



Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne For the Life of the World

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From Kazakhstan to Fort Wayne to Odessa: Ukrainian Bishop a CTSFW Graduate

By Timothy C. J. Quill

Spanish-Speaking Pastoral Formation

By Don C. Wiley

A Bold Vision: Blessed by God Through Many Partnerships

By Theodore Krey

CONTENTS

Volume Nineteen, Number Four

FEATURES

4 From Kazakhstan to Fort Wayne to Odessa: Ukrainian Bishop a CTSFW Graduate

By Timothy C. J. Quill

In March 1991, the young man was confirmed. At the time, no one could have imagined what the Lord had in store for him—an adventure that would take him to America to study at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and eventually to Ukraine where he would be consecrated as bishop of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ukraine (GELCU).

7 Spanish-Speaking Pastoral Formation By Don C. Wiley

Most recently, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, has expanded its service in Spanish Language Church Worker Formation with the inauguration of the Bilingual Pastoral Formation for Latinos (BPFL) in August 2015. This new program recognizes God's hand in bringing Latinos to the United States where the LCMS can carry on international mission within our own communities. It also recognizes the need for continuity in handing on the faith to the saints across generations of immigrants.

10 A Bold Vision: Blessed by God Through Many Partnerships

By Theodore Krey

Five years ago, 23 men were studying at Concordia Seminary Argentina. Now, thanks to the additional 20 scholarships from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the joint certificate program with Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, enrollment is at 65. With only 140 Spanish speaking pastors currently serving across all of Latin America, the Lord is making possible the opportunity to double the number of pastors in the coming five years.

Also in this issue:

What Does This Mean?	p. 13
Called to Serve	p. 14
Faculty Focus	p. 16
Military Project	p. 27
Profiles in Giving	p. 28
Bible Study	p. 30
Calendar of Events	p. 31



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Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture verses are from the English Standard Version (ESV).

A Bold Vision:

By Theodore Krey



Some 73 years ago, Concordia Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina, was founded by a missionary pastor of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) to prepare pastors for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (IELA). The bulletin cover (see left) for the Seminary dedication service, printed in both Spanish and German, literally maps out the missionary’s bold vision for this little seminary. With the outline of South America, and the dedication theme from Isaiah 53 in both German, *Ein Friedensdenkmal*, and in Spanish, *Monumento de Paz*, the theme comes from the Hebrew *Yad Vesham*, meaning a tall monument of peace.

Blessed by God Through Many Partnerships

Concordia Seminary Argentina has faithfully provided pastors for the IELA, which is now the largest Spanish speaking LCMS partner church with more than 250 congregations. Yet, there is more to this story as the Lutherans of Argentina are not alone in receiving faithful pastors through Concordia Seminary Argentina. Today, the Seminary serves as a tall monument of peace for Chile, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela, Panama, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico and even forms men for the pastoral office from the Dominican Republic and Spain. Each of these are countries whose Lutheran church bodies lack their own seminary and their pulpits would otherwise stand empty, as they have in many parishes of the *Sinodo Luterano de Mexico* where a pastor has not been ordained in a decade.

Partnerships

Many hands and many partners have come together to make the vision a reality. Since 2011 the LCMS, through its Office of International Mission (OIM), has partnered with Concordia Argentina by providing 20 residential scholarships for men from six different countries. The first man, Eliezer Mendoza from Venezuela, graduated in July 2015 and several more will graduate in the coming year.

In September, Concordia Seminary Argentina hosted the International Lutheran Council, a worldwide association of established confessional Lutheran church bodies. It was a significant moment at the conference when five Latin American church

presidents publicly thanked the Seminary for being their house of studies for their future pastors.

In addition to residential studies, Concordia Argentina offers online theological education leading to pastoral formation to serve the IELA's mission work in Spain.

Concordia Theological Seminary—Fort Wayne

Building on this work is a partnership begun in 2014 with CTSFW, which has resulted in a joint certificate seminary program: *Formación Pastoral Hispano* (FPH). FPH offers 16 courses, one per semester, focused on preaching, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Professors from both seminaries teach. Dr. Arthur Just serves as the director of Spanish Language Church Worker Formation for CTSFW, and the Rev. Antonio Schimpf oversees Pastoral Formation for Concordia Seminary Argentina. The OIM is partnering with both seminaries in placing missionary pastors who will mentor the students serving vicarages in their home countries and also raising up men in their church plants in new countries where OIM is working.

Five years ago, 23 men were studying at Concordia Seminary Argentina. Now, thanks to the additional 20 scholarships from the LCMS and the joint certificate program *Formación Pastoral Hispano*, enrollment is at 65. With only 140 Spanish speaking pastors currently serving across all of Latin America, the Lord is making possible the opportunity to double the number of pastors in the coming five years.

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CTSFW student James Neuendorf with Prof. José Pfaffenzeller at Concordia Seminary, Buenos Aires, Argentina



The rollout of deaconess formation through the new diaconal seminary in the Dominican Republic is set for May 2016. The Seminary, under the auspices of both CTSFW and Concordia Seminary Argentina, will launch its deaconess program with 10 theology courses aimed at forming deaconesses for service in five Latin American church bodies.

Additionally, VDMA, an online library is to be launched in November 2015 with the goal of providing curriculum resources to seminarians and boosting the average Spanish-speaking pastor’s library from five Lutheran works to more than 25 over the next five years. Lord willing, all pastors and seminarians will have access to this as it is rolled out throughout 2016.

Luther Academy

Almost concurrently, the OIM and Concordia Seminary Argentina began a partnership with Luther Academy which is located on the campus of CTSFW under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Robert Bennett.

Luther Academy is an organization promoting confessional Lutheran theology and research through conferences, scholarly exchanges and publications to offer continuing education courses for pastors in Argentina, Bolivia, Venezuela, Paraguay, Guatemala and Panama. In the five years since this partnership began, Luther Academy has offered 50 courses, two courses per year in five different church bodies. Professors from Concordia Seminary Argentina teach the bulk of the classes, but when needed, professors from LCMS seminaries lend their aid.

The curriculum for the next three years will provide focus on liturgy and preaching. A partnership between the OIM and Concordia Publishing House is making it possible for pastors to receive and learn how to use the new Spanish translation of the *Lutheran Service Book Pastoral Care Companion*. Instruction in the Divine Service will utilize the new Spanish version of *Heaven on Earth*, written by Dr. Just.

The first Latin American Lutheran hymnal in 65 years is slated for release this coming year and will, with these two books, serve as the core curriculum for the emphasis on liturgy in 2016. In 2017, as the world celebrates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, classes

will seek to strengthen preaching.

Deaconess Formation

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The five year curriculum calls for two courses per year in each church body. The Dominican seminary will teach witness and mercy through course work, and each church body will train its own students in providing merciful care in a variety of ways: for those with disabilities, the elderly and children living on the street, as the needs of their country dictate.

Seminaries continue to be *Yad Vesham*, treasured towers of Christ’s peace where learned men of God form the Church’s sons for the Office of the Holy Ministry and Her daughters learn to bear Christ’s mercy as deaconesses. In these houses of study where Scripture is taught, students learn what it is to serve in these vocations, through which our Lord Jesus offers His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation so that His people might in faith be joined to Him. Through His preached Word and the distribution of His Holy Sacraments, His Spirit extends His kingdom as new churches are planted, mercy is extended to the least of these and the fellowship of believers is added to daily.

We give thanks to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ that He has given us *Yad Veshams*, tall monuments of peace such as our seminaries whereby a new generation can hear and receive His mercy which endures forever. 🏰

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