

They that WAIT...

LeadaChild

SUMMER
update
2020



SHALL *renew* THEIR STRENGTH

In 2019 I sat in a lot of airplanes and passed through many international airports and customs...my new passport already looks weather-worn and well-traveled!

Through generous gifts of donors who love Lutheran education and international missions, I was able to visit many of our sites – from West Africa to the Caribbean to Central America - providing encouragement, leadership consultation, and teacher training.

2020 has become just the opposite. It has become a year of waiting...waiting for the opportunity to visit churches, schools, and friends here in the states...waiting to attend important events and conferences...and especially, waiting to visit our leaders, teachers, children, and project sites that LeadaChild supports.

The encouraging news amid this waiting are the promises that God provides in His Word: They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)



RENEWED STRENGTH - During times of waiting, God works within us to cleanse our hearts, minds, and souls. He walks us through the fears and doubts that creep up; and He helps us re-fix our eyes on Jesus, guiding us to rely on Him... and Him alone.

ENERGIZED - Our Lord is the creator and deliverer of renewable energy. By His grace, mercy, and strength, He provides all that we need to move forward and accomplish all that He has planned for us and His mission.

FLYING...ONCE AGAIN! - That's good news! As God's children, we are made to rise up and fly as eagles, soaring above to praise Him, to seek His wisdom, and to take His message of life and salvation to lands near and far.

A time of waiting is also a time of prayer. I ask you to join me in praying for LeadaChild as we go through this most unusual and uncertain time; and I ask you to pray for our children and those who serve them at our project sites; life during these pandemic days has become extremely difficult for many of them. Pray for provision and protection, and pray that the doors of the educational ministries open soon so that we can continue to share the love of Jesus with children all around the world.

In this summer update, we have gathered reports from many of our national directors to provide you a glimpse into the wonderful things that God has been doing over the past year through the educational ministries we support. While they are also waiting along with us, we are all encouraged by the blessings that God has showered upon our humble mission.

Dr. Phil
ExecutiveDirector@LeadaChild.org



Regions we serve
SOUTH AMERICA

GUATEMALA

CENTRAL AMERICA

WEST AFRICA

ASIA

MIDDLE EAST



LeadaChild is an independent Lutheran Mission Agency, dedicated to *Sharing the love of Jesus with children around the world through Christian education.*

We gather gifts and donations from supporters and use the funds to provide scholarships, school registration, and supplies for children so that they can attend Lutheran schools and after school programs. We also provide professional development for leaders and teachers at our sites, with an emphasis on effective ways to share the Gospel and teach Biblical truths to children.

Whether our students experience modern classrooms with computers and desks, or are surrounded by woven grass walls, they are hearing about a Heavenly Father who loves them, A Son who has redeemed them from sin, death, and the devil, and a Spirit who fills their hearts with hope and salvation.

Participate in our 2020/21 Kids Helping Kids program... great for school chapels, VBS, or Sunday school!

JESUS LOVES *me*

913.839.3135
WWW.LEADACHILD.ORG

connecting *kids* to the mission

by LISA HELLYER,
Director of Engagement and Outreach

There was a time not long ago when we were able to be together without fear of getting sick or causing someone else to get sick. So much has happened in these past few months and our world has changed. Before all of the orders to shelter in place, I had the great opportunity to share the love of Jesus with students in Lutheran schools in the Florida-Georgia District of the LCMS. I spent a week in March with hundreds of students who were so excited to share their chapel offerings so that children all over the world can also have the benefit of receiving a quality Christian education.

It was a privilege to share Jesus and the ministry of LeadaChild during my week-long chapel tour across the state of Florida. I was able to lead chapel, or a school assembly or teach middle school religion at the following schools, Family of Christ Lutheran School in Tampa, Holy Cross Lutheran Academy in Sanford, Our Savior Lutheran School in St. Petersburg, Holy Cross Lutheran School in North Miami Beach, and St. Michael's Lutheran School in Ft. Myers, FL.

We are grateful to all of the Lutheran schools in the FL-GA District who participate in the Hearts for Jesus program by donating their chapel offerings to LeadaChild.



UPDATES FROM Around the World

While we wait for our schools and educational ministries to reopen, enjoy these uplifting reports from several of our national directors



GHANA REV. NICOLAS SALIFU

By the grace of God, Concordia Preparatory School in Bawku is growing. There are 29 classrooms and 39 teachers. Parents have been doing their best to pay token school fees (about \$15 per term) which are used to pay the teachers monthly salaries. The grant received from LeadaChild has tremendously helped us to pay the teachers, and the increased wages have motivated them to joyfully serve our children. Even though there is not enough money generated in the school, nearly 40 students who come from poor Lutheran homes and other poor families have been granted scholarships so that they can attend our school. What a blessing LeadaChild is to us!



SIERRA LEONE REV. JAMES YASSEH

Our schools are gradually growing as they are not long established. The Martin Luther Primary School in Bo City is currently under renovation with funds provided by friends of Leadachild. The school community has really admired the development and most parents have decided to relocate their children and wards to our school as it will become a school of excellence and most admired among the others. Selected teachers in our schools across the country were offered tuition support to pursue further studies in various teacher training colleges to better capacitate themselves for quality teaching in the schools of the mission to which they belong. In phase one, 50 teachers benefited from the sponsorship from LeadaChild and Bo Site was blessed with 17 teachers supported.

In early December, 2019, a teachers' workshop facilitated by Leadachild executive Director Dr. Philip Frusti was conducted in Bo with participants drawn from all over Sierra Leone and Guinea. The contents of the workshop were very rich and apt as it taught participants that Christ must have pre-eminence in all aspects of a Lutheran school. Several role plays and examples were performed in various subject areas with stories and examples from the Bible and applications to classroom settings.

PANAMA GRISELDA AGUILAR

LOMA COBA The greatest blessing that we have had during this quarantine is the way our communities in Loma Coba are organized, with extended families who live together in a compound separated by family houses with a shared front and back yard. When the quarantine started, we were so sad as all our worship services, Bible classes, and after school activities were suspended. The teachers and the children did not understand. Griselda and Pastor Patricio got organized, instructed the teachers, and they gather together in their family compounds to have their Bible Classes. Griselda walks through the village (when she is authorized to go out) visiting and encouraging children and families.



SORA Pastor Alejandro, like all of The Lutheran pastors around Latin America, has faced the challenge of not being able to share the Gospel with his congregation nor teach the children their weekly Bible stories. Still, he has been making regular visits to the children and the families since the middle of March. He has also developed a YouTube Sunday worship service in order to communicate God's Word to all of his members and others within the community. He forwards the online worship to Nury (our Latin American Coordinator) who then sends it out on our LeadaChild WhatsApp page.



BOLIVIA REV. LIMBRETH CORONADO

The school's moto at the Lutheran School Jesus Maestro, "Love, Respect and Solidarity," has turned into a reality in the students' hearts and in the hearts of the neighbors, sharing from what they have with those in need. An unexpected blessing is that those who live in very humble conditions are the ones that give more to help others. Also, our Pastor's family has been making bread weekly for the families in need; they have especially helped Lucia Lamas, a street vendor who sells corn on the cob on the streets, who has not been able to bring any money into the family in the last two months. She got to a point where they did not have anything to eat; when the groceries and bread from the Lutheran school and church arrived, she said "This is a miracle; thanks be to God and to all of you."



URUGUAY GABRIELA SILVERA

The work of the Lord continues in Uruguay, even in difficult times. During recent years through activities supported by LeadaChild we have made many new contacts with children and their families in the nearby public schools. We are so thankful to be sharing Jesus with more and more people. Some of our new contacts needed basic groceries to help feed their families during this time that they are out of work. The church sent out requests for donations of food to many people, some who have children involved in the same activities, and we have seen a loving response. It is so wonderful to see families helping other families all as a result of our LeadaChild program.

During Holy Week, we wrote devotions for all the children involved in our activities talking about each day of the week and included an activity for each day. The children made crafts, drew pictures, wrote prayers, and even baked unleavened bread. We hope to continue this project as long as it is needed. Thank you for your support and prayers for the people of Uruguay.

GUATEMALA REV. LUIS JACINTO

ZACAPA One of the amazing blessings during these times is how the quarantine and social distancing has not kept us from communicating with our students. We have been able to visit at their homes those children whose families have no technology at all. In the town of Gualan, they are close to the church, and for those who live at Los Limones Village, we were able to get a special transit permit at the City Hall to visit them.

Rosa and her husband lost their jobs because of the quarantine. They have four children 15, 12, 7 and 4. Rosa loves raising chicken and ducks to eat at special celebrations like Christmas or birthdays, but right now she sells them to buy food to feed her children. They were so thankful when Pastor arrived with groceries. Rosa said, "Pastor, please pray for us and with us. You teach us that God will provide, we are sure of it and now we see His answer: He will provide in our difficult moments."

CAMBODIA GARUNA MISSIONS



SUCCESS #1: TEACHER RETREAT The grant from LeadaChild helped provide for some of the funding necessary to gather these 48 team members together for training activities that were very collaborative and encouraging as they worked together with the USA Lutheran teachers who came to help encourage, support, and share teaching ideas. Providing them with hands on activities and teaching them to incorporate Bible teaching in fun ways is not the Cambodian norm, but something that they enjoy and love. These are the people you are helping through your gifts which were used for teacher training.

SUCCESS #2: NEW CHURCH AND GARUNA SCHOOLS We were very excited to see 2 new worship groups begin and 1 Sunday School event, located in our Garuna Schools or the staff homes, during this past year. Our training events help us to plan for these outreach opportunities.

SUCCESS #3: BAPTISMS We have been blessed to witness 44 baptisms this past school year at our Garuna Christian Schools. In the picture you see some of the summer baptisms. There were 10 in one location and 18 in another. One of the baptisms was a teacher who was not a Christian when hired in January, but he heard another Garuna Bible teacher share a Bible story which led to his interest and "new life" in Christ!



THE MISSION HOUSE - ZACAPA Carlos Figueroa, the Lutheran Boarding School Director, thanks the entire family from LeadaChild for the privilege to serve at this project for 30 years. His great blessing has been to see youth turned into adults who have grown not only intellectually but spiritually at the Lutheran boarding school. He hears from parents and grandparents, how many of these young adults – with a Christian Education base- are serving their families and communities during this emergency.

His closest example are his three sons (three successful professionals): two Agronomists, Jose - in charge of important projects for the Country and the world's seeds, and David, an expert on Coffee. Alejandro, a Computer Science Engineer, works for a telephone Company. The three of them moved with their parents during this quarantine to help at home, assisting with the cost and operations of the mission house.

The Lutheran after school program "Little Breads of Life", provides breakfast, lunch and afternoon teachings. These children come from extremely poor families in the neighborhood. For most of them, this is the only opportunity of a good meal during the day. With funds from LeadaChild and other donations Carlos and his family delivered monthly groceries for these families. Here we see Dulce Maria and Karla Judith from the boarding school program giving thanks for their groceries.



SANTIAGO ZAMORA The schools throughout the country have been closed now for a while, but this has just given us the ability to be creative and to work together while apart. One example is in Santiago Zamora: Marlene, our director has organized the teachers to take worksheets to the children of our afterschool program. One of the worksheets is a coloring page of a Bible story. A short devotion is also included. Karen, our secretary puts the sheet together. The teachers also have an academic sheet that they take to the students. They then go to the students' homes in Santiago Zamora. One of the highlights was the children learning Luther's morning prayer. It is a joy to see the Lord work in the hearts of the teachers and the children during this trying time.



LeadaChild

13505 S. Murlen, Suite 105
#331, Olathe, KS 66062-1600

www.LeadAChild.org

SAVE THE DATE
for LeadaChild's Annual
Celebration & Meeting
NOV. 13, 2020

Thank You

MEET GIFTY AZUBILLA. Her parents are Muslims. Gifty is an intelligent girl who knows the Scripture quite well. She is an expert in saying the Apostles' Creed using hand motions. Gifty became a Christian through her grandmother who is a member of the Kpagogo Church.

Gifty fluently reads the Bible in both English and Kusaal; and she is one of the students who receives a LeadaChild scholarship so that she can attend the Lutheran school.

Thank you LeadaChild supporters for helping Gifty... and so many other children!

