



## Vietnamese Missions Grow Strong in Northwest

Pastor Van Phan is called by Holy Cross Lutheran in Portland, Oregon and is in a covenant agreement with Redeemer Lutheran in Salem, Oregon. He is paid through his own business however the members of Holy Cross joyfully support the Vietnamese ministry. His office is at Holy Cross and he travels throughout the district to various congregations and budding church groups.

flooding in Vietnam. The travel and commodities have been funded by Pastor Phan, Holy Cross Lutheran, NOW District, and others.

CAME (Center for Asian Missions & Evangelism) recently donated for travel to the mainland mission sites. Their participation is invaluable and we thank them for it.

Holy Cross Lutheran is a planting congregation. They have communities of faith in several independent living and care facilities. They have over twenty commissioned Tracking the Spirit partners who facilitate outreach lifestyle focus in the entire congregation.



Pastor Phan and Pastor Luc Nguyen (a partner in mission) have successfully planted worship communities in several Vietnam cities - now over 650 participants; Portland and Salem, Oregon; and Spokane, Tri-Cities and Seattle, Washington.

### Schedule of Services:

Our Redeemer, Salem OR  
Every Sunday 10:30 AM

Holy Cross, Portland OR  
Every Sunday 2:00 PM

Other worship communities  
as time and travel allow.

One mission of the congregations is naturally to their homeland. At least two trips have been made to distribute rice and flour to those affected by



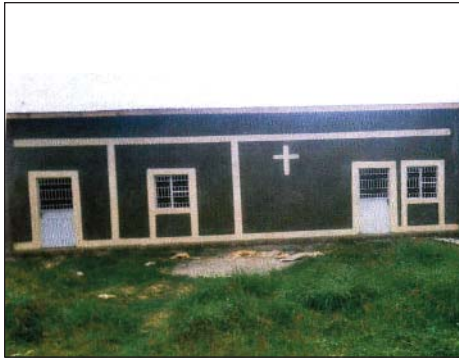
To learn more or contribute  
contact the NOW District Expanding  
Ministries and Congregations Department



### Dynamic Partnerships!

Above (top down): Vietnamese Chior;  
Phan in Vietnam; Pastors Phan & Nguyen  
Right: Pastor Butch Olsen and Phan  
Middle top: rice distribution  
Far right: Baptism, one of many!





## Oromo Church Reaches Missing on the Mainland and Homeland

Ministry abounds in the African cultures associated with the NOW District - both here and abroad. We pray the following highlights will serve to communicate the joys, challenges and prayer concerns of these ministries and workers in them.

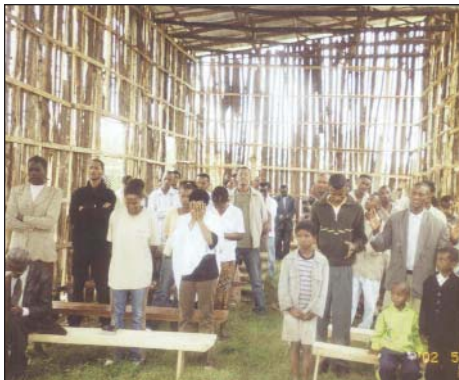
The photos at the left highlight only one of the 10 churches planted by the **Ethiopian Mission Society Church**.



Beginning at top and down:  
New church building at Arisinegle  
Office and school at Arisinegle  
Former church at same location

In addition to Arisinegle (pronounced ARE-Es-seen-a-Galley) over 2500 now worship in these 10 church plants located at Asgori; Tulubollo; Taji; Kora; Burayu; Akakin; Alemtena; Shashemene; and Dugdah.

None of these locations have buildings as nice as the one just completed. It is a dream that someday each location will have an Evangelism Center which will include worship, leadership training, schools, and health/human care facilities.



Each building costs about \$15,000 US and a full time church worker for each location needs about \$110/month US to live meagerly. Photo below represents typical church facilities.

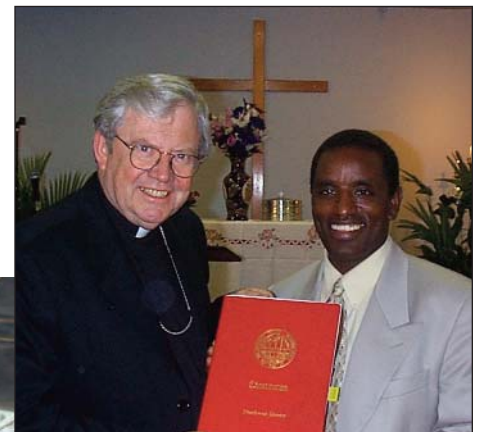
These Ethiopian plants are part of the ministry of the **Oromo Evangelical Church**

located in Portland, Oregon. They became a constituted congregation of the LCMS in 2003.

Since then they have grown from 12 to over 250 in worship, have impacted their community for Christ through events and youth activities, and are recognized as leaders by the Oromo population throughout the world.

**Haro Galgalo** and **Gemado Adema**, two of their leaders are now Vicars through EIIT (Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology). Gemado is preparing to do work among the Muslims in his home region of Ethiopia. **Tolla Gada**, a Licensed Deacon heads the Ethiopian Mission Society Church and will begin EIIT as soon as travel allows him to do so.

The building presently used by the Oromo congregation is being sold and they are looking to relocate. Their prayer is for a building that will allow them to remain in the present community; have room for leadership training and school; and for the congregation's growth.



Tracking NEWS is published by  
Northwest District LCMS  
Expanding Ministries &  
Congregations Department  
1700 NE Knott Street  
Portland, Oregon 97212  
1-888-693-5267  
or Portland-Metro  
503-288-8383

Contact information for the ministries  
is included when possible.  
Contact above or go to  
[www.nowlcms.org](http://www.nowlcms.org)  
and access the  
Expanding Ministries area.

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## Seattle and Portland Plant New African Immigrant Ministries

**Mekane Yesus Church** in Seattle is one of the newest additions to the LCMS Synod. It was planted under the auspices of St. Timothy Lutheran in Edmonds, WA with the assistance of a coalition of congregations in the Seattle area. The Synod's African Immigrant Ministry (AIM) provided initial funding for church planter **Berhanu Seyoum** to begin this ministry. Mekane Yesus worships at Zion Lutheran in Seattle and was constituted in 2006.

Berhanu draws on his escape from Muslim faith, church planting experience in Ethiopia and Holland; and training of people to share the Gospel in very difficult areas of the world. In Holland he planted in a very diverse field among 172 ethnic groups from 72 countries. He worked with two US Mission organizations focusing on the Muslim population and new immigrants living in refugee camps.

Berhanu has BA degrees in International Business and Marketing and Computer Science. He shared the Gospel while working as an Application Programmer. Yet he and his wife knew God had a bigger plan for them. They eventually moved to Seattle so Berhanu could receive formal training for ministry at Faith Lutheran Seminary in Tacoma where he completed a Masters

Degree in theological studies and counseling. Berhanu states "My work is to mainly train and help equip the members in the church to reach out with the Gospel to the multi-ethnic immigrant population in Seattle. My other work is to teach and counsel Ethiopian families who are in cultural crisis. There is a great need for Biblical marital

There are more Lutherans in Africa than in the United States

values which are considered extraneous in today's society. This work among families makes it possible for the church to be relevant in the community and at the same time gives great opportunity to open doors to share the Gospel. Lutheran

Ethiopians look for a church home when moving here. We are here for them. We challenge them to be here for others."

Recently a refugee, **Peter Biel**, a Sudanese, arrived from Kenya where he had been working with LCMS missionaries. Linked with St. John's Church in Portland, he has begun a **house church with Nuer speaking people** and has had as many as thirty people worshipping in his home. Peter has an interesting story and is well aware of hardships caused by the actions of one group of people toward another as experienced in his home country. Peter is a great asset to ministry in the NOW District.



Potlucks bring people together - regardless of cultural background. Celebration potluck shared at the Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church.



Oromo congregation currently worships in this building. It will be sold and they are in need of a new location which hopefully keeps them in the current community.



EIIT Vicar Haro Galgalo



EIIT Vicar Gemado Adema



Ethiopian Church Planter Tolla Gada, Licensed Deacon



Seattle Church Planter Berhanu Seyoum



Portland Church Planter Peter Biel

## Lutheran Latino Ministries, Inc. Blessed by Christ, Telling Others

Circuit Rider Missionary, Miguel Luna, is a native of El Salvador and has lived in the United States since 1981. He became a U.S. Citizen in 2001. At age 14 Miguel became a Christian and age 19 planted a church which is still alive and active today. He was trained and ordained as a pastor in a Pentecostal denomination. Miguel has completed training NOW District's Leadership Advancement Process and is currently awaiting his interview to be accepted and ordained as a Lutheran pastor through colloquy. He is married with four daughters. His wife works as his assistant, and his daughters are also active in the ministry. As Circuit Rider Missionaries, they conduct weekly Sunday services in Spanish at Hope, Woodburn, Trinity, Portland, and Ascension, Gresham, and monthly services on the third Saturday of each month at Mt. Angel's Trinity. He spends one day a week at each church, with the exception of Trinity, Mt. Angel, where he visits once or twice per month. Bible study, pastoral care, and home visits are the major part of his ministry in each congregation.

Pam Bridgehouse is the Director of LLM, Inc. She served as a board member for several years before volunteering her services full-time in 2006. Pam speaks fluent Spanish which is invaluable for many reasons including translation for those in the District's Leadership Advancement Program

(LAP) and during various interviews such as colloquy. She and the board are creative fund raisers - selling authentic tamales and presenting classical music events - to name two.

In addition to congregational ministry, the LLM, Inc. network helps to offer VBS events; soccer camps; food and clothing assistance; radio programs; assistance with language and ESL classes; and much more. They share Christ in all of it and hearts respond!

They have willingly assisted others considering or involved with Latino cultures throughout the district.

### Do you have a vision for Latino ministry in your area? Maybe LLM, Inc. can help:

- Encourages congregations to identify a need in their community, and to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit to find ways of fulfilling that need in Christ-like service.
- Assists with prayer support and funding for special projects.
- Gives financial and language support for those in training for ministry.
- Maintains communication with a network of congregations and individuals, the Northwest District Office, and national church leaders, via newsletters, email, etc.

PHOTOS: Below: 1st Anniversary service at Woodburn; Right, top to bottom; Miguel and Marta; girls in music and crafts at VBS.

### Schedule of Spanish-language Services

10:30 a.m.  
Hope Lutheran Church  
211 Parr Road - Woodburn, OR 97071

2:30 p.m.  
Ascension Lutheran Church  
1400 S.E. 182nd - Portland, OR 97233

6:00 p.m.  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
5520 N.E. Killingsworth St.  
Portland, OR 97218

Saturday evening services are offered once each month at Trinity Lutheran Church  
15534 Marquam Road N.E.  
Mt. Angel, Oregon 97362



Photo credits: Peter Allen (portraits of Miguel and Marta), Donna Hues(Bible School photos)

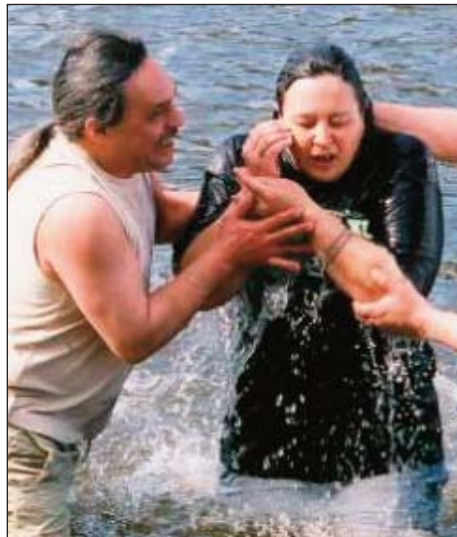
## Makah Lutheran Celebrates Multiple Baptisms

EIIT Vicar Dave Sternbeck was thrilled when six people (five of them Natives) requested their baptisms at the river as a symbolic bridge to their culture. It is a common practice of 'morning blessing' to come to the river and thank the creator for all that he has made. They wanted their baptisms to be celebrated during this traditional time by thanking Christ for creating their new lives in and through Him. The water was very cold but that did not deter the plan. David shared that it was one of the most special times he has ever been blessed to experienced.

Makah Lutheran Church became a vision in the early 1970's when Pastor Don Johnson, a Makah, graduated from seminary and began a house church in Neah Bay. He now works with LAMP-US. Today, the church benefits from a partnership between LAMP-US, the NOW District, other congregations and individuals.

Before non-Indian people came to Makah territory, Makahs lived in five villages that were occupied all year long (Neah Bay, Ozette, Biheda, Tsoo-yess, and Why-atch). Makahs had a type of lifestyle that made use of the abundant resources of the ocean, the tidelands, the forests, and the rivers. The Makah language used the name qwi-dich-cha-at for itself, which roughly translates "The People who live near the Rocks and the Seagulls."

July 1999 tribal census data shows that the Makah Tribe has 1214 enrolled members, although just over 1,000 live on the reservation. Most residents live in Neah Bay, the only centralized village on the reservation. The average unemployment rate on the reservation is approximately 51%. Almost 49% of the reservation households have incomes classified below the federal poverty level, and 59% of the housing units are considered to be sub-standard. In spite of this bleak description, the Makah reservation is still home to the "People who live near the Rocks and the Seagulls" - and because of the people at Makah Lutheran Church, many find new life through Christ!



### NOW District Ethnic Ministry Task Force (EMTF)

**Herb Hoefler, Chair**  
**Erhart Bauer**  
**Pam Bridgehouse**  
**Dan Kunkel**  
**Bob Schmidt**  
**David Sternbeck**

This group combines much experience and wisdom: Mission / cultural – in just about every part of the world; training; church planting; immigrants; and more.

They partner with Expanding Ministries to provide insight, resources, training, and recommendations for the variety of work with the many cultures represented in or through people from the district.

### Teaching English

Are you interested in how you might teach English in either short or long commitments? Do you know that training is available?

Many people are developing relationships through teaching in Pacific Rim countries.

There may be a place for you to serve in this valuable way.

Please contact Norm Metzler at [nmetzler@cu-portland.edu](mailto:nmetzler@cu-portland.edu)





## VBS Express New Oregon Ministry: On the Road Sharing Jesus

He said to them, *“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”*  
Mark 16:15

Pastor Bruce Meier, Shepherd of the Valley, Junction City/Christ Community, Veneta, Oregon has a mission! The mission is: **to spread the words of Jesus Christ up and down the Oregon Coast and Willamette Valley** as he follows the ‘tracks of the Holy Spirit.’

Pastor Bruce sought and received donations from various grants and other resources to put together the VBS Express Truck Ministry; equipped with a stage, audio equipment, movie screen, and climbing rock wall, along with a team of wonderful volunteers.

Scheduled for several VBS events this past summer the Express will also be traveling to other events this summer and fall, such as school field days, community gatherings and more.

Pastor Meier has strong support of congregation members who volunteer when they are able and provide housing for other volunteers through the use of their own RVs. They consider VBS Express “a part of themselves to reach further than their communities”.

VBS Express offers other congregations to do the same by inviting the community “beyond themselves” to join the activities while VBS Express is visiting them.

For information about the **VBS Express Truck Ministry** go to: [www.theparishvoice.org](http://www.theparishvoice.org)

or contact Pastor Bruce Meier at 541-998-6659

**Your prayers are appreciated!**



**EXPRESS  
Jesus' love  
to all you meet!**





## Cross Country Mission Society Sharing Good News in South Idaho

The Cross Country Mission Society, Inc. roll their 18 wheeler to various churches up and down and across Idaho valleys bringing VBS to children.

ing Christ in remote and rural areas of Idaho as partners with congregations.

Comments from the road:

For information about the  
**Cross Country  
Mission Society, Inc.**  
go to: [ccmissionsociety@msn.com](mailto:ccmissionsociety@msn.com)

**Your prayers are appreciated!**

**Cross the country  
to share about Jesus!**

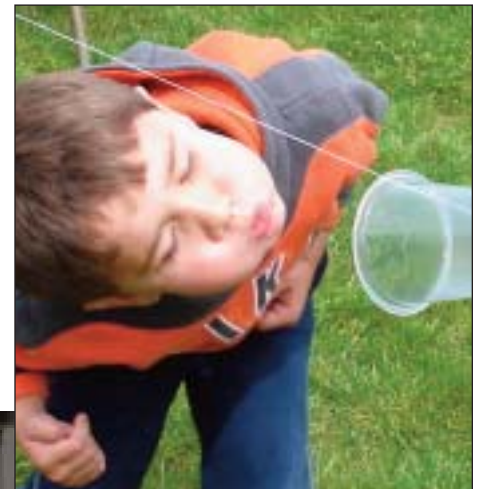
"...sometimes just opening up the walls makes for the best ministry.. We (have) learned that it takes some time to put on climbing harnesses. It's then that we are given the most time to sit and visit with the kids and their parents about Jesus.



We are able to give out Bibles to kids who don't have one - many of them have never read from a Bible or had it read to them. Each child is given a reading assignment and most take it very seriously. They report back on what they read. Often the Gideons provide the New Testament for every child and we are able to tell them what a great gift they have received."



The Cross Country Mission Society, Inc. was the vision of Pastor Jerry and Karen Reinke. Through a generous donation from the national LWML and various other organizations, their dream materialized in 1999 as the Idaho Circuit Rider Ministry. Since then the ministry has risen above many challenges with the joy of shar-



## NOW District Prayer Ministries: The Heartbeat of His Spirit in Us

Over 400 prayer warriors receive weekly prayer requests through the NOW District's PrayerGram - many forward these requests to their prayer partners. As a result we estimate that over 1500 people are praying specifically for the concerns through the NOW District. This includes the Friday noon prayer - people throughout the district join in a common written prayer offered by Pete Peterson through the internet.

We have been tremendously blessed by these prayers. If you are already praying with and for the district, we thank you.

### Become a NOW Prayer Partner:

If you would like to partner as a prayer warrior, we welcome you. Simply send an email to [susano@nowlcms.org](mailto:susano@nowlcms.org) and ask to become a prayer partner. Prayer requests may also be sent to this email.

Each week (Thursday or Friday) you will receive an email with links to the current prayer requests and Friday noon prayer.



An important partner in NOW District's Prayer Ministry

It's not a place, but rather a ministry.

### The purpose is to:

- ▶ Deepen relationships with the Lord through prayer guided by His Holy Word, so that we can...

- ▶ be refreshed and empowered for ministry.
- ▶ Assist the District in growing a strong prayer ministry.
- ▶ Be links with other prayer resources.
- ▶ Be a spiritual resource for other agents of ministry in our District.

### The Center for Prayer Renewal offers retreats focusing on meditation, personal Bible study, and worship.

Attendance of those interested in learning about prayer and developing prayer/meditation in their lives is encouraged. Join an already scheduled retreat or plan one specifically for your group.

### If you, your congregation, church, or group would like to utilize this resource, please contact one of the following:

Pastor Richard Kiessling  
[rmkiessling@juno.com](mailto:rmkiessling@juno.com)

Email Pastor Pete Peterson  
[revpete@techline.com](mailto:revpete@techline.com)

Pastor Paul Linnemann  
[pastor paul@orlc.net](mailto:pastor paul@orlc.net)

Susan Olson (Northwest District-LCMS)  
[susano@nowlcms.org](mailto:susano@nowlcms.org)



For more information and prayer resources go to [www.nowlcms.org](http://www.nowlcms.org) and type prayer in the search box.

## Resources Available

There are abundant resources and people willing to help in cross-cultural ministries. Please contact the Expanding Ministries Department in the NOW District for more information or go the following link to investigate:

<http://www.nowlcms.org/ExpandingMinistries/MultiResources.aspx>

## Do you need a Mission Speaker?

Call the Expanding Ministries for a list - people with many inspiring stories waiting to share with your congregation or group!

## Are you sponsoring short or long term mission individuals or groups?

Do you go on short term mission trips? We would like to hear your stories - and others in the district would too!

Send information to:  
[administrator@nowlcms.org](mailto:administrator@nowlcms.org)

## Other Missions

There are many mission and outreach endeavors in and through the NOW District. To find out more, go to our web site at [www.nowlcms.org](http://www.nowlcms.org) or call the Expanding Ministries Department at 1-888-693-5267 or for those in the Portlad Metro area, call 503-288-8383.

## Are you interested helping these or other ministry partners of the NOW District?

There are many more ministries than what space allows to be included in this issue and every ministry could use funds to maintain or expand the work God has called them to do for His kingdom. Please send contributions to the address below and we will prayerfully distribute funds in good stewardship. Call us for information about ministries not included in this issue or go to [www.nowlcms.org](http://www.nowlcms.org)

Send to: Northwest District LCMS  
Attn: Business Office  
1700 NE Knott Street  
Portland, OR 97212

We thank you in advance for your prayers.

*Tracking the Spirit  
is following & joining  
Him as He leads  
people to a saving  
relationship with  
Jesus Christ.*

