

Bridge

A Monthly E-Newsletter of the Asian and Pacific Islander Community ✠ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



I would like to begin the 2011 January issue of the Bridge by updating you with information that will relate to our current Multicultural Ministries unit and its work with person of colors, particularly the Asian and Pacific Islander community. At its November 2010 meeting, the ELCA Church Council adopted the new continuing resolutions pertaining to the churchwide organization redesign which in effect established three new units and dissolved the previous five units. As a result of the redesign the work that was done by the Multicultural Ministries unit will now be located in the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (CSM) and the Multicultural Ministries Program Committee will cease to exist. The Rev. Stephen P. Bouman was elected to serve as the executive director of this new unit. The new program committee for this unit will have four members (Rev. Rani Abdulmasih, Ms. Fumei Liang, Rev. Rose Mary Sanchez-Guzman, and Mr. Alfred Sagar) from our MM Program Committee serving on it. Also, Rev. Pablo Obregon will serve as the Church Council advisor. The membership of this new program committee will have representation from all the ethnic specific communities in the ELCA. Thus, from next month onwards, I will greet you as a staff of the new unit - Congregational and Synodical unit, ELCA. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Rev. Dr. Pongsak Limthongviratn, Ph.D.
Director for Asians and Pacific Islander Ministries, MM-ELCA

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Did you know?

“Aaron (aka Arumugam Pillai) (c.1698 – 1745), a native of India, was the first Indian Lutheran pastor....The gravity of his character and services got the attention of the German Lutheran missionaries. His life and work impressed [them] so much that they realized that Tamil Christian

leaders like Aaron could accomplish far more than they could ever even dream of. Aaron corresponded with various intellectuals in Germany and helped them to understand that Indo-European relationships could be pursued not only by political and commercial leaders, but also by ordinary peoples who were involved in reciprocal learning and mutual edification.”(Source: Daniel Jeyaraj.)

Prof. Edmond Yee, Ph.D.
President, Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders-ELCA

TEEM –MONTEREY PARK EXTENSION PROGRAM

The 2010-2011 Monterey Park Extension Center of the Theological Education for Emerging Ministry program has finished its second course on Lutheran Confession by Rev. Dr. Pongsak Limthongviratn on December 15-17. The third course will be on Systematic Theology by Dr. Moses Penumaka in March. Moses is the director for the Western Mission Cluster (Luther Seminary – LS, and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary - PLTS) TEEM Program. He is also a part time faculty member at PLTS.

THE 6th ASIAN LUTHERAN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, PATTAYA, THAILAND



At the end of this month, 110 people will be at the Sixth Asian Lutheran Int'l Conference in Pattaya, Thailand. Despite this time of economic downturn, we thank God we still have over hundred people coming to this biennial gathering of Asian Lutherans from the two sides of Pacific Rim. The Rev. Dr. Fred Rajan, chair of the ALIC Steering Committee writes, “This conference offers a variety of activities and programs providing good education that will enhance your experience with Asians in your

ministry. Held under the theme *Reading the Bible in Asian Contexts*, we will worship, sing, and pray together, and discuss challenges and opportunities facing our ministries. Packed in this five-day conference will be keynote addresses by noted Asian Lutheran scholars, Bible studies, and plenty of opportunities to network and fellowship with participants. Rest assured, we will also have time to worship at local congregations, go on a cultural excursion, and meet church leaders from Thailand. ALIC is the first and only network that brings Asians from ELCA and Asians from Asia together for fellowship, networking, theological discussion and sharing of mutual concerns in ministry. By the grace of God, since our inception we have held conferences in Hong Kong (1999), Bangkok (2001, 2004, and 2007), and Hong Kong (2009).” A brief report on the 6th ALIC gathering will be available next month.

NEWS AROUND ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY

Rev. Dr. George Tan has resigned as the Director for Evangelical Mission, EOCM, ELCA. He was a Mission Director during DO time and then the Director for Evangelical Mission for 8 years. He was also the Assistant to Bishop for SW California Synod since 2002. He has been a good support to the Asian community. He is starting his own ministry in the Los Angeles area. George is still an ELCA pastor but on leave from call.

The officers of the Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders-ELCA (AAPI-ELCA) will meet on March 2-3 at the Lutheran Center. The committee will start the preparations for the 2012 Assembly of the AAPI. More information will be available in April.

Eva Ching-Nakashima is no longer secretary to the desks of Asian and Pacific Islanders and American Indian/Alaska Native ministries. She is now the Administrative Assistant for the Multicultural Ministries “cluster” in the newly created Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.



PRAYER CORNER: Please pray for:

1) The Sixth Asian Lutheran International Conference scheduled for January 25-February 1, 2011, Pattaya, Thailand; 2) Rev. Dr. George Tan’s independent ministry in Los Angeles area. 3) Rev. Nengyia Her of Luther’s Memorial Lutheran Church, MN. He is hospitalized due to pneumonia and lung complication.