

These are the
ASIA TIMES

Mission Newsletter from John & Susan Mehl
LCMS World Mission

The summer months find our family based in Concordia, Missouri, once again, but other cities have played a prominent part in John's summer schedule, as well:



St. PAUL, MN - During June this summer, John spent two weeks in St. Paul, Minnesota for the orientation of new LCMS World Mission missionaries who will come onto the fields this fall. We are very happy that this group includes new missionaries to Asia. On the left you see Rev. Dr. Fungchatou Lo, his wife Kalia and their daughter Gaozong. Fungchatou served as a professor of social ministry at the University of Wisconsin and at St. John's University. Kalia has a Master's Degree in School and Community Health Education. Both Fungchatou and Kalia were born in Laos, but were raised in Wisconsin. They are active in the Hmong Mission Society. They have a unique opportunity to return to Asia and work in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, which was severely damaged by the Tsunami in 2006. The Lo family are an excellent addition to the Asia mission team and we pray that God will richly bless their work.

HOUSTON - John spent much of July in Houston, beginning with the Ablaze Missionary Summit, a gathering of LCMS missionaries from around the world. Susan, Louisa, and Ted also attended. We were able to learn from great teachers about mission, to sharpen skills, and to do some much-needed networking. In the picture to the right you see Carl Hanson, Michael Piescer and JP Cima in a group discussion of how we can better focus our efforts. We trust that God's work will be done more effectively in coming years as a result of this meeting.



HOUSTON - The leaders of our international partner churches met in Texas with LCMS World Mission folks for about three days following the LCMS convention to share ideas about how our partners are working to help their churches be *Ablaze!* for Christ. The stories were very exciting. The Indian Evangelical Lutheran Church has an option for its seminary graduates that makes it possible for them to spend the first three years after the seminary planting churches. The vast majority of graduates take this option. As a result, thousands and thousands of people are reached with the Gospel every year by the seminary students. Below you see Bishop Piso from the Gutnius Lutheran Church in New Guinea speaking with Dr. Mario Lehenbauer from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil. There is much positive reaction to *Ablaze!* among these church leaders as they see the Gospel being spread and their churches growing.



KID STUFF - Katrina, Louisa, and Ted have enjoyed being together this summer, even though the comings and goings of summer life have limited their actual time spent in each other's company. The girls both have full-time jobs, and each of them also has been given a conditioning program to help prepare for sports in the coming year. So their free time has been minimal. Ted, on the other hand, has spent most of his time in Concordia with the boys of the neighborhood, living summer "the way summer was meant to be!" as we are fond of saying. Ted's carefree days are numbered, but he is enjoying them for all they're worth.

For the first time we will have children going to three different schools. Katrina will attend Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. Her college life will begin August 13 with sports camp. Classes begin August 27. August 13 is also Louisa's first day of classes as a sophomore at St. Paul's in Concordia Missouri, and Ted will return to Hong Kong International School on August 20 for 7th grade there. He and John will fly on August 14th, and Susan will follow later, giving her and the girls time to be sure they feel settled.

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