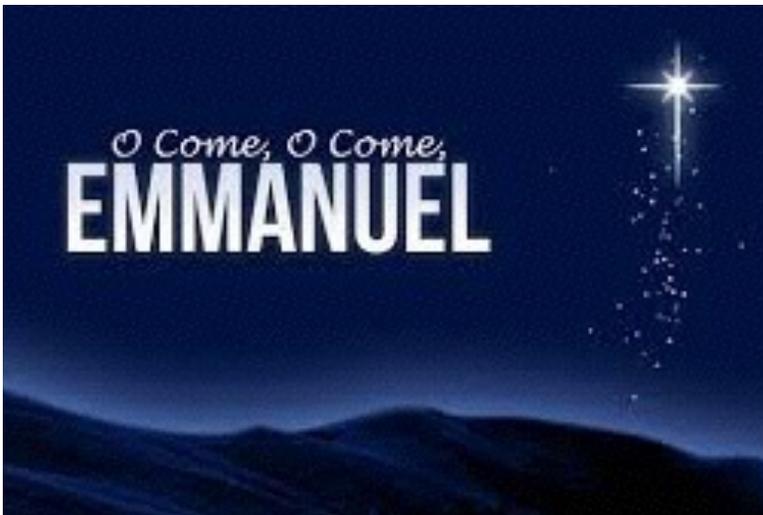


In Mission



Issue #22

Christmas 2015



We worship Jesus, Emmanuel, and he has certainly been “God with us” in CNH missions for 2015! We pray that he would always be “coming among us” and long for him to come again. Enjoy this special edition of *In Mission* as we celebrate some “Mission snapshots” for 2015.

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin shall be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him, “Immanuel”— which means, “God with us.” (Matthew 1: 22-23)





LINC Bay Area, headed by Aaron Putnam, has at its core the purpose of identifying and developing mission leaders for the purpose of new starts. LINC provides assistance and guidance for new church plants and replants in the Bay Area. Putnam has begun his work this past year with the support of a city leadership team made up of members from some Bay Area churches and CNH Assistant to the President in Missions, Mike Lange. Included in this edition are some of the ministries that are aligned with LINC.

Good Shepherd, Hayward, has ministry opportunities in English, Tigrinyan (Eritean), Oromo, (an Ethiopian language), and Spanish-speaking people. Dawit Bokre, an EIT vicar, who planted the Eritrean group, now works with the 1.5 Generation at Good Shepherd. As the church grows in unity and purpose, they are developing leaders across different languages and age groups.

In other areas, Berhanu Didanu and his wife, Mercy, are working with the Ethiopian community in Davis, California and the surrounding area. The work, much of it done in the community and at events, has shown God to many people in need. One such story is the interaction with Ronald Johnson, who suffered from addictions to drugs and alcohol for nearly two decades. Through conversations with Berhanu and the work of the Holy Spirit, he has confessed Jesus as his personal Savior and is taking real steps to live a clean life.



Yihenew Yadatea is a member of Addis Kidan (New Covenant) Ethiopian Evangelical Church in San Francisco (our newest member of the CNH, as of December 13). With the encouragement and support of his pastor, Tesfai Tesema, and a partnership with LINC and the CNH Mission Agency, Yihenew is beginning his studies through the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) at Concordia Seminary-St. Louis in hopes of becoming an ordained pastor. He is working with Pastor Paul Aldrich (Zion, Piedmont), who is serving as his mentor through the EIIT program.

Addis Kidan, which was featured in last month's *In Mission*, continues to grow in its service to the Ethiopian and Eritrean communities. They minister in three locations: Oakland (off Telegraph), in the Haight (off Buchanan), and at the former location of Bethel Lutheran Church in the North Mission. This involves three Ethiopian/Eritrean worship communities and a new English-speaking group staffed in part by Joseph and Estrella Ruiz.



In Hanford, First Lutheran has gone through a revitalization and is now led by Vicar Gary Gerloff. They have created many entry points for people to learn about the church, including a monthly men's breakfast, family movie nights, and new member and confirmation classes. Gerloff's vicarage is near completion and he soon will be eligible for a call.

Trinidad Casteneda was installed at San Juan Valle de Fe (St. John's Valley of Faith) almost a year ago and their growth is easy to see. The church has connected with the community in numerous ways, including volunteering at a local boxing club, supporting the "Coffee with a Cop" event in Arvin, hosting Vacation Bible School, and most recently, they have begun a community tutoring ministry.



CNH DISTRICT



Across the Pacific in the Hawaiian islands, there is good momentum building for missions. Clarence DeLude, sponsored also by Lutheran Indian Ministries, continues his studies and develops new leaders that will be the foundation of this mission. It is also an exciting time for St. Matthew's in Kauai, where William Pierce and Tim Hamilton have recently been installed as lay deacons to be missionary leaders in the church, which has also officially entered the CNH District.

We ask God to open doors for new work among the Hmong, in new potential work in the Spanish language, and in potential new start and restart locations being considered in the valley, Nevada, Hawaii, and our cities. Our Lord is Emmanuel, God with us.

If you would like to be a mission prayer partner for your congregation or are interested in Direct Missionary Support for one of our eligible missionaries, please contact Pastor Mike Lange, mike@cnh-lcms.org or his assistant, Glenna Sanlis, glenna@cnhcef.org.