

SPRING 2018

## WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY SPOTLIGHT

### PSI UPDATE : PHILIPPINES

In February, Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI) team members, World Mission Seminary Professor Bradley Wordell and International Recruitment Director Jon Bare, joined Rev. Robb Raasch, the chairman of the Asia Pacific Rim Administrative Committee, on a trip to the Philippines. The purpose of the trip was to work with Rev. Alvien De Guzman of Law and Gospel Lutheran Church in Manilla on a plan for a pastoral training program.



A year ago, De Guzman didn't see the potential of needing a pastoral training program for the near future. But just in the past few months, three men, who like De Guzman had left another church body for doctrinal reasons, contacted De Guzman, wondering if they might join his congregation. He discovered that all three had begun pastoral training in their original church but left when they became convinced by Scripture that they were not receiving the truth of God's Word. Each of the men has a group in front of them ready to be led, but the men need pastoral training to be prepared to serve them.

That began a conversation with World Missions and the PSI team, leading to this visit. "It was a privilege to meet these three men and to hear their stories," says Wordell.

"Their patience and determination are inspiring. They have been waiting to see what the Lord's plan is for them, and each of them has a strong desire to serve among Christ's people."

The training program will be specifically designed to meet the needs for pastoring churches in the Philippines. "Our goal is to provide the training that these men need in their own culture and context," says Bare. "This visit allowed us to work with Pastor De Guzman to design the best program for this growing church in the Philippines."

The courses will be offered in a variety of methods. De Guzman will teach some courses on the ground. Others will be conducted online or through intensive courses offered on short-term visits.

WELS first got involved with De Guzman in 2014, when De Guzman contacted WELS World Missions looking for help after he discovered WELS online. In early 2015, WELS determined that De Guzman was in doctrinal fellowship. His congregation is using videos and printed materials from Multi-Language Publications to reach out to the unchurched in its community.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 13: Prof Kock and Prof Wordell 25th Anniversary Service

Apr 28: Seminary Scurry

Apr 29: Legacy Society Dinner

May 11: No School - MLC Graduation

May 24: Call Day and Graduation Concert

May 25: Graduation

June 1-2: Ministerial Education Faculty Conference

June 18-29: Summer Quarter

## MISSION AND MINISTRY HELD

From Feb. 6–8, presenters with experience in mission work in North America and around the world spoke at Mission and Ministry, an annual three-day event that introduces seminary students to the worldwide work of WELS.

Under the theme “Building on the Rock,” participants heard from world and home missionaries as well as congregational leaders. Topics included beginning a mission church, evangelism for the busy pastor, using teens in outreach, compassion ministry, getting involved in their community, and multi-language publications.

“Mission and Ministry is important because it connects students training to be pastors with the work that is being done throughout their synod,” says Senior Noah Willitz, one of the event organizers.

Not only does Mission and Ministry help students learn more about their synod, the organizers learned personal lessons that will carry into their ministry. “Mission and Ministry is like a light at the end of the tunnel. It’s good to hear presentations and rub shoulders with pastors doing some great evangelism,” says Thomas Gorzalski, another senior and organizer. “It is a good reminder that every church is a mission church. No matter where I am sent in a few months, I know evangelism will be a priority.”

Seminary students are not the only ones who benefit from the event. On Tuesday, the junior class of pastor track students at Martin Luther College attended presentations and the entire student body of Bethany Evangelical Theological Seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) attended sessions on Wednesday and Thursday. In all, almost 200 students, professors, and guests participated.

## PROFESSOR WENDLAND INSTALLED

Professor Robert Wendland was installed as Professor of Church History and Homiletics on January 31.

Prof. Wendland was born and raised in Lusaka where his father served on the faculty of the seminary of the Lutheran Church in Central Africa. He attended the International School of Lusaka and was confirmed in the Lutheran faith at Good Shepherd Church in Lusaka. He graduated from Northwestern College in 1994. After serving as a vicar at Christ, Eagle River, Wisconsin, and St. John, Phelps, Wisconsin, he graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 1998. He was assigned to Redemption, Milwaukee, where he served until 2003 when he accepted a call as a missionary in Blantyre, Malawi. He served as the circuit-riding pastor for up to 14 rural congregations and also as the chairman of the Board of Control for the Lutheran Bible Institute.

He and his wife Rebecca have four children. Hannah, 18, and Nathanael, 15, both attend Luther Preparatory School in Watertown. Caleb, 12, and Bethany, 8, are at Christ Alone Lutheran School in Thiensville.



## GROW IN GRACE: THE INSTITUTE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

### FUTURE SUMMER QUARTER PLANS

In recent years, satellite courses—or on-location courses—have become a popular alternative for pastors’ continuing education. So often pastors remark that they are interested in participating in continuing education but taking time to travel to Mequon can present a challenge. As a response, Grow in Grace is finding ways to bring more continuing education classes to pastors in their area.

Beginning in the summer of 2019, Summer Quarter will travel to outlying synodical districts in alternating years. On-campus Summer Quarter will be held in Mequon in even-numbered years. The goal of the traveling Summer Quarter is to make a variety of courses accessible to pastors across the country while still including the intensity and variety of the on-campus experience. As the planning for traveling summer quarter gets underway, we still anticipate a successful on-campus Summer Quarter this year. Multiple new courses will be offered both on-campus and online. We pray God will increase Summer Quarter enrollment both in 2018 and as we take Summer Quarter on the road.

