

Winter 2011

PARTNERS
a newsletter for our partners

Passion in Action ... Motorcycles for C.A.R.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic President, Andre Golike, visited Bethany Lutheran Church in Minot, North Dakota, in January 2010. He mentioned the need for 16 motorcycles for pastors and evangelists to use in their village ministry. With few roads and no access to transportation of any kind, church workers find it very difficult to reach their parishioners in remote villages.

When Jake, a high school student, heard about the need for motorcycles in the Central African Republic, it didn't take long for him to decide that he could turn his passion into action. Jake received permission from his pastors to speak before his congregation on a couple of consecutive Sundays encouraging them to give to this special project, and they responded generously with more than was needed.



Jake wrote recently to Gordon Olson, LPGM Founding Director, *[Thank you to] you and your organization [LPGM] for having such a great program to not only help people but spread the word of our Savior and God. [Thank you] to my pastor Gerald who brought this to my attention and assisted me in every aspect. Most importantly, I have to thank my congregation because without them we would not have succeeded. We really do have a wonderful congregation at Bethany Lutheran in Minot. I greatly enjoyed working on this fundraiser because it brought one of my favorite hobbies (riding motorcycle) and Christ together. **Riding for Christ.** It was wonderful knowing I got to help spread God's word and grace.*

Join LPGM for our Annual Meeting and Celebration Thursday, April 7, 2011

The LPGM Board of Directors holds an Annual Meeting each year to fulfill a requirement of our bylaws. **We hope you will join us this year as we also celebrate our ministry together.**

You will be able to meet Executive Director Mark Warpmaeker, Founders Gordon and Betty Olson, and other staff and board members. We will conduct a brief business meeting in which officers will be elected, board

members will be elected/re-elected, 2010 financial highlights and program accomplishments will be shared. You will be able to ask questions or make observations. Most importantly, you will be able to meet other LPGM constituents, partners in this journey we share together.

WHEN: Thursday, April 7th

TIME: Food & Fellowship 6:00 PM;
Business Meeting 6:30 PM

WHERE: 122 West Franklin Avenue,
Minnesota Church Center

We need to have your RSVP to properly order food for the event

Please call 612.823.5058 or email office@lutheranpartners.org with the total number of people attending.

We look forward to making this a new tradition!

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Sandra's Corner

g TRUST advocacy
collaboration

Several years ago, on the advice of one of our founders and our legal expert at that time, Larry Brynestad, the LPGM board instituted term limits. This was done so people didn't feel like they were signing up for a lifelong commitment and to ensure that we had a good supply of new ideas and energy. We are all excited about the new board members that we have and look forward to their questions, thoughts ideas and passion. But, oh my, how hard it is to say goodbye to those leaving us!

Shelly Franz, one of the founding board members, is always prepared for meetings, always ready to question and to challenge, and *always* ready to remind us that money that sits in the bank does not fulfill the mission of the organization.

Dave Olson, again a founding member and for many years our "token clergy," sees the world in many shades of gray – a good counter to the black and white that many of us have. He is known for short prayers, quick wit, gentle (and sometimes not so gentle) guidance and encouragement.

Betty Olson, whatever does one say about Betty? Obviously a founding member, Betty is a quiet, thoughtful voice, always able to turn the discussion back to the key issues and willing to step out of her comfort zone for us. She is known for excellent food, treats and the ability to silence Gordy just by looking at him.

Herb Morgenthaler joined us in 1999 and has provided us with great insight about other organizations he has served. He always keeps our plans and

goals in sight, helping us grow by sharing the experiences of others... things that worked and didn't so we avoided some of the pitfalls young organizations often face.

Jim Donicht joined the board in 2001 and has provided financial oversight, sharp focus and the ability to go to the heart of any issue. Jim was our Thrivent connection and brought us valuable ideas, information and opportunities.

All of these people have deep passions and big dreams. We thank them, and God, for their service and hope they will continue to stay connected with Lutheran Partners and spread the story wherever life takes them!

Passion in Action ... Blood Analyzer for India Hospital

On a recent Friday evening twenty some women, ranging in age from late 20s to mid 60s came in from the cold. There were beverages and delicious food to further their fellowship. The conversation bantered about was as unique as it could be with women from a variety of backgrounds, current situations, family statuses, employment circumstance, and so on.

When the lone gentleman was given the floor, the group rallied together around one cause – the Danish Mission Hospital in India, a partner project of LPGM, led by the Arcot Lutheran Church. LPGM Executive Director Mark Warpmaeker gave the group an historical perspective of this place of healing, which includes a downturn in support and infrastructure that has threatened the very existence of the institution.

**LPGM's
Board of Directors**

Sandra Anderson, *Board Chair*
James Donicht, *Vice Chair*
Amy Swenson, *Secretary*
Melissa Steen, *Treasurer*
Dave Dynneson
Tricia Hall
Herb Morgenthaler
Jim Noss
Betty Olson
The Rev. Joel Quie
Sheela Solomon
Michael Smith
Peter Thomas
Verne Winter

Mark Warpmaeker, *Executive Director*
Gordon Olson, *Founding Director*
Naomi Staruch, *Managing Director*
The Rev. James Gonia, *ELCA Liaison*

Hostesses Kim Dickey and Ann Senne, who both traveled to India in August 2010, told the story of their group's visit to the hospital. Both Kim and Ann (and other chaperones), as well as the high school youth they were traveling with, were so impressed with the work of the hospital and its young doctor/manager Mathew Sachin. They asked him what they could do to help. He replied that he needs a blood analyzer. The cost is simply not affordable in the hospital budget.

The old one broke years ago, so they haven't been able to make accurate diagnoses without it. As one can imagine, this really hinders their care capacity. Kim, Ann and the youth were determined to get the doctor the equipment he needs.

**DM Hospital
Continued on page Five**

New Members of the Board of Directors



Tricia Hall

Tricia Hall is a family physician who practices as a part-time faculty member in the family medicine department at the University of Minnesota, Broadway Family Medicine, in North Minneapolis. She has a passion for addressing local and global poverty, including international health. She has traveled throughout the world with short-term medical missions and also volunteers with Global Health Ministries, currently focusing on Community-based Primary Healthcare in Nigeria. She feels that the mission of LPGM fits extremely well with her passions and is excited about serving on the board. Tricia and her husband, Chris, who is also a physician, have two young boys.



James M. Noss

Jim was three when his family left their Minnesota farm. Their destination was Cameroon! His early education was at his mother's knee as well as the mission school in Cameroon. As a young adult he studied in the U.S., too. In 1968, as a young married couple with a six-month-old son, Jim and Karen began their own missionary service that lasted for four decades, at least officially. His main call has always been logistics and financial management for the ALC/ELCA missionaries in both Cameroon and the Central African Republic as well as helping out many other missions and church related organizations.



He began following the work of Gordy and Betty Olson, and eventually LPGM, when work was first started on the church in Bangui. He is delighted that he can continue the Lord's work as a board member, not only continuing work that was started so many years ago in Cameroon and the Central African Republic, but also being a part of the Lord's even bigger picture—that His kingdom may come, around the world, to whomever, in Christ's name.

See a related story on page four about Jim's recent work trip to Gallo, Central African Republic.

Advisory Board is in the early stages of development

As part of the executive transition, the Board of Directors has been in its own transition. Since it is more convenient to be part of a meeting without actually being in the room, we are grateful that technology can keep us connected to a greater geographical area. This will be an element of our intentional expansion in the months ahead.

We are proud to welcome several new members to the Board of Directors recently. Tricia Hall, Jim Noss (both introduced in this issue), Sheela Solomon, and Pastor Joel Quie are from the Minneapolis metro area.

Peter Thomas, who lives in Rockford, Illinois, brings a new perspective from northern Illinois. Sheela, Joel and Peter will be introduced in a future newsletter. More information is available on our website.

Sandra's corner (on the previous page) pays homage to five board members whose terms have ended or will end soon. These five people would be greatly missed if they simply ended their role as board member and walked off into the sunset. So, they will be members of a brand new Advisory Board. This layer of influence and expertise may also include people

who are not able to commit to the Board of Directors.

LPGM board member Verne Winter is going to lead the development of this Advisory Board. There is a need for more people to be involved in some capacity.

If you have an interest in serving LPGM as a member of the Advisory Board or the Board of Directors, please contact Executive Director Mark Warpmaeker in our office: 612.823.5058 or mark@lutheranpartners.org.



Jim Noss shares some stories from the Central African Republic

I had several objectives during my short time in country. Here is part of the journal of my trip that relates to the solar system at the Emmanuel Health Center.

Preparing for this trip was not easy. I was a little uncertain to know just what extra things I might need . . . tools, wiring, bolts, brackets, etc. I brought a suitcase of basic tools, testing equipment and connecting devices and gas fittings for the three gas refrigerators I would install. I bought additional supplies in Ngaoundere, Cameroon, before I headed across the border to C.A.R.

The GHM [Global Health Ministries] container, full of medical supplies, including the solar equipment, had arrived in September and was all unpacked. Fortunately all the major components were there. A small box or two of parts, including battery cables and brackets was not. With a little "dabare" (intuition), and careful planning, and with things I had picked up along the way or found in Gallo, it all worked out.

I was able to get the surgery lights rewired and repaired so even with only solar they work. The lab technician was so happy as it made his work so much easier, with power any time of day or night to run his equipment. The sterilizers and water pump still need to get their power from the generator, but that is only for a few hours each week. The system is set up so that it can be changed from generator powered, to solar very easily. What a delight it was to have lights at the clinic

all night long and at the houses, too, without the noise and cost of running the generator.

While challenges remain, Christ's light—as with the solar system—provides LIGHT 24 hours a day thanks to the dedicated staff who work there and those who make this care possible.

I was thankful to have several staff people to help me with my work. I REALLY enjoyed speaking Gbaya most of my time there!

Jim was in C.A.R. from October 15 - November 15, 2010.

LPGM thanks the people of Christ Lutheran Church in Valencia, California, led by Pastor Joseph Campeau, for providing the funds for the solar panels Jim installed. Their generosity is faith in action!

Clean Water in C.A.R.

Another very important project that is getting attention in the Central African Republic is clean water filtration.

ELCA Missionary Joe Troester, working in collaboration with the Lutheran Water Management Project, is bringing clean water to thousands of people.

Spring boxes are one of the most cost-effective ways to increase access to potable water. Each spring box costs approximately US\$2,000 to construct and may serve a village of up to 2,000 people. Once built, spring boxes



require very little or no maintenance and usually last for decades. Now, instead of muddy, parasite- and bacteria-infested water, villagers can collect clean spring water, piped directly from the source, and protected by a cement wall and basin, making it easy to collect the water in a sanitary way.

Once the spring box is in place, PASE (the French acronym for Lutheran Water Management Project) also trains people in proper hygiene, such as hand-washing, to avoid water-borne diseases.

LPGM has collected more than \$6,000 for these filtration systems so far. If you would like to be a part of this life-giving project, contributions marked for "C.A.R. Clean Water" can be sent to LPGM. All amounts are appreciated.

Check out Joe's Blog:
<http://africanwaterlog.blogspot.com/>





The power of an adult in a child's life

The young man's name has been changed to ensure privacy.

When John failed his 10th standard tests—necessary for studying at the 11th and 12th standard levels—more than his academic plans fell apart. John, who has problems with one of his eyes, had little support in his life from his family. His LPGM sponsor had been his main source of encouragement. But when he failed the exam, John, feeling a bit embarrassed, left school and did not leave any contact information for LPGM or his school. John's pastor encouraged him to re-enter school and even helped him study for his tests. Over time John, who found a way to both get back to school and fund his stay, was able to pass all areas of the 10th standard exam. He then went on to pass both the 11th and 12th standard with a focus on education and literature.

Not sure where to turn next, he returned to his home village and started looking for a kindergarten teaching position, a job which does not pay even close to a living salary in India. By this time, a new pastor had arrived at John's church and seeing the potential in the young man, encouraged him to get a Bachelor's degree. With a Bachelor's degree he could teach in an elementary or middle school, a position that would put him in India's middle class.

So, how did I hear about John? The



LPGM Executive Director Mark Warpmaeker with "John" on a recent visit to India

manager of a hostel for young professional women in Chennai, insisted I come down to the kitchen one night. She wanted me to meet John. John's pastor got him a job in the hostel and she keeps him focused on his studies. When we asked John how he managed through so many difficult times, he produced a letter from his sponsor written in 2005. He said, "I knew my sponsor was praying for me and I wanted to make him proud."

One adult at a time changed this young man's life. Your letters, your prayers and your sponsorship are changing lives. You might be the one adult who changes a child's life.

DM Hospital continued ...

In an exciting twist of events Mark phoned Dr. Sachin. It was 7:30 A.M. the next day in India (11 ½ hours ahead of Minnesota time). He was eager to talk about his work and what a new blood analyzer would mean to his staff and their ability to care for patients. You could have heard a pin drop in the room as he captured everyone's full attention.

The evening ended with an appeal to the group to share something from their pocketbook for the purchase of the much needed equipment. Kim announced that the youth had already raised \$1,000 from their own resources. This group was challenged to contribute \$1,200.

Building on the tradition started several years ago, a group of women made an intentional decision to gather to enjoy one another's company. The result of this evening of Martinis for Mission was in excess of \$1,400. All the funds raised have been sent to the hospital to ensure the good work they are doing can continue.

Can you envision a social event where you could challenge your friends to make a difference?

If you have held such an event, please let us know so we can share the story!





Second Annual Spring Sponsorship Blitz

While discussing the ever present need for new sponsors in Project Education India, LPGM Board member Amy Swenson suggested we try a “blitz” at churches to gain new sponsors. The first spring sponsorship blitz was held in eleven partner churches in four states during April and May of 2010. It was a huge success!

Now, to counteract the attrition of sponsors over time, we are making preparations to hold another blitz. Churches that participated in 2010 are welcome to join us again in 2011. Churches that think there is a potential to not only find new sponsors but invigorate your congregation for mission should contact us for more information.

The elements of a successful blitz:

One person takes the lead to coordinate communication between your church and LPGM.

You pick the day and time for the blitz; typically it is a Sunday morning or two, when people are already at church.

LPGM provides materials necessary for advertising and promoting the event.

LPGM also provides the profile of students who are praying for a sponsor.

Current sponsors provide their personal story of sponsorship and their enthusiasm for the project.

Many times there is a special children’s sermon or temple talk or other presentation during the service.

On the “blitz” Sunday, new sponsors make themselves known and more students are sponsored.

Travel Opportunities to India Sponsored and led by LPGM

Have you ever thought about making a unique global journey? Travelers to LPGM supported projects typically react with comments like:

“ A trip of a lifetime”

“More than I ever expected”

“Amazing projects, amazing children”

The itinerary to India includes visits to:

- Boarding homes and schools, including libraries
- School for street children
- Women’s weaving center
- Quo Vadis Interfaith Dialogue Center
- Village visits—to a home or two of sponsored students
- Tribal hills region
- Cost about \$3,500—\$4,000
- Optional extension to Delhi, Agra and the Taj Mahal

Preliminary Dates:

1. August or September 2011
2. Mid January—Early February 2012
3. Summer 2012

Please contact us to add your name to the list of one or more of these possible group excursions or for more information about the commitment.

*Special contributions to LPGM
received through January 31, 2011*

IN MEMORY OF:

Remembered by . . .

BILL BLISS

Joyce Young

JOHN BUCKA

Susan & David Lindvall

RANDY ERICKSON

Mavis & Clay Strandlie

DR. & MRS. WILLIAM HEYNE

Debbie & Mark Heyne

MEL HOWARD

Carol & Richard Sisler

TOM KOBLER

Betty & Gordon Olson

DAVID LaFAYETTE

Sandra & George Anderson, Margaret & Ken Beenken, Phyllis Brynstad, Jan & Don Imsland, Charlotte Jensen, Naomi & Steve Staruch

HARRY & RUTH MARIE LARSON

Mary Lynn & Gary Leff

FLORENCE & RICHARD LUSCHEN

Karen Morey

DARCY MILLER

Linda Miller & Keith Syfert

JOAN NELSON

Laurie & Steven Orlow

TIM OLSON

*Arleth & Dale Anderson
Carol & Ken McKenzie*

NEAL PEARSON

Gerry Belseth, Regina Christopher, Audrey & Richard Dronen, Carol & Cal Duncan, Enid Hansing, Ruth Johnson, Ruth Lunde, Lois & Bud Nelson, Betty & Gordon Olson, Jeanne & Clifford Paulson, Jerry Pearson, Philip & Dora Quanbeck, Jean Roessler, Audrey Sanders, Esther Smedvig, Naomi & Steve Staruch, Mavis & Clay Strandlie, Anne & Doug Westby

KIM RISBURG

Carol & Ken McKenzie

GLENN W REICHEL

Gretchen & David Porter

CLEON WILBUR

*Sandra & George Anderson
Naomi & Steve Staruch*

IN HONOR OF:

Recognized by . . .

SANDRA ANDERSON

John Linner

AVERY, PAIGE & RAINA CUTWRIGHT

Grala & Louis Warren

EUGENE & JEANIE FRITCHER

Yvonne Johnson

RUTH HAUGE

Janice Plimpton

DOUG & JANE KOONS

Sue & Jud Reaney, Ruth Witrak

IVANELL & LUTHER MONSON'S BIRTHDAYS

Martha Keck

LUTHER MONSON

Glenn Monson

NELSON FAMILY

Celeste & Jim Gibson

JUDY NELSON'S GRANDCHILDREN

Judy Nelson

OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Mark Anderson

BETTY & GORDON OLSON

*David & Joan Olson, Naomi & Steve Staruch,
Beth & Mark Warpmaeker*

ADELE PALMER'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

Ann & George Hoxie

GRACE RAYMOND'S BIRTHDAY

*Laura Danielson, Gretchen Cudak,
Fay DeBellis, Melissa Lundquist,
Susan Stokes, Carolyn Wall*

SELLAKUMARI'S BIRTHDAY

Gina & Raymond Salisbury

HELEN STIDGER'S BIRTHDAY

David Distad

KRIS TOSTENGARD MICHEL'S ORDINATION

*Our Savior Lutheran Church, Dovray MN
Janice & Luther Tostengard*

MARK WARPMAEKER

*Janet & Dean Anderson,
Gertrude & Raymond Carlson,
Paul Cornick, Ruby Burgess,
Gail & Douglas Hanson,
Leslie & Rebecca Johnson,
Naomi & Steve Staruch,
Romell White*

If we have inadvertently omitted any names, please contact our office so we can correct it in the next newsletter.

If you would like to remember or honor someone with a contribution to Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry, please mark that clearly when sending us your donation.

If you would like us to send the honored one or family of the one whom you are remembering, please also indicate that, including a name and address of who should get the notice from LPGM.

Thank you for your generosity!



NON CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

If you are considering or planning to donate stock to Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry, please contact Naomi at office@lutheranpartners.org or 612.823.5058 before you make the transfer.

We will put you in touch with our broker so the transfer happens quickly and without complications.

When stocks are transferred to our brokerage account the name of the donor is not available, so it is imperative that you contact us so we can credit your account correctly and record your contribution per your instructions.

Thank you for your assistance and for your generosity!



**LUTHERAN PARTNERS
IN GLOBAL MINISTRY**

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If you no longer wish to receive these periodic newsletters, please help us save resources by contacting our office at the phone number or email above with your request to be removed from our mailing list. We will miss you but thank you!

Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry is a movement that engages individuals and communities in transformational partnerships across the globe.

Centered in faith and dedicated to service, LPGM is called to action by sharing resources and hope.

Connecting and Encouraging through Faith

Thrivent ChoiceSM

An LPGM donor recently received a letter from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans indicating that a mistake had been made – originally the donor was told she was not eligible for the Choice DollarsSM component of the Thrivent Choice program – this letter indicated that an error had been made and indeed she was eligible for the program.

As it is very different from its predecessor Giving Plus, LPGM encourages you to make a thorough check on your eligibility of the Thrivent Choice program. These are the three options to accomplish that:

- Call 1-800-847-4836. When prompted say “Thrivent Choice.” When prompted next, say “Choice Dollars.” You will eventually speak to a Thrivent customer service person.
- Call your Thrivent representative. He or she will get the information for you.
- Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice. You will have to log in to see the specific information available for you/your accounts.

Even if you did not participate in the former program, GivingPlus, you may be eligible for the new program. As always, LPGM is grateful for your consideration when you make charitable giving decisions.

LPGM Annual Meeting

An opportunity to share the business affairs of our partnership, meet Mark Warpmaeker, Executive Director, visit with other LPGM constituents, including staff and board members

Thursday, April 7th

Food & Fellowship 6:00 PM
Business 6:30 PM

122 West Franklin Avenue
Minnesota Church Center
Free Parking in the lot to the north of the building, near the entrance.

Please RSVP so we order enough food

Phone 612.823.5058 or email office@lutheranpartners.org with the total number of people attending.