



# THE SENDING PLACE

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*("LUTHERANS AT MISSION BODY AND SOUL (LAMBS), INC." is a nonprofit corporation organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3), Internal Revenue Code. Also known as "The Sending Place", we exist for the purpose of training and sending Christian missionaries to proclaim Jesus as Lord to the ends of the earth.)*

## "LAMBS"

### SERVICE OF PRAISE AND CELEBRATION!

On Saturday, September 14, nearly 50 supporters of "The Sending Place" all drove 3 to 5 hours one way to Redding, California in order to be there for the first Service of Praise and Celebration on the future site of this Lutheran Missionary Training Center! At the service, the property was dedicated to the service of the Lord. Pastor Dan Selbo, Senior Pastor at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church in San Jose, California, preached the sermon.

*Here are a few of the excerpts from that message:*

It truly is good to be here today, to gather together in the very place that will some day become a sending place from which the good news of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, will be carried into all corners of the earth!

It's quite a vision that brings us here today. Quite a vision that inspires us to dream the dreams we now have. In fact, it's the same vision God had for His world when He called it into being.

God loves His world. God loves His people. In fact, the deepest desire of God's heart is that all people throughout the world would come to know the truth of the love He has for them in His Son. "The Sending Place" – that's what we're calling it. What's the vision? The Bible says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

The three words in the name tell the story, set the vision of what's to happen on this site. First, the word "THE." It will be the sending place. It will be "the" sending place. There's no other place like it in this country today - no other Lutheran training center of its kind in the United States. What happens on this site will be one of a kind.

The word "SENDING." That's what'll happen from this very location. Teachers, Bible School leaders, carpenters, engineers, workers of all kinds – a place to prepare, train, and send out people in the name of Jesus Christ. All sent with the Gospel.

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And the word “PLACE.” Because it won’t just happen on its own; it takes people, it takes planning, it takes buildings. It takes a place to call home, a place to establish its roots, a place to which people will come to be trained and from which they will be sent forth with the Good News.

Can I share a few numbers with you today, a few statistics that help to bring it all home? God is doing some amazing things in the world. Did you know that there are now more than 2 billion Christians worldwide? Did you know also that the majority of missionaries being sent are from the developing nations of the world?

But did you also know that there are nearly 4 billion people who don’t know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? And did you know that there are at least 1.7 billion people in our world today who have no known visible witness for Christ?

Here’s another number. 80% of people who come to know Christ do so before they reach the age of 20. Now, here’s the second, and just think about the connection between the two. 96% of paid youth ministers in the world are found in the United States, ministering to 4% of the world’s youth.

Now, what’s the message? What’s the point? The message is that it’s time to start investing in something beyond ourselves. The point is that we’ve got to get outside of the United States and start doing in the Church what we’ve been commissioned as the Church to be about!

Very quickly, let me give you five major shifts that need to happen in the Lutheran Church today if we’re to be serious about fulfilling the calling we’ve been given in Jesus.

1. We need to shift our thinking from self-centeredness to God-centeredness. We need to fall in love with Jesus, and not in love with ourselves.
2. We need to shift our thinking from a local orientation to a global orientation. Watch the world news with missionaries’ eyes, and then pray. Pray that the Lord of the harvest would find harvest workers willing to be sent in the name of Christ.
3. We need to shift our thinking from temporary values to eternal values. All kinds of things stand in the way of mission. All kinds of distractions that pull the church away from the primary calling it’s been given. But none more evident than the short-sightedness of this world’s values.
4. We need to shift our thinking from security to service. In other words, whatever stands in the way of our serving others, we need to get beyond it.
5. We need to shift our thinking from comfort to sacrifice. Paul says that we’re to become “living sacrifices” for the one who gave it all up on a cross for us. If the Lutheran Church is to take seriously the calling given to it by its Lord, then the Lutheran Church needs to step out of its comfort zone and walk by faith where the One it calls Lord chooses to lead.

My friends, the vision of “The Sending Place” is a vision that’s been in the heart of God from the beginning of time. And now He’s set that vision in us, and He’s giving us a place from

which His laborers can be sent. I thank you for being here this afternoon as we set this land apart for the One who has set us apart to be His messengers in this world, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



PHOTOS TAKEN  
AT THE 9-14-02  
SERVICE OF  
PRAISE AND CELEBRATION



### 2003 MISSION TEAMS

Does the Lord want YOU to GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS? Then it's time to prepare for next summer's mission trips! Mission Teams will go to Russia, Kenya and South Africa. Departure times are in late May for Russia, and early July for Kenya and South Africa, with all teams being gone for about three weeks. To start the process of applying, use the application form enclosed with this newsletter. All training will begin on January 11, 2003, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Elk Grove, California. If you live too far away to make the training sessions, special arrangements may be made. Feel free to make extra copies of the application form, and make them available to other members of your congregation.

### FUND-RAISING

Thank you to those of you who have volunteered to help raise the financial support needed for "The Sending Place" to do its mission, and to build the facility! We still need more of you to step forward and volunteer your help in this area. You may know people who want to help send Lutheran missionaries to the ends of the earth! Help give them the opportunity to donate.