations in Korea, but that our mission and ministry activities are for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which have indeed contributed to the growth and building of the total body of Christ in this land."

Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK)  
Press Release, 19 November 2004

## New Mission MOVEMENT

The United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India (UELCI) has launched the "UELCI – Ishmael Noko Dalit Liberation Movement", a programme supported by the Lutheran World Federation.

The UELCI recognizes the urgent need for a praxiological and paradigmatic change in the mission of the church in the struggle to liberate Dalits, and has, at the UELCI national consultation on "Church Development Priorities", prioritized the Dalit liberation as one of the key issues.

On 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2004, the programme was officially launched. Rev. Dr. Chandran Paul Martin, Executive Secretary, UELCI. Dr. Martin expressed his deep commitment towards Dalit liberation and said that the church in India, par-

ticularly Lutheran churches, has now discerned its role as a peoples movement and therefore identifies itself as an instrument for the liberation of Dalits. The Lutheran Churches in India had single handedly pioneered the evolvement of Dalit theology in the country and the introduction of Dalit studies through Gurukul Lutheran Theological College, India. He also invites all the churches and ecumenical organizations to join the movement to work for the Dalit cause. He affirmed that the vision was to dynamically engage the Lutheran churches in mission.

In the presence of all the Lutheran church leaders from all over the country and also the Dalit activists, he dedicated the programme to the service of humanity. The launch of the programme was symbolically organized, with the dignitaries lighting the five traditional lamps representing each major areas of work focusing on Advocacy, Education, Economic development, Political action and Networking, and thereafter by cutting the rope which was tied to the Dalits as oppressive structures in the society symbolically depicting their liberation. A group called *Thannannai Kazhaikuzhu* also expressed their hope for Dalit liberation through a form of Dalit's cultural art.

Mrinal Lankapalli  
Press Release, 17 November 2004

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

After two years as the regional representatives for the Asia-Pacific desk with the Division for Global Mission (DGM) of the ELCA, Revs. Jane and Peter Shen have returned to their home in Washington state in October 2004. Rev. Dr. Peter Shen will continue to serve on special assignments within the Asia-Pacific desk and the Office of the Executive Director. The LWF Mekong Mission Forum (MMF) will be an area of participation.

Rev. Mike Fonner and Leslie Weed-Fonner will assume the responsibilities for regional representatives in Asia. Leslie will serve in the areas of social services, social work, development, HIV/AIDS and women, children and family issues. Mike will serve in the areas of theological education, church and pastoral relations, and interfaith relations. Their reassignment as regional representatives is effective immediately.

ELCA, DGM

# INFORMATION SHARING

## Travel Diary of the Asia Secretary to the Mekong Region

### Evangelism in Myanmar

I was with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Myanmar (ELCM) from October 23 to 26, 2004. Together with the president of the church, Rev. Jensen Rajan Andrews, I conducted the Sunday worship and baptized 15 adults and children in a fully-packed church. The baptized adults were Buddhists converts through the church's evangelistic efforts. Eighty-five children took part in a Bible study that followed.

ELCM has an evangelistic team that evangelizes in several villages and eight mission posts in different places. The training of lay people for "outdoor mission" is an important of the church and every year, 30 to 50 people are being baptized.

The church conducts special healing services and provides medicines and medical aid to those who come to the church for help. Traditional medicines are also used. Through this ministry many people have come to know the love of Christ and have become Christians. Mission partners of ELCM support the work by providing medicines.

Help is offered to poor children of members and other religions by way of school fees, textbooks and notebooks. Otherwise, these children would be roaming the



... ministry in the Bangkok slum

streets. The church approaches the parents and makes arrangements to put the children in schools. The children are also invited to attend Sunday schools. Many of the children's lives are thus transformed. The Lutheran Youth Fellowship with 250 members ministers to the youth through visiting the sick, social services, outdoor Gospel team work, vocational training and youth musical group training. These activities involve both young men and women.

Although ELCM is a small church, it has been active ecumenically. Rev. Andrews is the treasurer of the Joint Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Myanmar and the Myanmar Christian Council. The church also takes an active part in ecumenical services during Easter, Christmas, New Year Day and World Week Prayer. ELCM is represented in the Board

of Management of the Myanmar Council of Churches (MCC).

Rev. Andrews and I met with the MCC General Secretary, Rev. Smith Nyu Za Thong. MCC is a members of the Mekong Mission Partner Network coordinated by LWF DMD Asia Desk. Issues related to Mekong Mission Partnership were discussed. Rev. Za Thong said the programs should be efficient rather than being competitive.

The Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT) is one of the individual members of the Mekong Network. MIT Principal Dr. Prof. Anna May ay Pa is willing to support the Mekong Network.

### Strengthening Ties in Thailand

From October 26 to 29, I met with the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (ELCT) led by Bishop Upama. I shared some information from LWF in relation to the need of member-churches.

One of the issues discussed was the meaning of "Communion". Through the word "Communion" it was explained clearly what kind of relationship we have between LWF and ELCT and relationship between ELCT and other LWF member-churches in Asia and relationship between ELCT and other denominations in Thailand. Communion is to be practised in diversity; work closely together in carrying out mission with the common basis bound to the Scripture.

The "Home of Grace" I visited is a centre where denied pregnant women are being taken care of temporary. This is a differ-



Rev. Harahap with staff and residents of the Home of Grace

ent type of mission where some women have been converted to Christianity after experiencing love through "counseling work" during their period of stay there. I also visited Samrong Church and Emmanuel Church. These two congregations witness to the community by providing child care to children in the neighborhood when their parents are at work. The childcare centre provides learning programs, exercise and also Bible stories and singing. This makes the children interested in Christianity and their parents permit them to be Christians as the church cares for them. Some of these children get baptized.

At the 'Home of Praise' children from the slum area are invited to join the kindergarten when their parents go for work. This is also a different to doing mission among children. To proclaim the Gospel in Thailand, dominated by Buddhism, churches have to contextualise their mission.

#### **Sustainable Development in Cambodia**

I visited Cambodia from October 29 to November 1. LWF DMD is supporting the project of Abundant Life Church in Prey

Meas, Preah Sdach district, Prey Veng Province. The International Cooperation Cambodia (ICC), which is also a member of Mekong Mission Partners Network, collaborates in the project. ICC does not help build churches but is committed to sustainable development that enhances local capacities for change. Since the government prevents the carrying out of religious activities, ICC serves the needs of the people of Cambodia in education, health, food security, social services and community development.

Preah Sdach, one of the places where ICC is involved, is an exception to its rule as there is no Christian group or any local Christian when ICC started working in the area in 1995. Despite the constraints, a young church is set up by a few men and women interested in learning Christianity. Rev. Juanito Basalong of the Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP) was sent to serve the church. This has become a part of the project implemented in cooperation with ICC, Dan Mission and LCP.

Today the church has 87 members. The congregation does not have a church build-

ing and the worship take place in a rented house. The congregation has some activities such as Bible study and Sunday school. It has nine groups of Sunday school for children in six villages, five Bible study cell groups for adults, three youth groups and one woman group. Members help people who are ill and in time of death, irrespective of their religion. When someone is in need, they visit and contribute what they can.

The church is registered with the local government as an independent church and is trying to register at the provincial and national levels. It still needs assistance in human resource development and financial resources.

I also met with the ICC Director. Issues related to the project implementation and the Mekong Mission Network were discussed. ICC has been training the people of Cambodia in professional and leadership skills, strengthening local organizations, and demonstrating unity and cooperation by working with other agencies.

**Ginda P. Harahap,**  
LWF Asia Secretary

## **LWF Capacity Building Workshop, INDIA, November 2004**

The LWF Capacity building workshop was organized by the LWF/DMD and the Division of Social Action, UELCI, for Indian and Sri Lanka member churches at Scripture Union Campus, Mahabalipuram, Tamilnadu, India from 13-16 November, 2004. The 68 participants which include Bishops, project holders, accountants and development personnel, were warmly welcomed by Rev. Dr. A. G. Augustine Jeyakumar, Director, DSA/UELCI and Executive Secretary of LWF National Committee in India. Bishop L. G. Rao, President of UELCI inaugurated the Workshop with the opening worship and Rev. Dr. Chandran Paul Martin Executive Secretary, UELCI gave the inaugural introductory talk emphasizing on the need to update our thinking to challenge the issues emerging in daily life.

Dr. Jaap Schep, LWF/DMD Secretary for Project Implementation and Monitoring and Ms. Margret Stasius, Secretary for Project Coordination and Administration



*Active participation during the workshop*

were the main resource persons for the 4-day workshop. Training on project planning, write-up, Implementation, narrative reporting, financial reporting, evaluation were the main components of the programme. The workshop was conducted in a participatory method where participants contributed their suggestions with great interest. During the plenary on the

last day, participants suggested that the follow up of this capacity building workshop should continue at regional and church level.

**Rev. Dr. A. G. Augustine Jeyakumar**  
Executive Secretary, LWF National  
Committee in India & Director,  
DSA/UELCI

## Churches say “No to Violence Against Women” – In Bahasa & Chinese

The LWF document “Churches say ‘No’ to Violence against Women” has recently been translated into Bahasa Malaysia and Chinese by Sabah Theological Seminary (STS). Churches that need copies in either of these languages may contact Dr. Pang Ken Phin directly at [pangkp@pc.jaring.my](mailto:pangkp@pc.jaring.my).



Churches Say “No” to Violence Against Women in Bahasa & Chinese

© STS

**The document has, so far, been translated into the following twenty-three (23) languages:**

English, French, Spanish, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, Icelandic, Danish (not full-script) Bahasa Indonesia, Portuguese (Draft), Malagasy, Hindi, Oriya, Tamil, Telugu, Amharic,

Oromifa, Malay, Chinese, Russian, Kiswahili, Dutch.

Filippino local dialect, Georgian, Portuguese, Japanese.

**Currently being translated into:**

Pidgin, Kikuyu, Kiluhya, Kisii, and Dholuo (any one in Kenyan), Lingala, Kikongo (RDC), Arabic (Palestine),

*Please contact the LWF/DMD Women in Church & Society (WICAS) at [prs@lutheranworld.org](mailto:prs@lutheranworld.org) or [dcs@lutheranworld.org](mailto:dcs@lutheranworld.org) for copies.*

### Editor/News Coordinator

Editor/News Coordinator - Ms. Sally Lim (Kee) – Regional Expression Coordinator for Asia - LWF Bangkok  
Co-Editor - Dr. I. Arul Aram – Chief Sub-Editor, The Hindu newspaper, India

### Graphic Artist/Webmaster

Mr. Justin Wong, Malaysia

### Editorial board

Mr. Erik Lai, Malaysia; Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Mr. Takashi Yuguchi, Japan; Rev. Ginda P. Harahap, LWF Geneva

### ALN Liaisons (Contact Persons)

Mr. Gopal C Ray (BLC), Bangladesh; Rev. Richard Lui (ELCHK), Hong Kong; Ms. Sharon Yip (HKMLC), Hong Kong; Rev. A. Peter Joshua (ALC), India; Mr. Prakash Mahanandia (JELC), India; Rev. L. Pasaribu (GKPA), Indonesia; Rev. Maurids Simamora (GKPI), Indonesia; Rev. Aladin Sitio (GKLI), Indonesia; Rev. Elson Lingga (GKPPD), Indonesia; Rev. James Hutabarat (GPP), Indonesia; Bishop F S Gea (AMIN), Indonesia; Rev. Harianja Bintahan (HKBP), Indonesia; Ms. Debora Dumaris F. Simatupang (GPKB), Indonesia; Rev. Hirotaka Tokuhiko (JELC), Japan; Rev. Kimio Takano (JLC), Japan; Mr. George Awad (ELCJ), Jordan; Mr. Glen Longaki (LCP), Philippines; Rev. Martin Yee (LCS), Singapore; Ms. Grace Chu (CLS), Taiwan

### Regular Sources of Information:

The Lutheran World Information (LWI); The Lutheran (LCA)

### Printing Press

Prachoomthong Printing Group Co. Ltd, Bangkok, Thailand

The *Asia Lutheran News (ALN)* is a bi-monthly newsletter published by the Lutheran World Federation Regional Office for Asia (ROAS), Bangkok. It is supported by the Asia Lutheran Church Leaders for the enhancement of communication and communion among the 46 LWF member churches in Asia as well as seminaries and Christian institutions in the region. News concentrate on information and events or materials that would benefit, inform or encourage them. ALN is sent free upon request. Materials in the ALN may be freely translated, reprinted or reproduced in any form, but credit to it is requested. **The opinions expressed in the articles are the views of the authors and not necessarily those of the Lutheran World Federation.** All written contributions are welcome. The closing date for each issue is the 1st of every even month. News that came in after the deadline may be published in the following issue if they are not outdated. **The Asia Lutheran News reserves the right to edit all works for publication and cannot guarantee that all works submitted will be published.** Any related accompanying photographs would be deeply appreciated. Please send all articles and information for the ALN to [slk@lutheranworld.org](mailto:slk@lutheranworld.org) or at fax number: +662-332 3873 or P O Box 239, Phra Khanong, Bangkok 10110, Thailand.

ALN Website : [www.asia-lutheran.org/aln](http://www.asia-lutheran.org/aln)  
LWF Website : [www.lutheranworld.org](http://www.lutheranworld.org)