

WORLD MISSIONS

WELS WORLD MISSIONS UPDATE – SPRING/SUMMER 2023

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Academia Cristo church plant welcomed into fellowship: In April 2020, a maxillofacial surgeon in Cochabamba, Bolivia, named Eduardo Milanesi saw an *Academia Cristo* advertisement online and began studying the Bible through the self-led mobile app and online classes with WELS missionaries. In less than a year he finished the program, confessed doctrinal agreement, and started gathering a group in his medical office to study God’s Word. In February 2023, Eduardo completed the studies prepared for church planting groups and his new church was received by WELS’ newly formed sister synod in Latin America – Iglesia Cristo WELS Internacional – as a congregation. The new church in Cochabamba is the first one planted through *Academia Cristo*, a huge milestone for this exciting ministry, but there are 51 other church planters and 21 planter groups on the same path Eduardo and his church took. Stay up to date on progress and learn more at wels.net/latinamerica.



Next steps for theological education in Vietnam: The new Theological Education Center just outside of Hanoi, Vietnam, was completed and passed inspection at the end of January 2023. WELS also took full ownership of the building at that time. The new center includes a chapel, classrooms, and dormitory/cafeteria space for up to 60 visiting students at a time. The prayer is that there will be a formal building dedication and graduation ceremony for the first class of 57 pastors sometime in summer 2023. In the meantime, online courses led by full-time professors Bounkeo Lor and Joel Nitz continue to be taught to rural church leaders of the Hmong Fellowship Church (HFC). Residency visas for Lor and Nitz and HFC government registration are still pending. Learn more at wels.net/vietnamhmongoutreach.

Partnerships in Europe: The Europe mission team is moving Missionary Luke Wolfgramm and his wife Jennifer to Leipzig, Germany, in summer 2023. From here, Missionary Wolfgramm will be able to support and encourage WELS sister churches in 13 countries throughout Europe. One of the ways he will do that is by partnering with the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church (ELFK) and its 100-year-old seminary in Leipzig to provide seminary training throughout Europe. He will also partner with Sweden’s seminary to provide pastors with continuing education. Learn more at wels.net/europe.

TASTE OF MISSIONS 2023

Join your brothers and sisters in Christ from around the world for Taste of Missions, an in-person and virtual event occurring on June 10, 2023. Visit tasteofmissions.com for more information on the event and to view videos and activities.

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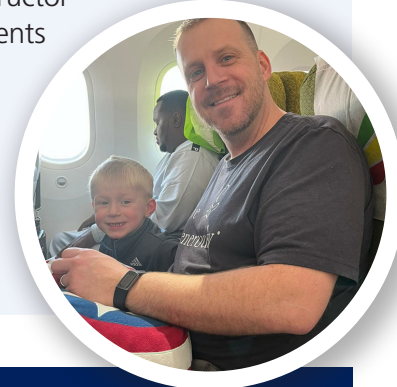
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Fellowship discussions in Africa: WELS will be declaring fellowship with the Obadiah Lutheran Synod (OLS) in Uganda at the 2023 Synod Convention. Rev. Musa Makisimu, president of the Obadiah Lutheran Synod, will be in attendance. OLS was started in 2008 by Rev. Makisimu and two other pastors and has grown to more than 30 congregations. This declaration of fellowship is possible because in-depth doctrinal discussions over the past several years have shown that our two synods are united in biblical doctrine and in our adherence to the Lutheran Confessions. Similar doctrinal discussions are underway with the Africa Mission Evangelism Church (AMEC), a group of almost 100 Lutheran congregations in northern Tanzania. If conversations go as expected, WELS could be declaring fellowship with AMEC at the 2025 Synod Convention. Learn more about partnerships in Africa at wels.net/africa.



TELL outreach in Africa: TELL (Think, Evaluate, Learn, Lead) is an online Bible-based training platform that brings the Word to the world through devotional videos and digital content and trains English-speaking church multipliers throughout the world. Rev. Joel Hoff recently joined the Multi-Language Productions team as the new TELL Missionary in Africa. He and his family arrived at their new home in Lusaka, Zambia, in February. Missionary Hoff will partner with the One Africa Team and serve as an instructor and mentor for TELL students throughout Africa, as about 78 percent of active students in the TELL program are from the continent. Learn more at wels.net/mlp.



New missionary in Asia: Mr. Jeremy Seeger—current teacher at Divine Savior Academy in Doral, Fla.—recently accepted the call to serve as Tech Missionary for the Asia One Team. In this new role, he will lead the technological efforts to position Asia Lutheran Seminary as an online seminary prepared to recruit, train, and support future multiplying leaders across Asia. He will relocate to Chiang Mai, Thailand, with his family after the end of the 2022/2023 school year.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We thank God for you! World Missions is grateful for the many, generous special gifts we receive throughout the year. Extraordinary things are happening all over the world every day. Your gift matters.

Please pray for the lost and consider how you can best make an impact on the millions of people who still need to hear the truth of the gospel. To give an immediate gift, go to wels.net/wmgift. Watch with us as the Holy Spirit changes earthly lives and opens the door to eternal life for our brothers and sisters around the world.

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