

SPRING
update
2020

1



a DECADE to

disciple
2020-2030



What it takes

DISCIPLING CHILDREN REVOLVES AROUND SOME INTEGRAL FAITH ACTIVITIES

- Regular worship and prayer
- Learning Bible stories
- Memorizing Scripture verses and basic doctrine
- Singing hymns and Christian songs
- Intentionally integrating God's Word throughout the curriculum
- Using teachable moments
- Creating a positive, Scripture-filled environment

Our 'Decade to Disciple' Goals:

1. **Ensure** strong connections between the educational ministries we support and the local Lutheran churches.
2. **Assist** in creating and supporting Gospel-filled, excellent educational programs and environments.
3. **Provide** training for teachers and leadership consultation.
4. **Target** funding toward student scholarships, teacher support, and program development.
5. **Develop** a stronger base of those praying, encouraging, and financially supporting these educational ministries.



DISCIPLESHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

...these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:4-9

We now live in an era when many of the children who attend our Lutheran schools – here in the U.S. and around the world – are first generation Christians. They are coming to faith in Christ through the Word of God that is shared at the Christian school they attend. The support system for faith development and discipleship outside of the school is often minimal or even non-existent. It has many similarities to the first generation of believers we read about in the book of Acts... and it's vital that we take steps to help these young Christians in their life-long faith walk.

While this 21st century reality presents many challenges, there are great opportunities to answer the Great Commission's call to "Go...and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19)

During this "Decade to Disciple," LeadaChild is dedicated to walk alongside the teachers and leaders of the project sites and ministries we support in order to assist in the process of creating learning environments that promote the development of young disciples of Christ.

As we visit our project sites, collaborate with leaders, and lead educational workshops, our main strategy during this new decade will be to help the educational ministries connect children to Christ and provide ideas to strengthen the discipleship process.



Dr. Phil ExecutiveDirector@LeadaChild.org

our first DISCIPLE

by LISA HELLYER,
Director of Engagement and Outreach

I recently had the great privilege of spending a cold Chicago afternoon with Gloria Conjura, the very first recipient of a LeadaChild scholarship, and what a delight it was. As a young girl, Gloria lived with her grandparents in a small village in Guatemala. Her grandfather taught her to read but other than that, Gloria had no hope of receiving a formal education and therefore no hope of ever getting out of poverty. Her family simply could not afford to send her to school. But God, our loving Heavenly Father had different plans for Gloria—He had plans that went far beyond what Gloria or her family could ever imagine.

When she was 10 years old, Gloria and her grandparents met a Lutheran Pastor who was traveling to her village along with Jim & Edie Jorns, a missionary couple from Kansas. Jim and Edie were serving the people of Zacapa, Guatemala which was quite a distance from Gloria's village and therefore too far for her to attend the Lutheran school there. But God was working in the hearts of Jim and Edie and stirred a desire in them to invite Gloria to live with them and their family.

Gloria lived with the Jorns family and attended the Lutheran school in Zacapa as the first recipient of a LeadaChild student scholarship. Gloria recalls, "Every night before bed Jim taught me English." Gloria completed her education and began serving as a teacher in Guatemala. She married a fellow student at the Lutheran school, Hector Conjura. Hector completed his education

and studied to become a Pastor. The two served together in Gualan, Guatemala until the Lord called them to serve as missionaries at Grace Lutheran Church and School in Chicago, IL where they recently retired.

Gloria says, "The Lord used LeadaChild to save my life. You have to believe and trust what an education can do." She went on to talk passionately about the power of a Christian education. She said, "It is only possible through Jesus. Learning about Jesus is the most important." There was no way for Gloria to express her gratitude in words. It was clear to me that she lives her life in gratitude for all the Lord has done for her through LeadaChild.

Lisa@LeadaChild.org



Sharing the love of Jesus with children around the world.

Our **CENTRAL AMERICA/HISPANIOLA** project sites are a mixture of schools and afterschool projects. We are blessed to have wonderful relationships with the national Lutheran churches in each country as we work to connect the educational ministries with the mission to "go and make disciples"

LEADACHILD *project sites*

MIDDLE EAST

CENTRAL AMERICA

WEST AFRICA

GUATEMALA

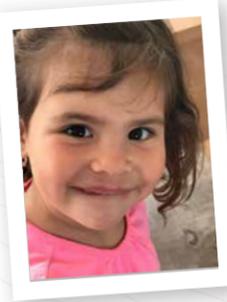
SOUTH AMERICA

ASIA

The country of **GUATEMALA** remains our primary hub as we walk alongside the leaders and teachers at 4 schools and 18 afterschool project sites. Our Guatemalan team also oversees the developing educational association, ACLEA, which serves and connects Lutheran educators throughout all of Latin America.



In **SOUTH AMERICA**, we support a variety of educational ministries, several of them working in challenging political and social conditions. We are impressed and humbled by the dedicated pastors and teachers who work tirelessly to serve the children who attend their educational programs.



In **WEST AFRICA**, we are in the process of redesigning our efforts to develop a few model Lutheran school programs, beginning in Sierra Leone and Ghana. We are also providing training opportunities for educators

throughout the region, emphasizing effective ways to teach God's Word to children in school settings.

Our **ASIA/MIDDLE EAST** sites benefit from a partnership model. Global Lutheran Outreach, Garuna, Bright Stars of Bethlehem, CanDo Missions and other LCMS entities have people on the ground who help us with oversight, encouragement, and training. We thank God for our partners in these distant countries as they assist with the goal of sharing the love of Jesus with children through Christian education.



MANAGING OUR

Financial Gifts...

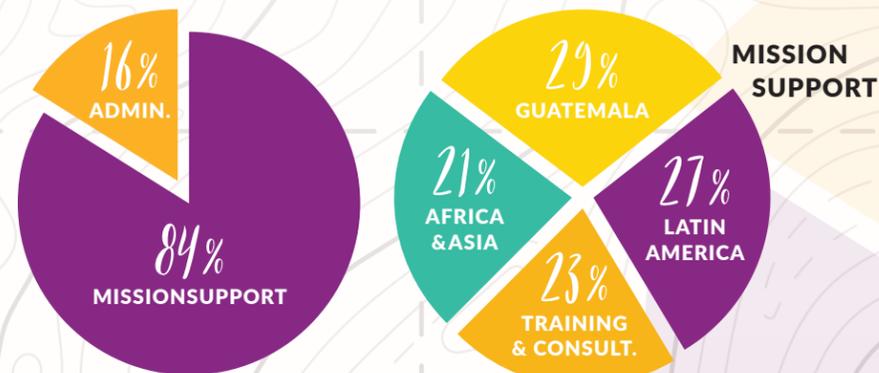
WE THANK GOD FOR OUR FAITHFUL SUPPORTERS!

2020 Budget : \$600,000

(donations from individuals, churches, schools, and organizations)

84% for mission support (student scholarships, project site support, teacher training and leadership consultation)

16% for Administration (contracts, promotional material, travel, office and business expenses)



St. John, Alma, Kansas
Trinity, Roselle, Illinois
St. Luke, Oviedo, Florida
St. Johns, Seymour, Indiana
St. Paul, Cheney, Kansas
St. Peter, Columbus, Indiana
Beautiful Savior, Olathe, Kansas
Faith, Lacey, Washington
Zion/St. John, Paulina, Iowa
St. John, Orange, California
Trinity, Garden City, Kansas

Trinity, Rockledge, Florida
Cross, Yorkville, Illinois
St. John, Ellinwood, Kansas
First Lutheran, Holyoke, Massachusetts
Bethany, Overland Park, Kansas
Christ, Overland Park, Kansas
St. Paul, Clay Center, Kansas
Immanuel, Albuquerque, New Mexico
St. Paul, Utica, Nebraska
Florida District 2019/20 "Hearts for Jesus" mission donation

a BIG thank you!

TO OUR 2019 KIDS HELPING KIDS LUTHERAN SCHOOLS & SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND TO OUR FAITHFUL CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS

who support LeadaChild.

Immanuel, Lawrence, KS
St. John's, Topeka, KS
Zion, Linn, KS
Zion, Claflin, KS
Grace, Iola, KS
St. Paul, Clay Center, KS
Bethany, Wichita, KS
Ascension, Littleton, CO
St. John, Palmer, KS
St. Andrews, Wichita, KS
Christ Tabitha Society, Augusta, KS
Bethlehem LWML, Sylvan Grove, KS
St. Paul's Ladies Aid, Preston, KS
King of Glory Christian Women, Blaine, MN
St. Paul's LWML, Duluth, KS
St. John's Quilters, Warrenton, MO
St. Paul Ladies Aid, Leavenworth, KS
Concordia LWML, Geneseo, IL
Our Father, Centennial, CO
St. John's, Warrenton, Mo
St. John LWML, Oberlin, KS
Messiah, Oklahoma City, OK
Mount Calvary, Wamego, KS
Faith, Ottawa, KS
Zion Ladies Circle, Chanute, KS
Salem, Salem, MO
Mount Olive, Lockport, NY
Trinity, Garden City, KS
Ascension, Kansas City, MO

Faith, Topeka, KS
St. John's, Tampa, KS
St. Paul Dorcas Society, Fairview, KS
Beautiful Savior, Olathe, KS
Trinity, Roselle, IL
Good News Ministries, Whittemore, MI
St. Matthew, Lees Summit, MO
Immanuel Women's Guild, Macomb, IL
Concordia Ladies Aid Society, Brownton, MN
St. Paul Laymens' League, Preston, KS
St. Paul Friendship Circle, Clay Center, KS
St. John Dorcas Society, Nashville, KS
First Lutheran LWML, Phillipsburg, KS
Lutheran Ladies Aid, Strong City, KS
Grace, McPherson, KS
Redeemer, Atwood, KS
St. John, Port Sanilac, MI
Trinity LWML Big League Garden City, KS
Immanuel Ladies Aid Netawaka, KS
Trinity LWML Hunter, KS
LWML Canton, KS
Women of Zion Independence, KS
West Portal Lutheran San Fransisco, CA
Bethany Guild Preston, KS
Dorcas Guild Northglenn, CO
Zion Hiawatha, KS
Immanuel Norton, KS
Joy and Love Circles Spokane, WA
Our Father Bible Study Centennial, CO

SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT TO Missionary Pastor



I am Pastor Gustavo Maita. I am an LCMS alliance missionary serving at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico with LCMS Disaster Response since the hurricane in September 2017. I serve with my lovely wife Ruth and my sweet daughter Mikhaela. I would like to share with you how LeadaChild has affected my life.

I was born in Maturin, Venezuela, on the east side of the country. Because of LeadaChild, I attended the Lutheran school in Maturin called 'Cristo Rey.' My parents worked at the Lutheran school and attended the church. I was blessed to receive a scholarship to attend the school from third grade all through high school. I really enjoyed my time in a Lutheran School. I fondly remember attending weekly chapel services and daily prayers before classes... I believe these activities developed my interest in becoming a pastor. It was that daily contact with the Word of God.

After high school I took some theological courses at the theological institute in Venezuela. I received a scholarship to study to be a pastor at the "Seminario Concordia" in Buenos Aires, Argentina. My vicarage was done in the Lutheran Church in the Dominican Republic, where my brother is also a pastor. In his congregation LeadaChild has started to help Dominican children. I am happy to see how the work is being repeated.

I thank God for LeadaChild which was a part of my upbringing. I see how God has used LeadaChild to help many children. I have seen other students in my time who have received support from LeadaChild and today they are serving their neighbors in different professions. Thank you to all of you who support this beautiful work. I hope one day to see Puerto Ricans being helped by LeadaChild.

PASTOR GUSTAVO MAITA, MISSIONARY PASTOR, PUERTO RICO



Kent White BOARD MEMBER OF LEADACHILD

Most Americans spend most of their adulthood at work. Many define success as climbing the corporate ladder or building a family business. To many, building a business or making money is the most important thing in life.

Recently I read a book called Beyond Halftime. The author was a successful businessman who felt an emptiness in his life. He redefined his life goal to be SIGNIFICANCE rather than success. He and his wife decided to do a 'reverse tithe'. They figured out what they needed to live on and gave the rest to charities. He not only gives to charities but also is actively involved in their mission and ministry.

I became a board member at LeadaChild because I was searching for SIGNIFICANCE. Being a board member allows me to use my God given financial skills to grow the endowment at LeadaChild. During my latest mission trip experience to Sierra Leone, I was able to help Dr. Phil and assess how we can best use the funds that our donors have entrusted to us.

If you feel God calling you to fill a void in your life, please prayerfully consider volunteering for LeadaChild efforts or other Christian organizations that match your passion and skill set.



Missions Abound IN CHAPEL OFFERINGS

**DR. JAKE HOLLATZ
PRINCIPAL, ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL, ORANGE, CA**

18 "Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus commands His disciples and us to go and make disciples throughout the world. His Gospel message has truly been spread far and wide, yet there are still people around the world who have never heard the saving message of the Gospel. In Lutheran schools, the Gospel message is clear. However, the "go" part of Jesus command can seem difficult for children to comprehend and seem even more impossible to carry out. Involving children in chapel offerings, can make a lasting impact and let children go out and carry that Gospel message through their giving.

At St. John's Lutheran School in Orange, California, the Gospel message is carried all over the world through faithful chapel offerings given from the heart by our student body. Each week over 700 students and staff gather for worship. In that worship, students give freely from their heart to impact various mission ministries all over the world.

For two years, students and staff at St. John's have given to LeadaChild (one of the many missions that are supported). Proverbs 22:6 tell us to, "start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." LeadaChild supports international Lutheran educational programs and trains teachers to teach and bring the Gospel message of Jesus to those in need...all around the world. Our children are excited to be a part of this educational ministry!

Through chapel offerings, schools of any size and location can go as well as give. Missions are not just for missionaries. Children of any age can get involved in missions through their chapel offerings. What a joy it is to give and go so that all may be saved. 9 "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

Sign up FOR OUR 2020/21 CHAPEL PROGRAM



UPDATE Sierra Leone

It was a joy to experience the interactions with fellow teachers and realize their great commitment to serve the children who attend their schools.



IN DECEMBER, DR. PHIL AND KENT WHITE TRAVELED TO BO, SIERRA LEONE to lead a teacher training workshop for 70 Lutheran educators from the surrounding region and southern Guinea.



We also spent time with our National Director, Rev. James Yassah. We worshipped with him and his congregation in Bo, and we assessed the needs at Martin Luther – the school connected to his church. We hope to assist them in developing a model educational program that can be replicated throughout the region.



KEEP THEM IN
YOUR PRAYERS
AS THEY SHARE
THE LOVE OF
JESUS WITH
MANY, MANY
CHILDREN!

LeadaChild

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www.LeadAChild.org

get INVOLVED

Pray for the children and international Lutheran schools

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

