

CENTRAL AMERICA



2011

Luther Academy OVERSEAS

CENTRAL AMERICA

For about six years the Luther Academy has sent teachers to various world areas to hold theological conferences for pastors.

Three factors moved us in this direction:

- 1 The change in the mission paradigm. In the past missionaries and their families were sent from the United States and other countries to live among the peoples to whom they ministered. Almost everywhere today men are being raised up from among their own people to be pastors.
- 2 The theological education in third world seminaries simply does not provide men with the thorough theological foundation that they need to be good Lutheran pastors.
- 3 The Luther Academy noted that there was a great need for post-ordination theological instruction for pastors in many parts of the world.

On the basis of these observations, the Luther Academy began working overseas – the only objective: to teach pastors Lutheran theology that they might better serve in their churches and congregations.

By God's grace we began holding annual theological conferences for pastors in:

- West Africa in 2006
- South America in 2007
- India in 2008
- Indonesia in 2009
- Uganda in 2009
- Togo in 2010



Now in 2011 the Luther Academy has begun work in Central America. This means we are now bringing Lutheran theological education to pastors in seven world areas. The most recent expansion of our mission took place in Antigua, Guatemala. Pastors from Guatemala, Venezuela, Panama, Colombia and the Dominican Republic were in attendance. The instructor was Professor Sergio Fritzler, President of Seminario Concordia in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Professor Fritzler taught Scripture's teaching on the office of the holy ministry. As in all our conferences, the pastors were extremely happy to receive good Lutheran teaching. One reason the conference was held in Guatemala was that the Guatemalan pastors have had very little opportunity over the last 15 years to do any serious theological study. Holding the conference in Antigua gave us the opportunity to invite a number of Guatemalan pastors.

Our Central America Luther Academy Conference was conducted in cooperation with the Latin America Director for LCMS World Mission, Dr. Ted Krey. His Business Manager, Christel Neuendorf, provided significant assistance in making arrangements for a successful conference in Antigua.

Rev. Krey was present at the conference and commented very positively about what he saw:

I felt the conference was of excellent quality and done very well. I, too, share with you my sentiments that this is mission work done in the right way. I fully support your continued efforts at international conferences and, Lord willing, look forward to many more such continued joint ventures. I'm sure you saw and heard of the great need and the clamor of our pastors for such continued good teaching. I personally think that the Lord has answered prayers to allow these things to move forward and I pray that we would continue to gain momentum as we strive to do this on a continued basis.

Rev. Dan McMiller, an LCMS pastor who has served in Latin America for fourteen years, also attended the conference. He spoke very highly of Professor Fritzler's instruction and that of Rev. Klemet Preus who taught one afternoon on the Lutheran understanding of the office of the ministry in contrast to that of Evangelicalism and Roman Catholicism.

But it was the pastors themselves who spoke with most enthusiasm about the teaching they received. As one man put it, "We need help in our teaching and practice and assistance holding (ourselves) accountable to Scripture and the Confessions so that all can see the problems that exist in our churches and return to orthodox teaching and practice."

Due to a generous matching grant, the Luther Academy was able to begin work in Central America. Please consider a contribution so that this work can continue. We intend to make the Central America Luther Academy Conference an annual event but we need your help to ensure it happens.



Professor Sergio Fritzler (far right) lectures were discussed with great interest during the breaks.



Pastor Tiburdio Mejia from Guatemala shares a meal with theological student Milton Castillo.

Luther Academy Bulletin is the official newsletter of the Luther Academy, a non-profit religious foundation incorporated in the state of Minnesota. Luther Academy devotes all its assets and gifts received to the promotion of Lutheran theology in the United States and worldwide. In all its work Luther Academy is guided by God's inerrant Word and is committed to an unconditional subscription to the teaching of the *Book of Concord*.

Editor: Daniel Preus Layout Editor: Janette Schanbacher All unattributed articles are written by the editor.



THE SEARCH BEGINS FOR A NEW *Executive Director*

The recent announcement by Rev. Daniel Preus that he intends to retire as Luther Academy Executive Director has led the Board of Directors to begin a search for a candidate to fill the position when Preus steps down.

On the occasion of Preus' impending retirement, Dr. Scott Murray, Vice President of Luther Academy, took the opportunity to ask him about his service to Luther Academy over the years and his view of the Academy's future.

Q: Daniel, you are retiring from the fulltime position as the Executive Director of the Luther Academy in 2012. Why are you retiring?

A: Well, Scott, it was not an easy decision to make. I



get an incredible amount of satisfaction from much of the work I do. Especially the overseas theological conferences give me a great deal of joy. At the same time, I have been President of Luther Academy now since 1995. That's a long time. Although my service as full-time Director has only been since 2005, I strongly believe

that the Luther Academy will benefit from the infusion of new ideas and new energy as we go forward into the future. I have been very happy that I have been able to serve as Director of the Luther Academy. I think it is time to pass the mantle on to another.

Q: What are the three most significant fulfillments of the mission of the Luther Academy that happened during your stewardship of the organization?

A: Well I could list a number of them but since you ask for three, I would say again that our work in conducting theological conferences for pastors overseas would be near the top of the list. The men we teach are so eager to learn. They want to be good pastors and they appreciate tremendously the Lutheran teaching we bring them. It makes them better theologians and pastors. The *Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics* series is one of the outstanding accomplishments of the Luther Academy. This was a project begun by my father who served as

editor for the first three volumes. Dr. John Stephenson has served as General Editor for the three volumes that have appeared since I became Director of the Academy and it has been a joy to see these excellent volumes come to print. We are hoping that the final seven volumes will be completed by 2017 as Luther Academy's contribution to the observation of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Finally, through the extensive traveling I have done I have been able to make a lot of our Lutheran people and our congregations aware of the work Luther Academy has been doing through LOGIA, Luther Digest, our national conferences and various other activities. It has been a great joy to raise the visibility of the Academy so that people appreciate its mission and work

Q: You will be retiring from your full-time work. Will you be available to help the new Executive Director as he makes the transition to fulltime stewardship of the organization?

A: I am certainly willing to do so. I don't want to dictate anything to anybody but if the Board and the new Director would like me to serve during a time of transition, I would be happy to do that. I would also be willing to assist beyond the transition time if that would benefit Luther Academy. I fully support everything we are doing at the present time and I want to see our mission flourish.

Q: What was your most personally fulfilling experience while you were Executive Director of the Academy?

A: Why, working with the Board of course, especially the Vice President! Seriously, though, it's hard to say what has been the most fulfilling, so much of what we do contributes to the promotion of Confessional Lutheranism. But I suppose I would have to say overseas theological conferences would be first on my list. I

talked about those in answer to one of your previous questions so I won't say too much more except that it is truly remarkable how happy these conferences make the pastors who attend and how conscientiously they then teach what they have learned to their congregations.

Q: What is the single most important characteristic of the next Executive Director of the Academy?

A: I think the next Director needs a number of different abilities. We want a good theologian, of course. That's critical. We also need somebody who genuinely likes to work with other people. Much of what I do requires working with others in various ways such as cooperating with Lutheran leaders around the world or speaking to congregations about our work. I suppose as important as anything would be a willingness and an ability to raise funds. This has not been a particular strength of mine, I think, so I am hoping the next Director will be able to dedicate time to development work.

Q: The Luther Academy sees almost limitless opportunities for sharing confessional Lutheran theology overseas. Describe those opportunities. What most hampers the Academy's accomplishment of them?

A: You're right about the limitless opportunities. We have received many invitations to begin work in places where we know we could help a great deal – Russia, East Africa, South Africa, the Philippines and a number of others. The only real obstacle is that we don't have the funds. Of course, if we expand more, we will not be able to get by without a larger staff and that will be a matter of funding, too. My hope is that as more people see the importance of what we are doing to the spread of Confessional Lutheranism, they will be led to support our work generously. I firmly believe that the teaching we do of pastors overseas is one of the most effective ways of engaging in missions today. As more people recognize this, I believe the Luther Academy will be greatly blessed.

The Luther Academy is inviting applications for the position of **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

It is the duty of the Executive Director to carry out the mission of the Luther Academy, namely to promote "genuine, confessional Lutheran theology and research through conferences, scholarly exchanges, and publications that assist the church both to preserve and to proclaim to the world the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the only saving faith."

Applicants should be ordained pastors with the following qualifications:

- Ability as an effective teacher
- Comprehensive knowledge of Lutheran theology
- Good communication skills
- Good organizational and administrative skills
- Ten years of parish experience
- Willingness to engage in extensive domestic and international travel
- Experience in and willingness to do fund development

Other desired qualifications are:

- Experience in editing and publishing
- Foreign language ability
- Foreign mission experience
- Willingness to live in the Midwest United States

Applications along with a current Curriculum Vitae should be submitted to Rev. Daniel Preus via regular mail or email by February 10, 2012.



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Future CONFERENCES

Theological conferences for pastors overseas has become a major aspect of Luther Academy's work. The next few months will be particularly busy with the conducting of these conferences:

Buenos Aires, Argentina – November 29-December 2. Topic: Lutheran Identity

Kampala, Uganda – December 5-9. Topic: The Lord's Supper

Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India – January 9-12. Topic: Law and Gospel

Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia – March 12-16. Topic: The Two Kingdoms

Please pray for God's blessing upon the teaching of His Word as the Luther Academy continues its mission of proclaiming the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ.



OUR JOY APPROACHES



As you receive this issue of the *Luther Academy Bulletin*, we will be approaching the celebration of our Savior's birth. The Lord Himself entered our world as one of us – a mystery still so amazing it is difficult for us to appreciate fully. Our Father in Heaven loved us and gave His only begotten Son that we might have life through Him. The Son came to sacrifice Himself for us that we might be forgiven and through faith in Him be saved. The Holy Spirit now shows us this Son in the Holy Scriptures and creates faith in us and we become the children of God.

Only in the One who came as a little baby in Bethlehem do we have hope. Most of the world lives without this hope and without the assurance of God's love in Christ. The Mission Statement of the Luther Academy expresses well our desire to bring a clear presentation of the Gospel to many so that the Holy Spirit might give hope in Christ:

The Luther Academy promotes genuine, confessional Lutheran theology and research through conferences, scholarly exchanges, and publications that assist the church both to preserve and to proclaim to the world the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the only saving faith.

Please help us carry out our mission that the joy we have as Christians may reach others. God has promised us that His Word will not return to him empty. It will accomplish that which He sends it out to do (Isaiah 55:10-11). Whether through our publications or through our theological conferences, the Luther Academy is intent on proclaiming God's Word clearly and we are not ashamed to be Lutheran in our proclamation, knowing that our Lutheran confession is in complete accord with God's Word.

You can help us, especially in the area of our work overseas teaching pastors. Now is the time to suggest that your congregation's annual budget include the work of the Luther Academy. A one time mission offering from your congregation will also enable us to do this good work of teaching God's Word and Luther's doctrine pure. Your personal gift can be designated for one of our mission projects with the confidence that it will support true Lutheran mission work.

Thank you for your support of the Luther Academy.

In Christ,

Daniel Preus, Director

*The Word, became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we beheld His glory,
the glory of the begotten of the Father,
full of grace and truth. John 1:14*



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