Thank You!

Thanks to your generosity, five international graduate students are now supported by Concordia Seminary’s International Adopt-A-Student initiative! The program has also expanded to include occasional students from Lutheran church bodies with which The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has a developing relationship, but not yet a partner church relationship. As an International Adopt-A-Student sponsor, you may be assured of the following:

Every contribution both large and small makes it possible for students from Lutheran churches throughout the globe to receive the highest level of training in confessional Lutheran theology in the Graduate School of Concordia Seminary. When they return home, Concordia Seminary’s graduates have a tremendous impact on the next generation of pastors, teachers, and missionaries for their home church bodies. International Adopt-A-Student contributions are used to support the travel and living expense cost of the students. Donors receive fall, winter, and spring IAAS Newsletters with updates on the progress and status of the students. On behalf of the 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.

Antonio Schimpf Returns Home

Antonio Schimpf is an STM student from Argentina who is specializing in the study of the Old Testament. He seeks the STM degree in order to strengthen the quality of education to his students at Seminario Concordia in Buenos Aires, where he has taught Old Testament for 20 years. This is his second year of study in St. Louis. His minor is Practical Theology.

Pastor Schimpf with his flock in Argentina.
Pastor Schimpf and his family.

Antonio would like to thank all of Concordia Seminary’s generous International Adopt-A-Student sponsors. He says, “I am thankful to the sponsors for their support. It is a gift of God to have this opportunity.” Since their expenses are covered, he and other international students like him can focus on their studies without having to worry about having a job on campus to help pay for their bills, thanks to the generous support of donors like you.

This Winter Quarter was the last full quarter that Antonio will spend in residence at Concordia Seminary. He has returned to Argentina and will continue to teach and pastor the people there. He will return for an intensive term course this next year, which will conclude his coursework at Concordia Seminary. The winter months in the US are summer months in Argentina, and many are on vacation, which makes it a convenient time for study in the US.

**Back for Continuing Study**

Gordon Alex is a pastor and a second year MA student from Kenya. His major is Practical Theology; his minor is Systematic Theology. Gordon hopes to address with his MA thesis the problem of ethnic conflict that, in Kenya, does great damage to the life of the church. He wishes to devise a Christian management approach which can promote reconciliation in local communities as well as in the church. The concept of Christian reconciliation will encourage conflict resolution and understanding between ethnic tribes, even between family members. Gordon plans to bring biblical perspectives to the conflicts so that the church becomes an instrument of peace where different ethnic groups come together for worship.
Pastor Andry at work in Madagascar.

Gordon first heard about Concordia Seminary through his Archbishop, Dr. Walter Obare, an alumnus of Concordia’s Graduate School. In gratitude for the financial help that he receives from his Adopt-A-Student sponsors, Gordon says, “I would like to thank those who have helped me. In return, I hope to be a blessing to the Lutheran Church in Kenya.” When Gordon finishes his degree in the spring, he will return to Kenya, where he will teach at the seminary there.

Dimbiniaina Havanjanahany (“Andry”) Randrianasolo is a PhD student from Madagascar. This is Andry’s first year of study in the Theology and Culture concentration of the PhD. Andry is a graduate of the Malagasy Lutheran Graduate Seminary of Theology in Fianarantsoa, Madagascar, and has been Deputy Director and Practical Theology Professor at the Malagasy Regional Lutheran Seminary of Vangaindrano since 2010. Andry chose to come to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis for three reasons: to better understand Lutheran theology; to relate Lutheran theology to his home culture; and to advance a solid understanding of the mission of the Church in the world.

Andry seeks advanced training in the PhD to facilitate community and church relationships within his country. Making an indigenous church out of a church built first by missionaries is an ongoing challenge for the Malagasy Lutheran Church. A primary focus for Andry is the relationship between justification by faith and Fihavanana (good relationships with others in the Malagasy culture).

Andry first heard about Concordia Seminary from Dr. John Pless, who visited Madagascar in February of 2008. In addition, Andry’s father, Dr. Randrianasolo Joseph, attended Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne to continue his studies. Andry became very interested in continuing his studies at Concordia Seminary when he first studied at the Malagasy Lutheran Graduate Seminary of Theology in Fianarantsoa. Several individuals from the LCMS, such as Dr. Robert Kolb, Dr. John Pless, and Dr. Robert Bennet, encouraged him to pursue this goal.

Andry is married to Lanto Rahariniaina who is also a graduate of the Malagasy Lutheran Graduate Seminary of Theology. Andry and Lanto have two children, a boy, Fitahiana, and a girl, Priscilla.
Tom Omolo is a PhD student who is also from Kenya and who happily has completed the coursework phase of his program. He also has passed his comprehensive exam, and wishes to thank all of his Adopt-A-Student sponsors for their prayers on his behalf. Tom is currently in Kenya for the release of the new Kenyan hymnal, a project of great significance to the life of the church in his home country that he has been working on for some time now as the committee chair of the project. When Tom returns to Saint Louis, he will resume working on his dissertation, writing and gaining approval for his prospectus. The prospectus is an initial document in the dissertation process that first describes a student’s intended area of research and how that work will proceed with the writing of the dissertation. Tom is thankful to have made it this far in his program and looks forward to the completion of his doctoral work, so that he might to return home to his family and to his work as a seminary professor for the Lutheran church of Kenya.

Roberto Bustamante is a second year PhD student in Doctrinal Theology who also hails from Argentina. Roberto has returned home to his family and to his teaching duties as a professor of Systematic Theology at Seminario Concordia. Roberto will complete his coursework this summer and then will begin preparing for his comprehensive exam. Roberto too is thankful for the support of his Adopt-A-Student sponsors whose generous support has made it possible for him to progress thus far already in his program. When the work of his comprehensive exam is complete, Roberto will turn to the final stage of his program, which is the work of the dissertation. Roberto seeks the PhD also in order to strengthen the quality of the programs of Seminario Concordia in Buenos Aires, where he has taught for many years. Soon Seminario Concordia hopes to expand its programs so that it might receive not just accreditation in Argentina but also international accreditation.

Meet the Students

Will you be visiting St. Louis or do you live in the St. Louis area? Would you like to meet the students supported by your generosity? If so, please contact Deaconess Ruth McDonnell by sending an email to mcdonnellr@csl.edu or by calling Deaconess Ruth at 314-505-7102. We hope to hear from you and to see you sometime soon!
Share the Vision

Thanks to your generous support, these fine students are able to study at Concordia Seminary. Many from other parts of the world are also hoping and praying for similar funding so that they too can pursue advanced degrees at Concordia Seminary. The Graduate School of Concordia Seminary is thankful for the opportunity to work closely with those who in the future will teach and lead in the global proclamation of a confessional Lutheran understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Concordia’s Graduate School relies significantly on the generosity of its supporters who share in its vision to accomplish its mission. So please share this newsletter with any and all that you may know who might be interested in supporting the goal of the Graduate School of Concordia Seminary to provide the highest level of theological scholarship to the next generation of teachers and leaders who will share the message of salvation in Jesus throughout the world. Bulletin inserts are also available should you like to share this opportunity with the members of your congregation. To request these, please send an email to GradSchool@csl.edu or call the Graduate School at 314-505-7102.

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

E-News

Would you prefer to receive this newsletter via email? Please email your request to gradschool@csl.edu and we will be happy to provide the newsletter in this way.