

# LIMM LINK

Linking Health Professionals with Mission Needs



## LIMM 2010 Needs and Resources Forum

### *Care of the Aged and the Chronically Ill: A Medical Mission Approach*

The 2010 LIMM Forum was held March 19 and 20 at Concordia Seminary St. Louis. **Dr. Robert Weise**, Chair in Pastoral Ministry and the Life Sciences at the seminary set the theological framework for the event with his presentation *Growing Older: God's Gift of Care and Hope (An Ethic for Aging and Serving the Chronically Ill)*. Illness to wellness in Christ begins with forgiveness of sins. Forgiveness given and accepted brings the desperate person, the chronically ill, or the elderly suffering from the loneliness of aging and ageism to the HOPE that doesn't disappoint. **Dr. Roger Weise**, M.D., a geriatrician practicing in Elk Grove Village, IL (and Dr. Robert's brother) stated that aging involves loss—of loved ones, of mobility, of the senses, of position and power—and this can create depression and hopelessness. Those aging successfully have a continued sense of fun and the sense of a future. Older adults can be the instruments of much giving and caring even while accepting it for themselves. **Chaplain Ted Wuerffel** led evening and morning devotions. *Even to Your Old Age*, written by Chaplain Wuerffel, highlighted meaningful prayer time by the participants. **Rev. Larry Rockemann**, Chaplain, Lutheran Life Communities, revealed

in his banquet address that the mantra, 'I don't want to be a burden' is actually self-centeredness. "Life is a continuum from newborn helplessness, to independence, to interdependence, to dependence." **Dr. Alan and Carol Buckman** and **Rev. Tim and Rita Nickel** were recognized for their support of LIMM and their involvement in medical mission work overseas and in the U.S. Sponsors of the Forum were **Concordia Seminary St. Louis, The Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis and LCMS World Mission.**

**Alan and Carol Buckman with Fred and Carol Broemmer, all volunteers with Christian Friends of New Americans.**



**Rita Nickel, RN (r.) pictured with Helena DeMoss, RN, both former medical missionaries with LCMS-World Mission. The Nickels served in Kyrgyzstan and began the LCMS mission in Eurasia. (not pictured: Rev. Tim Nickel)**

## Haiti Update

**Bobbie and Dr. John Lautenschlager** talk with **Dr. HelenMari Merritt**. Dr. Merritt described the chaos of serving in a makeshift surgi-



cal unit on the border of Haiti staffed by a **LCMS World Relief and Human Care Mercy Medical Team**. Dr. John also served in Haiti on another team. They both stressed the need for innovation, compassion, and teamwork when working in crisis situations. LIMM helped in recruiting health professionals for service in Haiti. Go to [www.lcms.org/mercyteams](http://www.lcms.org/mercyteams) for further information.

## Dr. Abraha and Dr. Goehle to Sudan

**D**r. Misghina Abraha and Dr. Ruth Goehle, two Lutheran physicians from St. Paul, MN served as a L IMM medical assessment team to Sudan at the request of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sudan and LCMS World Mission East African staff. The team visited St. Paul Christian Hospital, various government and NGOs offices, and refugee camps in Khartoum . Dr. Goehle worked in a number of African countries and has a vast amount of experience in medical care delivery in developing countries, including Sudan. Dr. Abraha comes from Eritrea and has returned there for a number of short-term medical mission trips. He completed his high school education while a refugee in Sudan before being resettled in the United States. Dr. Goehle will spend 10 days in Sudan before returning to South Africa and Zimbabwe with the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. Dr. Abraha's 3 week visit will include extended consultation with the health staff of the ELCS before returning to his position as a physi-

cian at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis. Dr. Goehle's and Dr. Abraha's evaluation and report will be a valuable tool for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sudan and LCMS World Mission to make informed decisions when planning medical/health outreach in Sudan as part of the ministry of the church to the communities they serve.



**Dr. Ruth Goehle and Dr. Misghina Abraha, L IMM's medical assessment team serving the Evangelical Church of Sudan.**

## L IMM Receives \$10, 000 Grant from Concordia Lutheran Ministry

**L** IMM has received their second grant from CLM for the travel support of expert consultants who serve at the request of L IMM's partners. Travel costs covered include airfare for **Dr. Marcy Schnorr for Lutheran Parish Nurses International** to Palestine, **Molly Hunter, PT** for a physical therapy training project in Eurasia, **Dr. Douglas Rutt and Dr. John Lautenschlager LCMS Assessment team, Haiti**, **Dr. Ruth Goehle and Dr. Misghina Abraha L IMM Assessment Team** to Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sudan, and **Betty Roon, RN** to Cambodia in May for the Community Health Education program. "L IMM is extremely grateful to CLM for its partnership in providing consultants for key projects involving health professionals around the world", said Board President, **John Speckhard**.



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For more mission news and opportunities, see the L IMM web page at:  
[www.limm.org](http://www.limm.org)

**Consider a donation to L IMM today. Remember L IMM in your estate gift planning.**

### Nickel Joins L IMM Board

**R**ita Nickel, RN recently retired from LCMS World Mission has joined the L IMM Board upon the resignation of **Dr. Velma Rynearson** due to family illness. "Dr. Rynearson was a great asset to L IMM," said **Bobbie Lautenschlager**, L IMM CEO.

"The board feels that Nickel will be just as enthusiastic about the mission and ministry of L IMM, and we welcome her as an asset to the board. "

### 2009-2010 L IMM Grants

**T**he L IMM Board reviewed funds granted this fiscal year: \$4000 for **Global Health Ministry** for shipment to PNG, \$4875 for **Physical Therapy Training in Eurasia**, \$14, 000 for **CWEF Cambodia**, \$5000 for **Assessment Team, Sudan**, \$9,000 for **Haiti/Chile** programs to be determined for a **Mission Ministry Total of \$36, 875**. L IMM is grateful to all it's donors and supporters who allow the medical mission ministry to continue.