



LUTHERAN PARTNERS
IN GLOBAL MINISTRY

Connecting and Encouraging through Faith

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER
September 2009

NOW IS THE TIME! *By Gordon Olson*

Some time ago LPGM produced a brochure titled, "Help Us Grow." The brochure was sent out with a return envelope and people were generous. The effort did help us grow – a bit – and we thank God for friends who shared the vision with us.

But now we REALLY need to grow! What has changed? Betty and I are looking at a new role in the organization that fits our new journey. It is time for LPGM to grow in capacity with an expanded vision for ministry and an expanded staff to open new doors and resources. As founders of Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry, we will continue to play an important role in its ministry for as long as we live. **NOW IS THE TIME** to take that giant leap forward to keep LPGM on the right track for years to come, long after we're gone.

LPGM is doing something never done in its 14-year history. A Capital-Mission Appeal has been inaugurated with a goal of \$600,000 over a period of three years. \$500,000 will provide not only the resources for a full-time Executive Director, but also expanded technology and essential resources for a broader ministry. With only one full-time employee at present, LPGM needs a full-time Executive Director to lead the way in expanding our reach, connecting people and encouraging the church through faith. \$100,000 will add the needed reserves to the existing **Larry Brynestad Opportunity Fund**, allowing LPGM to respond quickly to global needs as they occur. My job will evolve into Founding Director, a supportive role that will allow me to continue networking, fundraising and telling the stories.

An even higher goal of the appeal is to raise \$3 million in cash and legacy gifts for the **Gordon and Betty Olson Endowment Fund**. By designating present and future gifts from estates you



Gordon and Betty Olson

will help ensure the future of LPGM long after Betty and I are gone. At this writing we are approaching \$400,000 toward our goal of \$600,000 for expansion, and have secured more than one-third of our goal in legacy gifts. But LPGM needs the help of ALL our friends to go over the top. We pray that you will consider a gift, large or small.

These are exciting days for Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry. Our model, of personal involvement in mission and encouraging the global church, works. Healthy congregation-to-congregation partnerships between the U.S. and Argentina have changed lives and helped congregations to find their mission. Growing involvement in the Central African Republic has given new energy to their church resulting in a center for empowerment of women and a new health clinic that will meet the needs of people who have had no access to health care. Relationships have been at the center of our programs in India where individuals and families can support and correspond with a child, travel groups can have life-changing experiences, books are now available to thousands of children and their families, and sight is restored to hundreds who once again can live productive lives.

Our LPGM leadership invites your involvement in this very bold but exciting campaign. **NOW IS THE TIME** to leap forward, developing a financial base that will allow LPGM to stay around for many years to come – even after many of us are gone. We believe in the work that has been started and we believe God has led us this far. Now we call upon our friends and champions of mission to keep LPGM going.

NOW IS THE TIME.

GIVING TIP

You can direct distributions from your IRA to Lutheran Partners and avoid the income tax on the distribution.

CAPITAL-MISSION APPEAL - A SUMMARY

Nearly twenty years ago the dream of Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry was born out of a powerful story of service, hope, and love. Since then LPGM has worked in ten countries, partnered with hundreds of congregations, and touched and transformed thousands of lives all around the globe. Our vision of meeting face to face and walking hand in hand to meet the world's needs has been realized in amazing ways leading LPGM to become a force for mission advocacy and a unique vehicle for living out Christ's call to love one another.

As we honor our past and celebrate what God is doing through our ministry today, we are moved to dream a new dream - a dream that will deepen our ability to respond to new mission opportunities, grow the strength and depth of our ministry, and assure a vital and sustainable future.

This is what the first stage of our *Now is the Time* Capital-Mission Appeal is all about; an invitation to be part of a bold effort to lay the foundation needed to move into the future. Over the next several months passionate supporters of Lutheran Partners will be asked to make a significant investment in that future through our new capital-mission appeal. Together over the next three years we will raise the financial resources needed to accomplish the following goals:

- Implement a comprehensive plan for organizational growth, development, and sustainability. These resources will fund a new Executive Director position; support a new role for Gordon as Founding Director; resource the creation of new programs to enhance our ministry with congregations, upgrade office technology; and support expanded communication, volunteer, marketing, and development efforts - \$500,000
- Create a new fund to allow LPGM to quickly respond to critical ministry needs and opportunities at home and abroad - \$100,000
- Grow the *Gordon and Betty Olson Endowment Fund* to \$3 million in current and committed legacy gifting

Now is the Time again act in the spirit of service, hope, and love that gave birth to Lutheran Partners and move forward in mission – to do together what we cannot do alone, to trust in God's presence and promise, "Connecting and Encouraging through Faith" a new and renewed community of partners for the sake of God's care for the world.

Now is the Time to answer the call, to dream a new dream, and to let the powerful story of LPGM roll on into the future, changing lives for generations to come.



Now is the Time Capital-Mission Appeal Leadership Team

TOP ROW: (left to right) Dan Engstrand, Nathan Sonstegard, Kent Christensen, Paul Hauge, Dave Distad

MIDDLE ROW: Gordon Olson, Sandra Anderson, Hilary Sonstegard, Helen Stidger (holding Carolyn Sonstegard)

BOTTOM ROW: Corinne Engstrand, Ruth Hauge, Betty Olson, Marilyn Christensen

FROM LPGM FRIENDS...

Regarding giving to the campaign, the decision to give was a very easy one to make. We have observed LPGM from the beginning, first being drawn in through child sponsorship, then by volunteering with the Lebanon Home project and finally being part of a trip to India. Having seen first-hand the children whose futures, in a very real way, depend on LPGM makes it unthinkable that LPGM would not be positioned to continue well into the future. And we know that the work in India is only one place in the world that LPGM is making a difference in people's lives. For us personally, we are convinced that God has allowed us to be part of His work in the world through our involvement in LPGM. That is pretty exciting and we wouldn't want to miss that opportunity!

Corinne and Dan Engstrand

Over the years, we've heard the question more than once, "What is the future of LPGM?" People who know the remarkable story of the ministry begun by the Olsons wonder if it will continue to flourish in years to come. The answer is heartening: Yes! The Capital-Mission appeal will ensure that LPGM can continue to respond to new mission opportunities around the world. Because we have seen first-hand the miraculous ways LPGM has changed lives, we have joyfully given a significant gift to the appeal. We have made a commitment to put our dollars to work for a vision we share with the leaders of LPGM. This is a vision that's amazing and exciting and we invite others to invest in this ministry of meeting the world's needs through the love of Christ.

Marilyn and Kent Christensen

Ministry Milestones

NOW IS THE TIME
Capital-Mission Appeal begins



2009

100 libraries in 100 schools in the Arcot Lutheran Church (India) are sponsored, providing Tamil and English books to more than 40,000 children and their families

Seven partner congregations collaborate with sister congregations in Argentina

2008

LPGM is awarded a Thrivent grant to encourage current, future and deferred giving

Succession planning begins in earnest

Women's Center is built in Bouar, Central African Republic

2006

Office Manager position becomes full-time; three part-time positions complement the administrative endeavors

2005

Tenth Anniversary is celebrated with ten international guests (Central African Republic, Argentina & India) in attendance

Office moves to the Minnesota Church Center

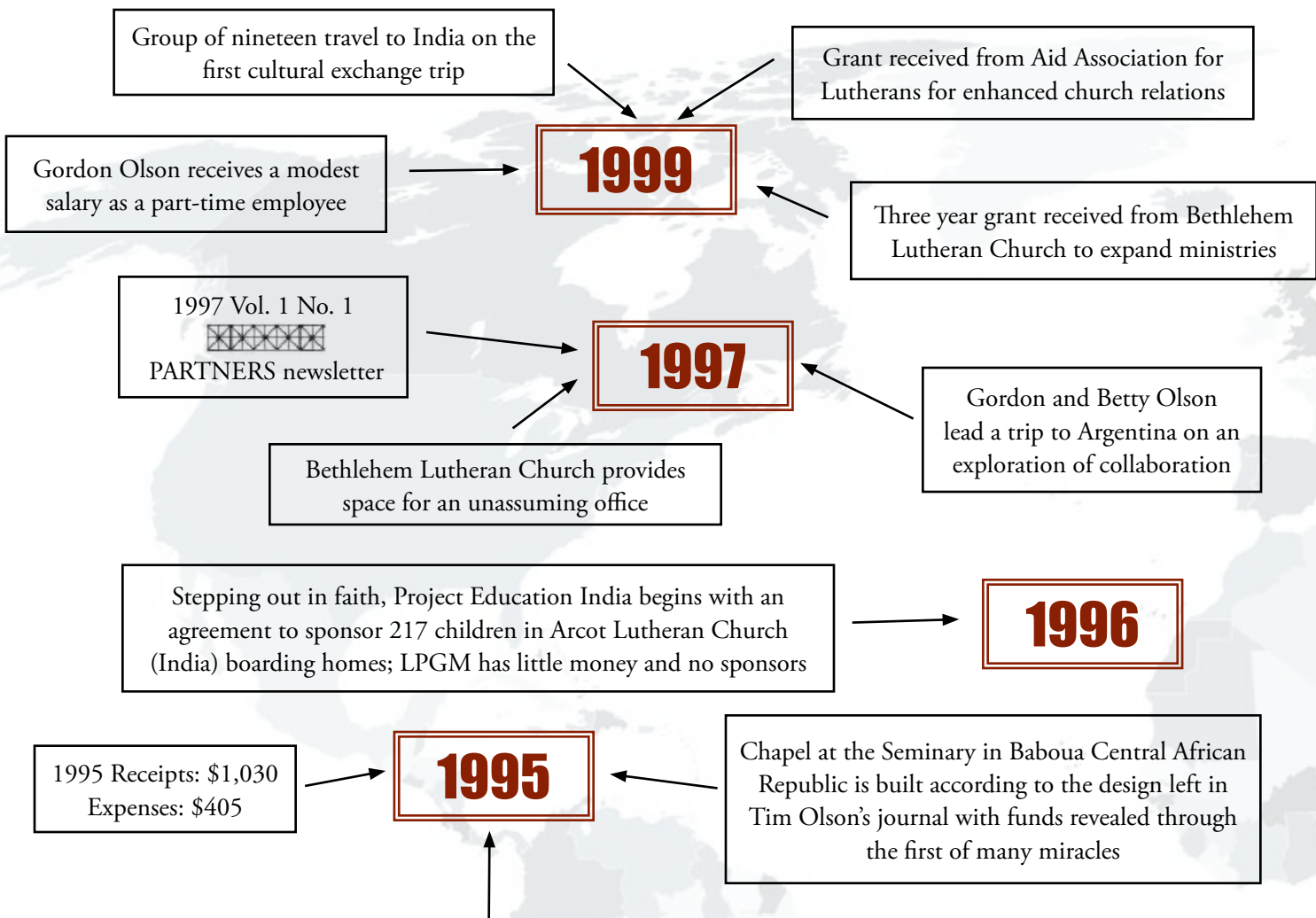
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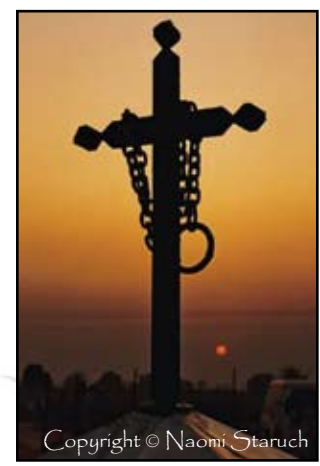
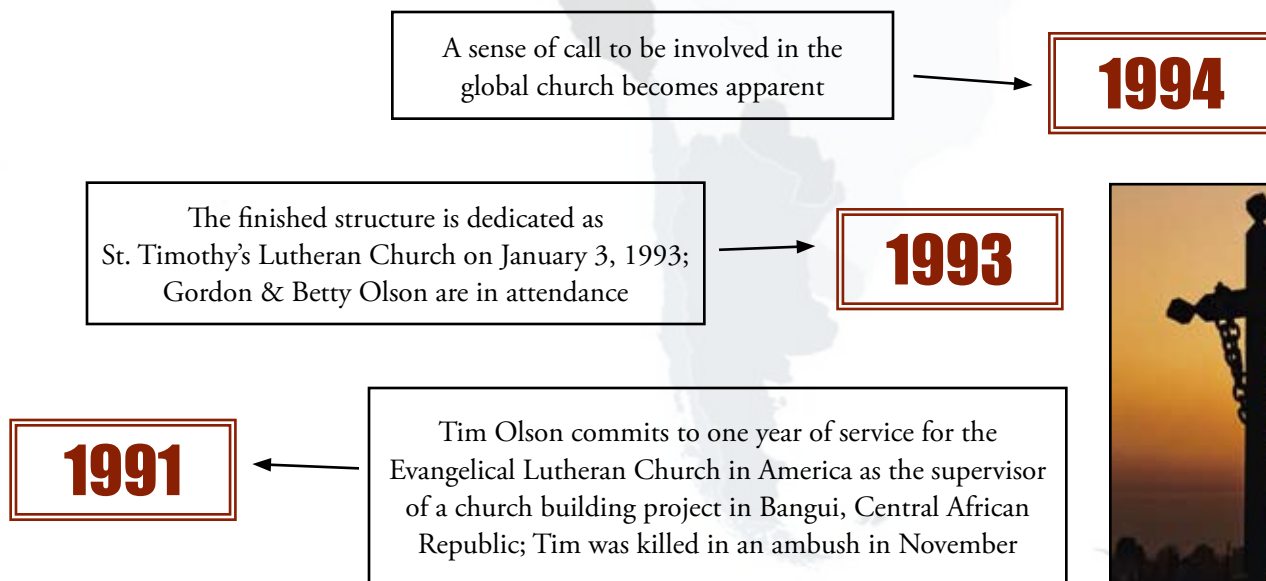
Project Education India expands to include children housed/educated by the India Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

2000 Linen sales launched with inventory from Lebanon Home for Destitute Women (India)

2000



June 27: Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry is incorporated as a non-profit organization; the home of Gordon and Betty Olson is the business address; all organizational labor is accomplished by volunteers
“From the dead earth rises the green shoot” ~ Tim Olson



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HOME MEETINGS FOR APPEAL

To introduce our *Now is the Time* appeal, seven home meetings were held in June and early July, hosted by members of the leadership team. Some long-time supporters of LPGM were invited to these gatherings, held in the Twin Cities area, Rockford, IL and Fargo, ND. At each gathering the new LPGM DVD, *Take Your Faith Global*, was shown and our vision and goals were presented. Follow-up with our supporters has included phone conversations and personal visits that have resulted in very generous donations and pledges to the campaign. We are so pleased that our supporters share the vision of an expanded LPGM and are so grateful for their generous and sacrificial support. LPGM will hold two more home gatherings early this fall and we would like to include you. Watch our website for dates and locations. If you would like to be included in one of our home presentations, please contact us.

KAIROS AND ASSOCIATES LEAD CAMPAIGN

Rev. Keith Magnuson, Co-owner of Kairos and Associates, a Christian Resource Development organization (www.kairosandassociates.com), has led us in our *Now is the Time* Capital-Mission Appeal. Keith has many years' experience as a Lutheran pastor and a deep understanding of LPGM and our mission. Having traveled with LPGM to Argentina as part of a team from St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Bloomington, MN, he experienced the personal side of mission with his two teenage sons. Keith expressed his strong support in the following statement: "I'm honored to be a part of this important and exciting time in the history of Lutheran Partners. My travel experience with LPGM touched and changed my life. I am committed to working to assure a growing and sustainable future for this ministry we all care about. I hope you will join me in generously supporting the *Now is the Time* appeal."

SANDRA'S CORNER *Sandra Anderson, LPGM Board Chair*

A few years ago I attended a really interesting seminar on estate planning sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. I was curious to hear what they might say as I had extensive estate planning training and opportunities in my professional life. One speaker stated that when he meets with people to begin working on estate plans he simply asks them how many children they have and, regardless of the answer, whether they would consider adopting Jesus Christ. I laughed out loud and thought who would ever do that?

It turns out that I would. A few years later, as my husband and I prepared to retire and get our estate plan in order, these words came back to me. We have two children and our estate will essentially be split three ways – one share to benefit each child and one share to further the work of Christian organizations we support. Once that decision was made, and it was an easy one to make, we found that there are all kinds of ways to accomplish this. Some require lawyers to prepare an amendment to a trust or a codicil to a will, others are far more simple – adding a beneficiary to an insurance policy or IRA or making one specific account payable on death to an organization (like Lutheran Partners!).

There are lots of ways to get information about all of the ways one can leave a legacy gift. Our relationship with Thrivent extends their expertise to all of you. If you have questions or want information, at no charge and with no pressure to buy, one of our Thrivent partners is available to help you. Call any time.

100% OF LEADERSHIP TEAM AND BOARD HAVE PLEDGED

We are pleased to announce that LPGM has support from 100% of our board members and the leadership team, all of whom have pledged to the campaign. Those who are leading our organization have shared our vision for the future as expressed in *Now is the Time* and are eager to move LPGM forward. Thank you, LPGM Board and Appeal Leadership Team, for your work on the campaign and your financial commitment.

THRIVENT PARTNERSHIP

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, through a \$47,550 grant, has provided the seed money to encourage LPGM to increase giving, both for operations and endowment. With these funds and some additional matching funds, we have been able to create a video and produce all the materials for our *Now is the Time* Capital-Mission Appeal. LPGM is so grateful to Thrivent for the encouragement and generosity that has stimulated us to stretch our vision into the future. In addition, the Thrivent Crossroads Group serves as LPGM's financial partner and is able to offer consultation services for people who are researching various ways to invest and give. We are blessed to have such a professional organization working with us. LPGM will put anyone who has questions or desires financial consultation in contact with the Thrivent Crossroads. Thrivent also provides matching funds for cash donations to LPGM through its Giving Plus® program.

GIVING TIP

Stocks, bonds, mutual funds can all be used for gifts. Thrivent Financial helps make it easy!



LUTHERAN PARTNERS IN GLOBAL MINISTRY

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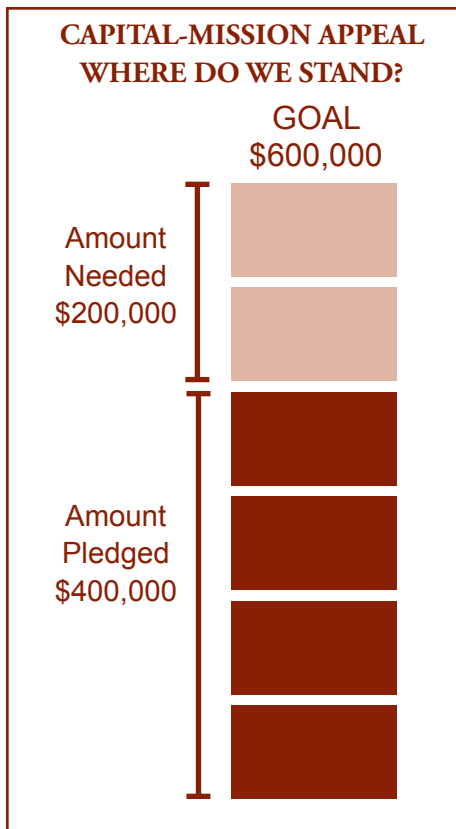
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Connecting and Encouraging through Faith

LUTHERAN PARTNERS IN GLOBAL
MINISTRY CONNECTS AND
ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO GROW
IN RELATIONSHIP FOR ACTION
THROUGH FAITH



CELEBRATION EVENT SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 6, 2009

Contributors and other special friends of LPGM are invited to a celebration dinner and program on November 6, 2009, at 6:30 PM at the Lutheran Social Service Center for Changing Lives, 2400 Park Avenue South in Minneapolis. The open event will center on the success of the *Now is the Time* Capital-Mission Appeal and will serve to thank donors and show our gratitude to God for allowing us to serve more effectively. We look forward to this gathering of the LPGM family. If you can join us for the evening, please contact the LPGM office by Monday, October 19.

VIDEO AVAILABLE ON-LINE

An excerpt from our newest video, *Take Your Faith Global*, produced by Seraphim Communications, is now available on our website. This inspirational video captures the vision of LPGM through the eyes of several people who have had personal experiences and now see the long-term value of LPGM's way of doing mission. You, too, will be inspired by hearing the amazing stories of people who step out to make a difference in the lives of others around the world and find themselves transformed through the power of God. The full video is also available in DVD format upon request from our office.

GIVING TIP

Don't forget you can name more than one beneficiary on insurance, annuities or IRA's.