

TEXAS PARTNERS IN MISSION
Report to Texas District Convention, 2009
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We are living in Pentecost times! Over 300,000 people are moving to Texas each year creating a population mix from a wide variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds. The mission field permeates our communities and surrounds our congregations.

Mission outreach in the Texas District has always been a high priority, but over the past 12 years the focus has become even sharper. In anticipation of expanded growth in support for mission outreach, Texas Partners in Mission (TPIM) was established in 1996 to invite direct gifts from individuals, groups, organizations and congregations. In 2006, the Board of Mission Administration set a goal of starting 200 new Word and Sacrament ministries by the year 2017. The foundation was laid, goals were set, but was God going to bless this effort?

Yes! God has richly blessed the outreach mission of our Texas District. 45 new Word and Sacrament ministries have started toward the goal of 200 by the year 2017. 65% of the total Texas District budget is dedicated to mission outreach. As part of this mission outreach 28% of the mission offerings received are sent to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for national and international missions and 37% is used to support mission outreach in our Texas District.

The Texas District through the Board of Mission Administration currently supports 66 missions and agencies with over 80 missionaries sharing the Gospel message of hope in Jesus Christ in over 15 different languages. And, many of these ministries are led by men who are from these diverse ethnic groups and are also ordained pastors in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Read this paragraph again. God has richly blessed the outreach mission of our Texas District.

Since 2005, individual congregations and circuits started new Word and Sacrament ministries but are not receiving financial support from the Board of Mission Administration. Praise the Lord for these new missions: Celebrate Recovery (Concordia, San Antonio), LifeBridge, (St. John, Cypress), 705 Houston City Ministry (Christ the King, Kingwood), Living Savior Lutheran Church (Circuit 22, Magnolia), Water of Life, Forney (Zion, Dallas).

Since 1996, gifts to Texas Partners in Mission have totaled over \$3,225,000. Without this additional support, the mission program of the Texas District would have been curtailed. 100% of these gifts have been dedicated to mission planting in the Texas District. Praise the Lord for the individuals, groups, organizations and congregations!

But, this is not the rest of the story. In 2001, the Church Extension Fund (CEF) created a unique matching gift and investment program called 100PLUS1. When donors make a gift of at least \$1,000 to TPIM and make a new investment of at least \$5,000 to the CEF, then CEF will match 100% of the gift to TPIM and give a bonus 1% more on the interest rate of the CEF investment. Since 2001, CEF has contributed over \$960,000 in matching gifts to TPIM, while receiving over \$14,725,000 in new CEF investments. May God continue to bless all these partnerships!

Each of you is invited to become a partner in the outreach mission of the Texas District. Gift envelopes are available at the Texas Partners in Mission display. Drop by and see some of your missionaries and hear some of their stories. Also, be sure to check out the website for TPIM at www.txdistlcms.org/tpim.