

THE GOOD NEWS



"LAMBS"

"LUTHERANS AT MISSION
BODY AND SOUL
INC." (LAMBS)

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.

**Next Training Begins
August 21, 2004**

If you are ready to be a "Goer", the next training sessions begin on August 21, 2004, to minister the last two weeks of January, 2005. Teams will be going to Florianopolis, Brazil to work at New Hope Center. Many types of ministry skills can be used there, from teaching to counseling to construction. Another team will be going to Visakhapatnam, India to work with Christ for India. You can help in their large school, teach in their seminary, or use medical or evangelism skills in the villages. If you are interested in more information, give us a call.

GREAT COMMISSION OR GREAT OMISSION?

Most people who have been in the Christian Church for awhile are probably familiar with "The Great Commission." The words of Jesus just before He left this earth are recorded in Matthew 28:18-20: "***All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.***"

These words of Jesus really should not have been a new concept to those he was talking to. The Old Testament scriptures are filled with the same commission by the LORD. For example, Psalm 96:2-3 says: "***Sing to the LORD, bless his name: tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!***"

Throughout history, God has been a missionary God, wanting people from all tribes and tongues of the earth to know about Him and give glory to Him! And He has always wanted His followers to be doing this task of declaring His marvelous works among all the people groups of the world. Indeed, all of us who live by faith in the LORD are created by God to live this life of meaningful purpose, to go and tell people around the world about His love and mercy and grace and forgiveness!

Unfortunately, most of God's people down through the ages have not wanted to go anywhere for Him! The nation of Israel ignored God throughout Old Testament history. And the Christian Church has often done a fine job of ignoring Him, too, since Jesus died and rose from the dead for us.

How many church members today are living out "The Great Omission" rather than "The Great Commission?" I was guilty of that for years. Most of us are guilty of that in our lives, at least for a period of time. Most congregations are still entrenched in "The Great Omission."

What do I mean by that? If "The Great Commission" is the declaring of God's glory to all the peoples in the world, then "The Great Omission" is NOT proclaiming Him to the world. Think about it. If every member of our churches would target just one person per year to show God's glory to, and invite into their church family, imagine the explosive growth all congregations would have! But most church members appear to keep their faith secret. And if they are not declaring the glory of God right in their own community, they are sure not declaring His works to all the peoples overseas either. What have you been doing in your life as a follower of Jesus Christ? Have you been living out "The Great Commission," going to declare God's glory and to make disciples of all nations? Have you been actively focused on sending other missionaries to proclaim God's glory?

Or have you been living out "The Great Omission," going nowhere for Him and keeping His glory a secret from others? If you find yourself living out "The Great Omission" in your life, there is no time like the present to shift gears and become obedient to the LORD, living out "The Great Commission" instead. God is worth it. He is worth giving up a life filled with trivia, to live a life of meaningful purpose!

And "The Sending Place" exists to help individuals and congregations carry out that life of meaningful purpose. If any of you would like to shift from "The Great Omission" to "The Great Commission," give us a call.

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Spend Some Time On Our Web Site

There is a lot of information about "The Sending Place" on our website at www.TheSendingPlace.com You can find all of our past newsletters, photos of the Redding, California property where the facility will be built, extensive information about the places our mission teams are going, and much more. Check it out and send us your comments, we would love to hear from you.

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Mission Team Schedule

Our Guatemala Mission Team is ready to go! Their ministry with "The Servant's Heart" in Guatemala City, March 26—April 4, will focus on the poorest of the poor, the Mayan peoples who literally live in the city dump. Then our Russia Mission Team goes to Petrozavodsk, Russia May 31—June 21 to teach English in public school classrooms, using the Bible as their text book. June 17—July 3 will find a team in South Africa, helping start a new congregation, and supporting the two new ones we helped start last summer. Our Ukraine team serves "God's Hidden Treasures" in Bila Tserkva, Ukraine July 8—23, working with handicapped children and stroke victims. And another team to South Africa will be working July 11—31, doing similar things as the other team there, except in a different village. Please pray for God's will to be done mightily through all these teams!

WISH LIST

(Remember, "The Sending Place" is a 501.c.3 non profit corporation, so anything you donate is completely tax deductible for you.) Here is how you can help!

Needed Items

Video Projector (To show Power Point presentations to other congregations.)
Several Digital Cameras (So each mission team can have one along to send pictures back)
Lap Top Computer (For Staff)

Financial Needs for General Expenses

Staff Salaries (\$12,000 per month needed)
Monthly Mortgage (\$2,400)
Newsletter (\$1,200 per mailing)

What Is "The Sending Place"?

As our mailing list grows rapidly, many of you who are receiving this newsletter know a little bit about "The Sending Place", but it's probably time to review who we are, why we exist and what we do. We are unique in the Lutheran community in this country, as we are the only Lutheran Missionary Training Center of its kind where people from all over the country can come together to be trained and sent all over the world as short-term missionaries. Our mission statement is simple: "Our mission is to train and send Christian missionaries to proclaim Jesus as Lord to the ends of the earth."

Incorporated as "Lutherans at Mission Body and Soul (LAMBS), Inc." a little over two years ago, we called ourselves "The Sending Place" and that name has caught on. As the national headquarters of most Lutheran Synods have been sending fewer missionaries, the need became obvious that more and more people within the Lutheran community must rise up, obey the Lord's command to "Go and make disciples of all nations," and display God's fame and glory among all the peoples. We dare not leave this great work to the other denominations!

"The Sending Place" is an independent Lutheran Corporation, not tied to any one Lutheran body. We believe and teach the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions, and we bring together all Lutherans who will proclaim Jesus as Lord to the ends of the earth. At the moment, we are training short-term missionaries who are from congregations of The American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC), The Association of Free Lutheran Churches (AFLC), The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). We do not sit around and argue our differences. We train faithful people to go forth as teams around the world to proclaim Jesus as Lord of all. It is not only possible to do so, it is happening! You are invited to come on board in the future, if you are not already going.

So far, nearly 50 congregations and mission agencies are partnering with us in this great work, and we receive financial and prayer support from hundreds of individuals and families around the country. We are happy to report that more and more people and congregations are now giving monthly gifts as well. Training sessions are currently being held in Elk Grove, California (near Sacramento) and Golden Valley, Minnesota (near Minneapolis). Plans are also underway to expand to host sites in Scottsdale, Arizona (near Phoenix) and Fallbrook, California (near San Diego), starting in August. We are also training people in a variety of other places, but they are training on their own, not with a group.

As we expand rapidly, we need more full time staff! The Board of Directors has already approved the hirings, as soon as the funds are available to do so. We encourage more of you to give significantly to make this happen sooner instead of later.

We also need your on going prayer support. Please pray for the nearly 50 people we are currently training to go on teams to Russia, the Ukraine and South Africa this summer. Pray they will all successfully raise their needed finances to go, and that they will be protected from the evil one, and not get distracted by other things. Pray for the many people who are pondering God's call for them to begin training in August to go on teams to Brazil and India next January. Pray that they will say yes to that call, and not find "reasons" to stay home. Pray for the missionaries and mission agencies who host our teams, that their ministries will be greatly helped by our teams.

We have invitations coming in on a frequent basis from countries all over the world, asking for teams to come and serve at their ministries. Pray that we will be able to raise up the necessary finances and people willing to go to meet the needs.

Our vision is to construct a facility on property we have already purchased near Redding, California, where we will bring in people from all around the country, train them together there in a retreat-type setting, and send them as teams all over the world. We plan to be sending hundreds of missionaries every year when the facility is ready! If you would like to help raise the millions of dollars necessary for this project, let us know.