

These are the

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Newsletter from John & Susan Mehl

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HONG KONG— In the photo to the left you see Aimee, Chi, and Iantha at a break during a human care forum where workers from Japan, China, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines joined to discuss how to better equip the church in outreach. Also during this week, the Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod celebrated the 35th anniversary of Lutheran Social Services (LSS).

In the photo to the right below, Mr. Paul Chan is looking at the camera. He is a 1972 graduate of Concordia University Chicago and a former principal at Concordia Lutheran School, North Point. He has served as the executive director of LSS for 27 years and will soon retire. Paul told John, “I’ve served the church for 40 years [since graduating from Concordia University] and I think the Mission Board will be pleased with the money they spent to send me to school.” And Paul does not intend to be idle in retirement. He already has more ministry activities lined up. He says, “I’ve only played the first half, and there might be some overtime.” We thank God for faithful people like Paul Chan, Annissa Lui, and others who serve faithfully in the social services of the Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod. For more information, you can go to <http://www.lutheran.org.hk/clp5c.htm> and see all the activities of the church.



The theme of Human Care figures prominently in the picture of work in Hong Kong this month, but it has always been part of Lutheran ministry in South China. The

brokenness of humanity that came with the fall into sin included not only spiritual damage, but also physical. God told Adam and Eve that there would be pain in childbirth and thorns and thistles would be part of the cursed ground (Genesis 3: 16–18).

But our loving Lord did not abandon us—He sent Jesus to bring healing. Isaiah says “he (Jesus) was wounded for our transgressions....and with his stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5). Jesus brought spiritual and physical health, freedom, and saving. The angel told Joseph, “You shall call his name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sin” (Matthew 1:21). The word for “save” here can also be defined as “heal” or “make whole.” Jesus used this word in Mark 5 when he told the sick woman, “Go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

Jesus was concerned that people be made “whole.” “He went about Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them” (Matthew 4:23–24).

Jesus continues to provide healing, and Christians have the privilege of being instruments in our Lord’s hands. We tell of the healing that Jesus has brought through His suffering, death, and resurrection. We also help those who are in bondage to physical suffering, pain, and sickness. This is who God has called us to be.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the flood victims in the Philippines and the relief work done through LCMS disaster relief aid, the Lutheran Church in the Philippines and missionary Sean Harlow.
- Pray for the social service work of the Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod.
- Pray for all the partners in mission who tell of God’s eternal healing in Jesus and share physical healing with acts of service and aid.

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