

WORLD MISSIONS

WELS WORLD MISSIONS UPDATE – SPRING/SUMMER 2022

“Like” the new WELS Missions Facebook page at fb.com/WELSMissions.

Pray for Ukraine: WELS members are giving generously to provide aid to and through members of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church (ULC), WELS’ sister church in Ukraine, in the wake of the war. WELS has sent some of these donations to Direct Relief, an organization that provides immediate medical aid and supplies where they are needed most, but most of these gifts are sent directly to pastors or churches who help members and people in the community buy essentials. Most ULC congregations continue to hold worship, either in person or online, proclaiming the hope they have in Jesus. The ULC’s bishop was even able to offer a brief devotion on Ukraine’s National Radio that included reading John 3:16. Visit wels.net/ukraine for additional updates as they become available.



New chapter for Russian church: Missionary Luke Wolfgramm and his wife, Jennifer, left Russia and traveled to Albania four days after Russia invaded Ukraine. They have lived and served in Russia for the past 25 years. In his final days in the country, Wolfgramm was able to meet with church leaders to provide last-minute guidance and encouragement. WELS will continue to support the Russian church as it is able under current sanctions. The Wolfgramms will relocate to a new location in Europe to partner with Russia and other sister church bodies in their theological education and outreach efforts.



New connections in Myanmar: The Asia One Team has been in contact with leadership from a Lutheran church body in Myanmar after the group found Bible studies and sermons online from a WELS church in Wisconsin. Plans were being made to take teaching to the next level and proceed with conversations about fellowship when a coup began in January 2021. Since then, church members have been forced to scatter. Our missionaries have provided humanitarian aid in partnership with Christian Aid and Relief, and we pray conditions may improve enough for regular instruction to continue in the future.

Mission growth in Latin America: Due to the enormous growth stemming from *Academia Cristo* training efforts, the Latin America mission team has added five new missionaries to their team. This additional manpower will help follow up with contacts and continue training new Christians in grace-starved Latin America. In October 2021, WELS’ sister churches throughout Latin America formed a new synod that will allow these individual churches to do mission work and train pastors together. This new synod will also welcome any new churches formed out of *Academia Cristo* training efforts. Learn more about the growth in Latin America at wels.net/latinamerica.



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Updates from Africa: Rev. Benjamin Foxen (Cross of Glory, Peoria, Ariz.) and Rev. Keegan Dowling (Abiding Word, Orleans, ON, Canada) recently accepted calls to serve as missionaries on the One Africa Team. Both will be moving to Lusaka, Zambia, in the upcoming months. Obadiah Lutheran Church in Uganda recently drafted a request for doctrinal unity/fellowship with WELS, which includes a summary of doctrine and practice and a report describing the relationship between their synod and WELS/One Africa Team. The prayer is that they will be brought into fellowship at the 2023 Synod Convention. Stay up to date on mission work in Africa by visiting wels.net/africa.

New gospel outpost in Brazil: Rev. Denício Godoy was ordained and commissioned by the Lutheran Church of Portugal as a missionary in Brazil in April 2022. Rev. Godoy connected online with Rev. Artur Villares from the Lutheran Church of Portugal, WELS' sister church, and took classes with him to be colloquized as a Confessional Lutheran pastor. Rev. Kenneth Cherney, Old Testament professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, provided support during that process. Rev. Godoy will begin outreach in Brazil as a mission arm of the Lutheran Church of Portugal, with support from the WELS Europe team and continued encouragement from Rev. Cherney. Learn more about the Lutheran Church of Portugal and how they came to connect with Pastor Godoy at wels.net/portugal.

New missionary to London and the U.K.:

Missionary Mike Hartman was commissioned as world missionary to London and the U.K. in February 2022. Since accepting the call, Hartman has taken multiple trips to London to meet the current core group, meet with members of other WELS' sister churches who have moved to the area, develop a full ministry plan, and explore housing and schooling options for his family. The Hartmans will be moving to London this summer. Continue to check on progress of this new mission field at wels.net/london.



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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