The Future is Now Campaign Touches Many Lives and Ministries

The Future is Now campaign in partnership with *Fan into Flame* is touching lives and supporting ministry in the Michigan District and throughout the world. For example, within the past year alone five missionaries from Michigan District congregations have received substantial levels of financial support as they carry out their ministries in the countries in which they are serving. The most recent are David and Joyce Erber, from Trinity, Jackson who are serving in Nigeria.

The Michigan District through *The Future is Now* campaign was also privileged to provide financial support to the LCMS Hmong Hymnal Project. The following letter written by Rev. Lang Yang, Executive Director, of the Hmong Mission Society, LCMS, gives a wonderful example of the impact we—the members of the congregations of the Michigan District—are having on a wide variety of mission opportunities. For this we praise God.

Please read and enjoy the words of Rev. Yang as he shares the exciting news of having an LCMS Hymnal written in the language of the members of the Hmong Ministry. The Hmong ministry is based out of St. Michael's, Richville.

In Service Together,
Ray Zavada, Vice President of Development
Michigan District, LCMS

Greetings *in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

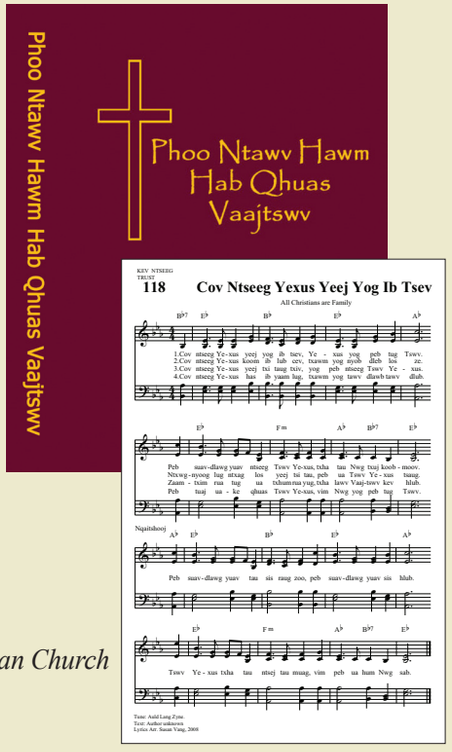
On behalf of the LCMS Hmong Hymnal Project, I would like to thank the Michigan District, LCMS for donating $38,000.00 in "Fan into Flame" funds toward the printing of the Hmong Hymnal. I thank God for His grace, mercy, and love that allow the Hmong people "LCMS Hmong Ministry" to produce a new hymnal.

The LCMS Hmong Ministry has been using the Hmong Hymnal (Phau Ntawv Hawm Thiab Qhuas Vajtswv) which was produced in the 1980s by a group of ministers and deacons. It was a preliminary draft hymnal and therefore the songs contain no musical notations to accompany them. Many parts of the liturgy and rites were also excluded from the hymnal. And over the past few years, many of these books have been damaged.

The new hymnal will include the full range of Christian vocabulary and theological and Lutheran doctrine in the Hmong context. It will also include all the necessary musical notations on hymns, liturgy, and rites that will make it possible for a wider use.

With a new Hmong hymnal, God's people from the LCMS Hmong Ministry will be able to cultivate the rich tradition of Christian worship. They will enjoy the presence of God in a new and meaningful way that is explicitly grounded in Scriptures. And also, it will enrich the future worship life of the church in the Hmong language.

May the glory and honor go to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and that His name be praised!

Expanding Christ's Kingdom with you,

Rev. Dr. Lang Yang, Associate Pastor
Director of Hmong Ministry – St. Michael's and Our Savior Lutheran Church
Hmong Mission Outreach – Michigan District, LCMS
Executive Director - Hmong Mission Society LCMS
LCMS Hmong Hymnal Project