

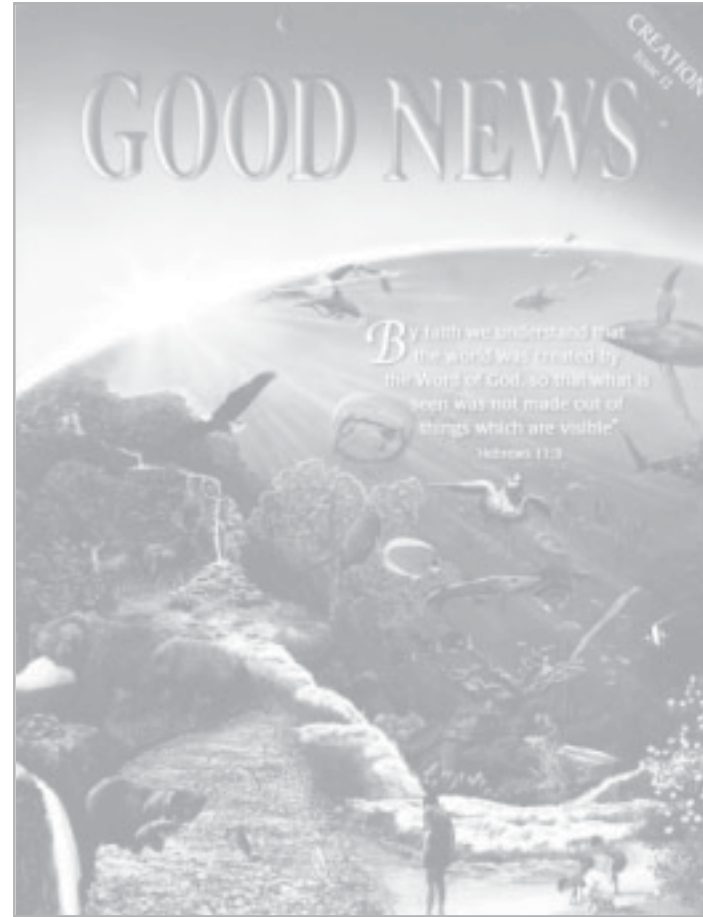
## LHF Information And Statistics

- Founded by the Rev. Dr. Robert L. Rahn on November 10, 1992.
- For the first five years the work was conducted out of a home basement.
- The U.S. staff now consists of eight full time workers and 10 part-time/retired individuals assisting the LHF in regional promotional activities.
- The LHF has recently established a program requesting individuals to consider becoming an LHF Congregation Liaison.
- LHF was the first American Lutheran organization in 70 years to publish a major Lutheran work in the Russian and Ukrainian languages. Presently there are nearly 300 volumes in print in a variety of languages.
- Some of the newer languages in which Lutheran confessional writings are being translated: Somali, Urdu, Vietnamese, Thai, Hmong, Guere (Cote d'Ivoire), Tamil, Zande, Masai, Nuer, Arabic, Albanian, Spanish, Korean and Japanese.
- A listing of all books published, books in the process of translation and those planned for the future is available upon request.
- LHF has been instrumental in assisting in the formation of new Lutheran church bodies. In Sudan, the Rev. Andrew Mbugo Elisa was trained at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN and ordained on August 29, 1999, when there were eight congregations and 1,000 members. Today there are 35 congregations with nearly 10,000 members.
- LHF is actively promoting a second Reformation around the world through the translation, publication and distribution of Lutheran literature. All books published are offered free of charge to missionaries, churches, church bodies and individuals. To support this work, please make your gifts payable to LHF and mail to the address below.
- To learn more about the world-wide mission efforts of the LHF please visit us on-line at the address provided below or phone the office.

### A Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS



Lutheran Heritage Foundation  
51474 Romeo Plank Road  
Macomb, MI 48042  
800-554-0723  
[www.lhfmissions.org](http://www.lhfmissions.org)



## Bible/Catechism In Spanish

Working with Missionary Dan McMiller, Panama City, Panama, the LHF is preparing to release a Spanish Bible with the Catechism as an appendix. The volume is being prepared in cooperation with the Panama Bible Society and CPH.

## Good News Cooperation

When the Rev. Dr. Wallace Schulz joined the LHF staff on December 1, 2002, part of his job description was to continue as Executive Editor of the Good News magazine. The LHF has been involved in helping to translate the issue into a variety of languages and has assisted in the distribution. This magazine is a vital outreach and teaching tool throughout the world and would be a valuable tool for congregations. It puts our Lutheran doctrine in understandable terms with the use of text, illustrations and pictures. We can provide ordering information.

## Celebrate Our Heritage

Back To The Word  Out To The World

Vol. I, No. I

Lutheran Heritage Foundation

Spring 2003

## Newsletter For Congregations and Pastors



by The Rev. Dr. Robert Rahn

Back to the Word, Out to the World (BW,OW) is a newsletter we are using as a vehicle to reach out to congregations and Pastors. When the Lutheran Heritage Foundation began ten years ago we periodically sent out a copy of our general newsletter to all on our list. We discontinued that five years ago

in anticipation of this kind of release.

You will receive BW,OW only twice this year. On the back page you will find Mission Notes that can be reproduced locally as a bulletin insert or newsletter item. This information can also be found on our website for downloading. Supporting congregations also receive our regular newsletter 'The Word At Work'.

We are including some basic historic information on the Lutheran Heritage Foundation because we are still one of the best kept secrets in the church. Our focus has been on getting the LHF up and running. Running is the key word. We chose to enter one country and now we have been invited into 79 others. We began with one language and today have

translation work in 89 other languages.

The LHF continues to provide free books and literature to anyone requesting it. The majority of the books and materials go to Lutheran missionaries and missions. It is estimated that the value of these gifts to our church stands in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000.00 and growing every day.

There is a basic book that surprisingly is unavailable in most languages where the LHF works. That book is Luther's **Small Catechism**, a volume we are finding more valuable each time it is published. Recently it was released in Tanzania where Lutheranism has existed for several hundred years. During a seminar conducted to review the catechism a pastor in the assembly became quite agitated when he asked, 'Why did the missionaries leave their books at home when they came, why did we have to wait 150 years for this precious book?' It was a reminder to us never to take this precious gem for granted. It still serves as the most basic book of doctrine for Lutherans and for those discovering Lutheranism. This volume is a great help in carrying out our mission of 'Bringing people to Christ and to Lutheran altars'.

*The mission of the LHF is to translate, publish and distribute Lutheran confessional books and materials.*

## BOOK OF CONCORD COMING

In an ongoing effort to make this fundamental work available in every language where Lutheranism is established, the LHF moves from the **Small Catechism** to the **Augsburg Confession** and **Large Catechism** to the final complete **Book of Concord**. The volume has been completed in Russian and Latvian, the first time the entire book has been available in those languages. It will soon be available

in two more languages- in Ukrainian and Swahili. What we call the **Mini Book of Concord** has existed in Swahili for three years. When the sections are completed and published, LHF staff conduct seminars to acquaint pastors and church leaders with the work. These have become extremely popular and LHF personnel have made extra effort to meet the demand.

## BECOME A PARTNER IN BUILDING AN ETERNAL FOUNDATION



by *The Rev. Dr. Wallace Schulz*

Walk into a large book store like Barnes and Noble or Borders. You will be immediately confronted by special displays of *“Newest Releases,”* or *“Best Sellers.”* On the other hand, consider what is happening in the worldwide ministry of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Thousands of people in foreign countries are literally begging to receive, not *“Newest Releases”* but rather solid Bible-based *“classics”* that are decades and even centuries old.

Why this difference? In his introduction to **The Incarnation** by Athanasius, C.S. Lewis states, *“There is a strange idea abroad that in every subject the ancient books should be read only by the professionals, and that the amateur should content himself*

*with the modern books.”* Lewis then adds: *“This mistaken preference for modern books and this shyness of the old ones is nowhere more rampant than in theology.”*

Although it has distributed works of current authors, Lutheran Heritage Foundation translates and distributes primarily *“classics.”* These books have withstood the test of time. These solidly Biblical books have a track record of bringing people to, and keeping people in, the Christian faith.

Thus says the LORD, *“Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you shall find rest for your souls”* (Jeremiah 6:16). God is encouraging us neither to retain our cultural past nor our self-centered lifestyles. He is, instead, urging us to meditate on the historical record of how He has rescued and provided salvation for His people. This knowledge of God’s gracious work builds a solid foundation of faith.

Today I received a letter from a Lutheran pastor in what might be considered quite a liberal Lutheran church in a far-away country. His exact words were, *“The old Lutheran emphasis on the ‘right teaching’ gains for me a surprising contemporary treasure.”* This should not surprise us. Literature is not powerful just because it is *“right”* in a human sense. Christian literature is powerful because it is an extension of God’s will and Living Word. To every generation Jesus says, *“My Words are Spirit and they are life”* (John 6:63).

When it comes to investing in the spiritual needs of others, consider the solid track record of Bible-based literature. Your prayers and financial support will make available to spiritually hungry souls some of the best printed material in the history of mankind.

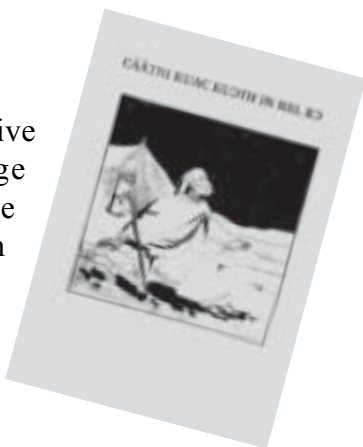
Join the Lutheran Heritage Foundation in distributing in 80 regions classic Christ-centered works that will make a difference for eternity. Christ-center literature is an extension of God’s Word which says, *“these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name”* (John 20:31).

### Focus On Children

More focus is being placed on children’s literature because of the numerous requests received. The most popular book has been **The Child’s Garden of Bible Stories** or a similar volume that has been published in Russian, Latvian, Tamil, Malayalam, Nuer, Ukrainian and Swahili. In Russia most of the copies have been distributed in public schools. Currently the Rev. Scott Benjamin, Mission Counselor, has been working with Russian pastors to create children’s materials that are

more in tune with native culture and language rather than just the translation of an American volume.

*Pictured is the Bible Stories book in the Nuer language.*



(above) A typical street scene. (below) Rev. John Fehrmann with Lutheran worshippers.



### India Work Continues

Ten years ago LHF was contacted by Rev. Rao Dasari, who had established Bible Faith Lutheran Ministries to India. We agreed to work on a **Book of Concord** in the Telugu language. When Rev. Dasari colloquized into the Wisconsin Synod they requested to do the work and we agreed. A year ago Mrs. Dasari reported the death of her husband and requested our help once again. The Rev. John Fehrmann, LHF Director of Mission Advancement, was dispatched to India and we are again on the forefront of providing books and materials.

Through the support of the Rev. Mike Albrecht, Pastor of St. James Lutheran Church, West St. Paul, MN, the Dasari family and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, we are attempting to provide for the needs of this church body in one of the most populous countries in the world. Five men were ordained in the BFLC in January and an energetic translation team is working on the Lutheran confessional books and materials.



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Title & Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Please send me, free of charge, the video *“Upon This Rock”*.

Please send information about:

\_\_\_\_ being a liaison promoting the work of the LHF in my church/area

\_\_\_\_ involving children and youth

\_\_\_\_ requesting a speaker or preacher

\_\_\_\_ requesting print materials

\_\_\_\_ exploring mission project support

## What Does It Cost To Be CHRISTIAN?

This question is somewhat removed from the lips of Americans. It is not so distant for many new believers in other parts of the world, especially Muslim converts to Lutheranism, be they in Somalia, Sudan or Detroit.

Bat Yeior, the author of *The Decline of Eastern Christianity Under Islam*, says, **American Christians, you must pray for Muslims who live without the mercy and atonement of Jesus Christ. Muslims are coming to Jesus, as Messiah. But you also need to be aware of the physical, political and spiritual danger that has come to your shores. It will be tragic for your nation if you do not learn about the history of Islam, an Islam that has not changed. Your temporary isolation of only a few hundred years is now gone!**

As this is written, Vidya (not her real name) is being given refuge in an LHF complex. She was Muslim and converted to Lutheranism. Vidya took a Somali Bible and a booklet published by LHF to her home. When her family found out about her association with Lutherans they demanded she remove herself from their evil influence. She insisted she was a Christian and they began to read the Koran to her. She again insisted she was Christian. In anger they picked up stones and beat her in the face resulting in cuts and bruises and teeth knocked out. She managed to escape and the LHF provided her medical and dental care.

Vidya is part of a group of Muslims who came to our camp reporting that they had heard about Jesus and about our work as translators. They wanted to know if there was anything available in Somali. Our director arranged to meet with them for classes and as they met they began to translate the booklet mentioned above and also Luther’s **Small Catechism** as they studied it. The **Catechism** is now under review and soon to be printed. The group has begun Lutheran services but the worship is carried on in secret because of the Muslim opposition. We can’t tell you the rest of the story as it would be too revealing and put Vidya’s life in danger as there is an actual hit list that contains her name.

A little closer to home we have a young Muslim lady who came to classes at the Detroit People of the Open Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO) Center. She took a Bible home and when her husband found out he began to beat her. She was forced to escape to a Lutheran family who lived down the street.