



### What's happening?



Latvian Archbishop Janis Vanags (right) and Rev. Kraulins, LELB Director of Church Relations attend Symposia at CTSFW and join LCMS Pres. Harrison for the March for Life.



Three generations commune with Jesus Christ on Christmas Eve.



Above: Ghanaian Bishop John Donkoh sent this photo after receiving cases of specific texts for African seminarians. This effort was coordinated by OIM's Eurasia & Africa regions and Westfield House. Below: Six children receive their first Holy Communion after months of catechetical instruction.



Serving the Lord for Eurasia

## Go Big or Go Home.

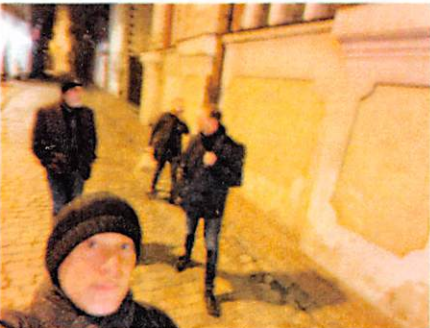
“Where there is no prophetic vision, the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law” (Prov. 29:18 ESV). This proverb, variously translated, says that those without a vision from the word of God are not guided by it. Such people and ministries (!) will perish. This is in keeping with Ps. 127:1: “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.” But its that second part of verse 18 that really sets the vision: “blessed is he who keeps the *Torah*.” Ah, the *Torah*, not merely the law, but the great promises of Gospel that frame and drive the Bible’s story. What kind of vision does one get from the biblical gospel? The expansion of the kingdom of God through conversions and allegiance to Jesus Christ. That vision should be grand, even if our own contributions be never so humble. Each has their part to play and together the vision is grand: “Make disciples of all *ethnos* (every ethnic people, age notwithstanding) by baptizing them into the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19 my translation). A contemporary way to express this kingdom vision to make disciples is: Go big or go home.

The provision for LCMS missions in 2021 was unprecedented. Your prayers, support and generosity have facilitated opportunities to “go big” a reality. In the last issue, we reported on three expanding opportunities. The





Operation Overlord team brainstorming at Trinity Lutheran, Berlin, Germany.



Luther Academy faculty (Jēkabs Jurdz̄s, Rinalds Grants and Pr John), with Prof. Art Just hasten through the streets of Riga before the Covid curfew starts.



Pr John sharing the good news of Christ on Issues, Etc. and "Coffee Hour" at the KFUE studios in St. Louis during the Making Disciples for Life conference, where he was the Plenary Speaking, giving an address on the greatest challenge to making disciples abroad.



Eurasia Team members Peggy Krikava (CZ), Tyler McMiller (Italy), Jēkabs Jurdz̄s (Latvia) Cory and Jenny Rajek (Latvia), with Pr John, pose with OIM Global Director of Theological Education Dr. Art & Linda Just (CTSFW), Wilhelm Weber (SELK), and four representatives of the Swedish Lutheran Church during an intensive study at the Old Latin School. The next study week intensive will take place in Riga and Sakdus, Latvia, 2-9 April, with at least twelve nations represented, including newcomer Estonia and a student from Nepal.

first endeavor was the Riga Luther Academy. In March, leadership from the Academy and the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church and the LCMS Office of International Mission will meet in Wittenberg to explore opportunities to broach faithful pastoral training into new domains. Please pray for a shared vision so that we may aid our Latvian partners and accomplish the mission of training evangelists, church planters, and skilled servants of the Church.

The second endeavor was initiated by Gottfried Martens (Berlin) and missionary Rev. Christian Tiews (Hanover) to bring the gospel and true biblical instruction to Farsi speaking people in Europe, but also Iran. That work has expanded to include voiceovers in Urdu for Pakistan. Three "beta" videos, under the project name "Operation Overlord," are now in production. If these prove successful in terms of response, then a series on the Small Catechism will be initiated. The work coordinates the Communications Team at the IC in St. Louis, the Eurasia Region of OIM, CTSFW and our partners in SELK. It is estimated that the potential audience for these videos could number in the millions. The vision includes networking pastors for discipleship and connecting respondents with existing churches This work is going big, big time.

The third endeavor focuses on Pakistan and the ever-expanding work of Rev. Jay Dass and Deacon Samson Sohail. What seemed like a quaint attempt to reintroduce biblical Christianity to Pakistanis in Islamabad has become a huge opportunity. Now there are four cities involved, the training of eleven persons, two existing congregations learning the Small Catechism and the Augsburg Confession, and standing up three church plants. OIM and the Eurasia Region have been emboldened to engage this ministry with gusto. Meanwhile, all

cylinders are firing in Luther Academy's fourth semester. While we pray for peace regarding Putin's aspirations for Ukraine, this will not end work in any location, even Ukraine. To be sure, the work may be hampered, but we are resolved to witness to Jesus no matter what geo-political machinations materialize. The word of the Lord will endure forever.





Missionaries gather for an address by Latvian Archbishop Vanags about gospel suffering.



Pinki, Latvia local business owner Valija grateful that Christians continue to meet.



New Eurasia missionary Mark Winterstein (Leipzig)



The saints at Blessed Sacrament gather for the Holy Baptism of baby boy, Wiley — the first baby born in this mission church.



Bombaro kids greet Sophia after her first semester at Hillsdale. She is studying to serve the Church.

**UPCOMING:** Video & Audio production for Farsi/Urdu videos in Ontario and STL. Assessing ministries needs in Italy (March). Spring intensive Rīga & Saldus, Latvia (April). Pakistan in-person training, along with engaging our longest standing international mission in Nagercoil, India (May).

**Please pray** that students overcome travel obstacles to Latvia; Pray for the Eurasia Team, and new members to the Team. **Pray** for the success and influence of the gospel work promoting Jesus Christ in Pakistan and India. Pray especially for Rev. Dass and Julie, and Deacon Samson Sohail. **Pray** for Sophia at Hillsdale College.

**Blessed Sacrament Lutheran Church** — The successful mission

congregation, which is now an established and chartered parish of the English District, LCMS, is poised to call its first full-time pastor next week, relieving Pr John of vacancy duties. The Bombaro family has been grateful for the love, care, hospitality and vision of the saints at Blessed Sacrament during our work building curriculum for the Rīga Luther Academy. Thank you for your amazing support of LCMS missions and OIM missionaries.



Spanish Lutheran Bishop Jose Luis and Romanian missionary Rev. Sorin Trifa, and Madrid missionary Rev. Isaac Machado.

*Thanks to each of you, our loving supporters, for your prayers and gifts to allow us to be laborers of the Lord's harvest.* Special winter 2021/2022 appreciation for everyone at Mission Central for coordinating their amazing Thanksgiving support for missions and to all of you for giving and asking how to help with the work in Eurasia. Thank you and we love you!

- We are proudly supported by YOU! Please send tax-deductible contributions to: **Mission Central, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, Iowa** (memo-line must include Bombaro/Latvia) or
- <https://missioncentral.us/bombaro/> Give securely from any device [www.lcms.org/bombaro](http://www.lcms.org/bombaro). Thank you!