

Church celebrates third seminary graduation

CHINANDEGA, Nicaragua - Sounds of thanksgiving to God flowed from Martin Luther Chapel as the pastors and deaconesses of Iglesia Luterana Sinodo de Nicaragua (ILSN) together with family and friends celebrated the graduation of five pastoral and nine diaconal students from "Seminario Teológico Reforma Luterana (Theological Seminary of the Lutheran Reformation). This was the third seminary program held by the Lutheran Church-Canada mission in Nicaragua. But this class was unique. Three students (two pastoral and one diaconal) came from the Lutheran Church of Panama.

Following the graduation rite and sermon, ILSN President Luis conducted the rites of consecration and ordination. The eight deaconesses, who will serve in their home congregations, were consecrated and the three pastoral candidates also receiving calls were ordained.

Linda Mayan, on behalf of Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada, presented each deaconess with a cross and LCC's interim mission executive, Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan, presented pectoral crosses to the three pastoral candidates. Dr. Roger Humann (Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines and seminary



Three pastors and nine deaconesses will serve the church in Central America.

program coordinator) placed stoles, handcrafted in Nicaragua, upon the three pastoral candidates.

Letters from President Robert Bugbee (LCC), from Milton Castillo Arosamena, the president of the Lutheran Church of Panama, and Judy Grande, president of LWML-Canada were also read. The graduates from the Lutheran Church in Panama were not ordained or consecrated as their own church will receive, ordain and consecrate them during a service of celebration in Panama. Each of the graduates received the appropriate cross in anticipation of this special event.

The Nicaragua theological program held in co-operation with Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St.

Catharines, was coordinated by Dr. Roger Humann. During this past theological program, fifteen different professors and pastors including one deaconess were involved in preparing these gifts of God for the church. The church thanks them as she gives thanks to God for the services of Dr. Humann and our seminary partner, CLTS. A word of thanks is also expressed to the Marvin Schwan Foundation for their financial support of the program.

Guests at this year's graduation were Dr. Roger Humann from Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, Eric Burgdorf from the Schwan Foundation and Rev. Dr. Jorge Groh, the regional director for Latin America of LCMS World Mission.



President Luis Turcio commissions a deaconess.

Southeast Asia update

BANGKOK, Thailand - In late February and early March, LCC's director of communications, Ian Adnams toured Thailand and Cambodia with volunteer missionary Rev. Dr. Leonard Harms. The goal was to report on the tsunami relief work and to meet students currently participating in theological education in Thailand and Cambodia.

"I was in Thailand a month after the tsunami and saw the incredible devastation," Adnams said. "To return and see how Lutheran Church-Canada's gifts impacted lives was a blessing."

In addition to providing long-term support to 15 orphans, LCC supplied seven fishing boats and engines to families who lost everything. "This simple action now provides up to 70 people with income," explained Dr. Adnams. "More important however are the personal connections pastors have made with families who now attend church, even some baptisms." A more detailed report will appear in a future edition of *The Canadian Lutheran*.

Blog entries made during the visit are at www.lccontheroad.ca.