

SUMMER update  
2019

mining for  
*diamonds*



LeadAChild

# of great value

During my recent trip to Sierra Leone, I learned that over half the country's economy is based on the diamond mining industry. Local miners exert great time, energy, and effort into excavating the sites and combing through the dirt and rubble to find these precious gems. Even the smallest diamonds are very precious. It reminds me of the parable that Jesus shared about a rich merchant: The kingdom of God is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

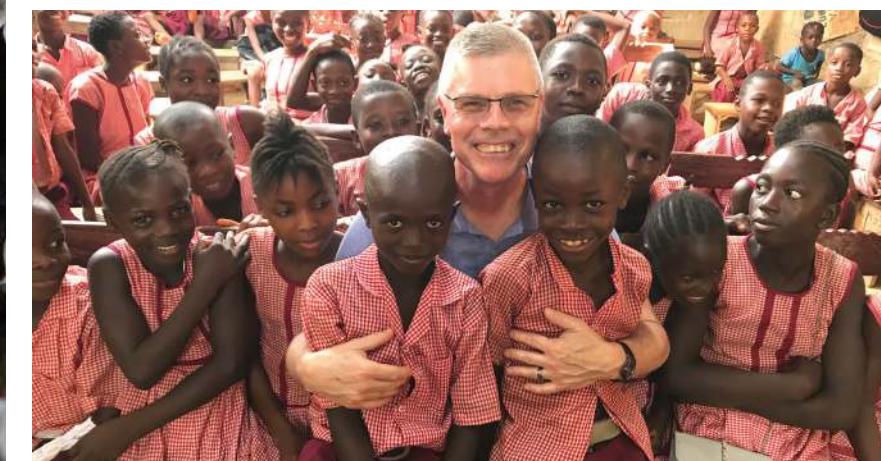
Matthew 13: 45-46

Jesus is the wealthy one from heaven who descended to earth in search of his precious diamonds, His children; and he gave up everything he had in order to purchase us ... not with gold or silver, but with His own precious blood and innocent suffering and death on the cross.

Following our Lord's example, LeadaChild works to continue the "excavation work" of our Lord's precious children. We exist to support the work of those in countries like Sierra Leone who tirelessly and patiently labor to provide a Christian education for the children who attend their schools. As these humble servants share the Good News of our Savior, many come to faith in Christ... and these precious ones shine like diamonds – realizing their own great value in the eyes of God.

**Executive Director**

Dr. Phil



# GUATEMALAN COIN PURSES *What an impact!*

by NANCY JANKOWSKI  
PRINCIPAL, HOPE LUTHERAN, SHAWNEE, KS  
AND LEADACHILD BOARD MEMBER

The weekly chapel worship in Lutheran schools is an extension of the Sunday worship of the Christian congregation. Many Lutheran Schools organize the weekly worship around the propers and lessons of the day. The children enjoy worshiping and praising God with their peers and teachers. One of the aspects of chapel is to teach the students to be good stewards of the gifts God has given them.

Most Lutheran schools designate where their chapel offerings will be sent. Chapel offerings are designated to ministries such as LeadaChild. Hope Lutheran School in Shawnee, Kansas has designated chapel offerings to LeadaChild for the last five years. We have had the privilege of having Dr. Phil lead chapel and share the Good News about Jesus and the way LeadaChild shares His love of Jesus with children around the world.

Last year, LeadaChild gifted us Guatemalan made coin purses for the students to bring in their offering. As a school, we thought it would be a one-time event, where we would collect the coin purses full of change. To our surprise, the coin purses became their offering envelopes and they would fill them up weekly and empty the coins in the offering plates. It has become a tradition with our students at Hope. I travel to Guatemala yearly and bring back purses for each child to use to bring in their chapel offering. The Guatemalan purse has become a reminder of why it is important to help others through our stewardship!



2019/20 CHAPEL THEME  
**Jump for Joy**

**HEBREWS 12: 2 – "looking to Jesus... who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross..."**

**IN AUGUST** new materials and chapel outlines will be posted on our website.

**FOR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS**...each student will receive a handmade bookmark created by the talented artisans at our site in Santiago Zamora, Guatemala.

**DROP US A NOTE** if you would like your school to participate in next year's program ([executivedirector@leadachild.org](mailto:executivedirector@leadachild.org)).



# Our Ministry Regions

*Sharing the Love of Jesus*

WITH CHILDREN  
AROUND THE WORLD!

## REGION 1 - GUATEMALA

4 schools, 18 afterschool/  
ministry sites

Guatemala continues to be our base of international operations. Our Guatemalan LeadaChild team is taking the lead to form great communications and collaboration with all of our Latin American sites.



## REGION 2 - CENTRAL AMERICA AND HISPANIOLA

*Honduras, El Salvador, Panama, Nicaragua, Haiti*  
4 schools, 16 afterschool/  
ministry sites

Positive team efforts from our LCMS partners are helping to assist with the development of new opportunities in Honduras and the Dominican Republic, and with initial steps to open up the first Lutheran school in Nicaragua.



## REGION 3 - SOUTH AMERICA

*Chile, Bolivia, Venezuela, Uruguay, Dominican Republic*  
4 schools, 6 afterschool/  
ministry sites

New starts in Chile and Uruguay have added to our efforts in order to advance the Gospel and offer unique afterschool programs for neighborhood children.



## REGION 4 - WEST AFRICA

*Sierra Leone, Ghana, Togo, Liberia, Guinea, Nigeria*

We are currently redesigning our plan to match our work in Latin America. We are beginning with quality school hubs in Sierra Leone and Ghana, while inviting educators from Togo, Liberia and Guinea to participate in teacher training workshops.



## REGION 5 - ASIA

*India, Thailand, Cambodia, Israel Nine Project sites*

We are collaborating with our mission partners and agencies who are on the ground in the region to provide encouragement, oversight, and training.



## THANKING GOD FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS IN MISSION

*Working together for the sake of the Gospel and the Growth of God's kingdom*

Our partner mission organizations help us by visiting sites, providing oversight and encouragement, and sharing additional training opportunities – especially in those regions that are more difficult to visit on a regular/yearly schedule.

**Global Lutheran Outreach** Partnering with us in Guatemala, Chile, West Africa, and Asia

**Can - Do Missions** Partnering with us in West Africa and India

**Bright Stars of Bethlehem** Partnering with us in Palestine

**Most Ministries** Partnering with us throughout Central America

**Garuna** Partnering with us in Asia

**LCMS Missions** Assisting on the ground throughout all of our regions

## WHERE YOUR DOLLARS GO...

**Priority One:** To provide scholarships, supplies, and materials for children so that they can attend a Lutheran school or afterschool program

**Priority Two:** To offer teacher training In classroom teaching skills and effective ways to share the Gospel with children and families

**Priority Three:** To assist the leadership at our project sites with efforts to create welcoming and inviting educational environments for those whom they serve within their communities.



# GIFT OF GOD

by REV. NICHOLAS SALIFU,  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR FOR  
LEADACHILD IN GHANA

THEODORA AWUDU, A STUDENT OF CONCORDIA PREPARATORY SCHOOL\* COMES FROM KPGOGO IN THE BAWKU AREA OF GHANA. AS TRADITION REQUIRES, SHE WAS A MUSLIM, JUST LIKE HER FATHER, AWUDU.

Concordia Preparatory School is a Christian school where Christian education is a major subject. Every morning the students go to assembly, hear the Word of God, pray and sing as they march to their classrooms. Every morning there is devotion and every Wednesday there is a chapel service. In their classrooms, all the students study Luther's Small Catechism and read the Child's Garden of Bible Stories.

Theodora is in class six (the highest grade now). She is very intelligent. The school does not force any Muslim child to convert to Christianity, but they must all participate in the Christian education class. Presently, there are more than 800 students; about 300 of them are Muslims.

The Holy Spirit worked in Theodora's heart. One Sunday, she was found in the church at Kpagogo. Knowing that her father was a Muslim, the leader asked what brought her to the church (it is our practice to do that with all visitors). She said, "In school, I have learned many things about Jesus who loves me. I have come to church so that Jesus will help me."

Theodora (whose Muslim name was Fahanatu) began attending church regularly. Knowing how Muslim parents are against the idea of their children becoming Christians, I called her father and talked to him about allowing Fahanatu to continue to attend church. I shared my personal life story of converting from being a Muslim to becoming a Christian. At first, her father was still clinging to the idea that "all religions are the same because we all worship one God."

During the next few months, Theodora told him about what she was learning in school and at church about Jesus. Her father liked the Child's Garden of Bible Stories that his daughter gave him. Her father was pleased by the knowledge and wisdom his daughter had gained. Eventually, this man shared with me that he did not know why he joined the Islam religion because he was forced to do things he could not do... so he would like to become a Christian. Now, when he is in town and home from his work, he worships with us.

Theodora has gone through catechism and pre-baptism classes and has been baptized. She has also been confirmed. It was on her baptism day that she took the name Theodora and has abandoned the Islamic name. She participates in all the youth activities in the Church. She leads the children's choir and reads the Scriptures on Sundays. Theodora is now bringing her grandmother (her father's mother who is her care taker) to church.

"Theodora" means gift of God... she is certainly a gift in God's eyes and to her family. We thank God for the gift of Concordia Preparatory School that is sharing Christ with so many children like Theodora!

\*Leadachild offers scholarships for students at Concordia who cannot afford the tuition.

# New CONNECTIONS IN CAMBODIA



We are Joe, Viya, and Ray Stoltenow. We have been missionaries serving in Cambodia for the past four and a half years, working in and around Battambang city with poor and homeless children. We firmly believe that the most important role we have here in Cambodia is to be instruments of the Holy Spirit, serving the needy children in this area. We aim to spread the Gospel of Jesus through our love and actions as we work to strengthen, not only the children's faith, but our own faith as well.

In July 2017, with the help of Global Lutheran Outreach, we opened a brand-new street kids ministry here in Battambang called Ray of Hope. At Ray of Hope we are able to work directly with street kids and their families with a primary goal of teaching and showing them the love of Jesus through words and actions. We began the 2017-18 school year with five students in our program; now we are up to eleven students.

Everyday we pick the street kids up off the street, bring them to our center, bathe them, feed them, clothe them, and take them to school. We also feed them lunch and provide daily Bible classes for them. We can't wait to see what God has in store as LeadaChild partners with Ray of Hope and Global Lutheran Outreach in order to serve the street kids in Cambodia!



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LeadAChild INVOLVED  
Play for the children and  
Host a LeadAChild Sunday  
at your church  
Sign up your school / Sunday  
school for our Kids Helping Kids  
program  
Join a teacher training  
mission trip  
Sign up for our monthly  
e-news or phone app  
Give generously

