THANK YOU!

Thank you for your support of Concordia Seminary’s International Adopt-A-Student initiative. Your generous support has made it possible to increase the number of students supported by this initiative from two in 2010-11 to four in the current academic year! Every contribution both large and small makes it possible for students from LCMS partner churches around the world to complete their studies in the Graduate School of Concordia Seminary. When they return home, Concordia Seminary’s graduates contribute significantly to the leading and training of the next generation of pastors, teachers, and missionaries for their home church bodies. On behalf of these students, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks for your generous support of these exceptional servants, who look forward to returning home to advance the cause of the global proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

2011-12 International Adopt-A-Students

This year’s International Adopt-A-Students are Joseph Tom Omolo, Gordon Alex, Roberto Bustamante and Antonio Schimpf.

Tom Omolo is on the faculty of Matongo Lutheran Theological College in Kenya. This fall he began his second year of study in the Doctrinal Theology concentration of the Ph.D. Tom writes:

“Our choice of Concordia Seminary for advanced studies is informed by the faithfulness to the Gospel as embodied in the theological heritage of the Church of the Reformation which is the basis of fellowship between ELCK and LCMS.

For the success of my studies, I call for your prayers that the Lord may grant me strength and health. I will also appreciate any financial support given to meet the non-tuition expenses related to my studies at Concordia Seminary.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya I want to thank you in advance and appreciate your love for the ministry.

Gordon Alex is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya. Gordon began his studies in Concordia Seminary’s Master of Arts program in the fall, arriving in St. Louis just days after his wife gave birth to their third child! He is majoring in practical theology and minoring in systematic theology. Gordon writes:

“By writing this letter, may I take the chance to sincerely convey my heartfelt appreciation for your kindness to sponsor my education at the Concordia Seminary. Without your intervention this could not be possible, but God has enabled this to happen so that the Good News continues to go beyond the boundaries. I am, one of the few International Students who benefits from the, “International Adopt-A-Student sponsorship program.”

The Church in Kenya is still growing, and is limited in support, and the need for trained pastors in different fields is great in order to strengthen her foundation. I strongly believe that after completion of my studies, I will be a resource to my Church.”
Roberto Bustamante is a pastor in the Argentina Evangelical Lutheran Church and a professor at Seminario Concordia in Buenos Aires. Roberto began his studies in Concordia Seminary’s Doctrinal Theology concentration in the Ph.D. this fall. Roberto writes:

Ours is a small Seminary, but we have big challenges and several programs going on: (1) “Discipleship” (basic biblical and doctrinal teachings); (2) Diaconate (fordeacons and deaconesses); (3) Higher Bachelor in Theology (for ministry); (4) Continuing Pastoral Education; (5) School of Missionaries; (6) Theological Education for Hispanic-America (for ministry – through the Internet). Since the Seminario Concordia is the only Spanish speaking Confessional Lutheran Seminary in the World, our sister Churches in South America (even those that have Bible Institutes) are leaning more and more on our institution in Buenos Aires. Apart from our Argentine students, we have students from Chile, Bolivia, Venezuela, Paraguay, Uruguay, Dominican Republic, and Spain.

Confessional Lutheranism in Latin America, to use Luther’s words, is a really “rare bird”. Protestantism is either liberal (a small minority) or charismatic (the vast majority). This poses us a great challenge both with respect to our teaching responsibility (non-confessional training is what our Churches are surrounded by), as well as with respect to our own further training (non-confessional universities is what we, professors in Buenos Aires, are surrounded by). Our faculty in Buenos Aires, as I mentioned, is small (we are four full-time professors) and wanting further training. Though three of us have received an STM, none has a PhD.

If you want to learn more about my Church and Seminary, please, visit these web sites: www.seminarioconcordia.com.ar / www.iela.org.ar

Antonio Schimpf too is a pastor in the Argentina Evangelical Lutheran Church and a professor at Seminario Concordia in Buenos Aires. Antonio began his studies in Concordia Seminary’s Master of Sacred Theology program this fall. His major is exegetical theology, and his minor is practical theology. Antonio writes:

My name is Antonio Schimpf. I am a Lutheran pastor from Argentina, member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (IELA). I have been teaching in the “Seminario Concordia” of Buenos Aires for twenty years. My specific area is the Old Testament. I am working as part time pastor in a parish as well. IELA’s work begun a century ago among Russian-German immigrants. Our church in Argentina has about 30,000 members and 70 pastors.

Here in Saint Louis I am doing a STM (master) program in Bible. It will allow me, in first place, to enhance my academic level in order to continuing with the formation of pastors and laymen in Argentina. The whole church can be blessed when the graduates are in contact with good professors and a sound theology. Our seminary in Buenos Aires, besides forming pastors, has four more programs for pastors and laymen, not only in Argentina, but also in the surrounding countries of Latin America.

Congregations and CSL Students Join to Support IAAS

As the Graduate School prepared for the arrival of this year’s International Adopt-A-Students, two St. Louis congregations stepped forward to help furnish their on-campus apartments. Hope Lutheran Church in the city and Salem Lutheran Church in Affton collected donations of furniture, household items, groceries, linens, etc. to make Tom, Gordon, Roberto, and Antonio feel at home. Many hours were spent cleaning, organizing, and moving furniture. Concordia Seminary students also assisted in the efforts by doing a lot of the heavy lifting and carrying items up and down the stairs. Thanks to everyone for all you did to welcome these students to Concordia Seminary!
Share the Vision

Thanks to your generous support, these fine students are able to study at Concordia Seminary this year. However, there are many from other parts of the world who are hoping and praying for similar funding so that they too can pursue advanced degrees at Concordia Seminary. The Graduate School of Concordia Seminary is anxious to work with the partner church bodies of the LCMS to train those who in the future will lead and teach and proclaim Christ. It significantly relies on the generosity of its supporters to share its vision and to accomplish its mission. So please share this newsletter with others who might be interested in helping us to reach our goal of providing the highest level of theological scholarship to the next generation who will share the message of salvation in Jesus with all the world.

Bulletin inserts are also available should you like to share this opportunity with the members of your congregation. You may download the electronic file at this link or request hard copies by sending an email to GradSchool@csl.edu.

For questions, more information, or to make a donation, call Seminary Advancement at 1-800-822-5287 or email adoptastudent@csl.edu. Please indicate that you are interested in supporting an “International Adopt-A-Student” and mention that you received this newsletter. Thank you!

E-news

Would you prefer to receive your newsletter via email? Please email your request to gradschool@csl.edu. Simply write, “IAAS E-news.”