



Word from Bishop Rindy:

It was mentioned during last spring's synod assembly that the State of the Synod would be determined by how we lived into God's future. Many within our synod have taken the challenge to go the "Extra Mile for Mission." Last December you were made aware of the lower level of our financial support for our shared ministries. I shared with you how painful it was to inform those ministries to prepare for a short-fall from our support.

This past week we were able to close out fiscal year 2010. Instead of the anticipated \$160,000 shortfall, through the power of the Holy Spirit, your generous support, and your belief in our shared ministries, we ended the year about \$10,000 short. While the shortage will still impact ministry partners, it is far better than anticipated. THANK YOU!

Because several individuals and congregations have taken the "Extra Mile" challenge seriously, nearly \$60,000 has been given so far. You can continue to make contributions to the "Extra Mile" until our synod assembly in May.

On the reverse side a chart not only shows the negative effect of this \$10,000 shortage, but at the same time it shows the very **positive** effect of the "Extra Mile for Mission" disbursements for our partners. Not only were we able to fill the shortfalls to the commitments we had made, we were able to go above and beyond. The chart indicates:

- One half, approximately \$30,000, is being sent to the Central African Republic for church roofs, motorcycles (goal reached!) and four other projects.
- One-fourth, nearly \$15,000, is being divided evenly between ELCA Malaria Campaign, ELCA World Hunger, and ELCA Global Missionary Sponsorships.
- The remaining one-fourth is being distributed among our synod ministries: Oak Grove Lutheran School, Red Willow Bible Camp, Park River Bible Camp, Luther Seminary, Dacotah O'Yate Lutheran Church and F-M Native American Christian Ministries, North Dakota Campus Ministry and North Dakota Lutheran Disaster Response.

What is the state of our synod? We are still figuring out who we are and who we will be. There is absolutely no question of who's we are. Your willingness to dig down and support these ministry partners is inspiring to me, to our partners, and to many in our synod. Do you know how fun it is to call a ministry partner and tell them that they will be receiving **more** money than we had pledged? THANK YOU for letting me do that on your behalf!

For all of you who sent in mission support... thank you. For those of you for whom it was difficult, but got it done... thank you. For those of you who increased your support to make this happen... thank you. On behalf of all of the lives you are touching for Jesus' sake... THANK YOU!

Many are sending statement of intents for 2011 showing the same level of support. Many others are showing intent to increase their support for 2011. Some are showing planned decrease. Whichever category describes your reality... THANK YOU! We know we will be the synod we choose to be. May we be the synod God calls us to be.

THANK YOU for your partnership in the Gospel!

Bill Rindy

| MINISTRY RECIPIENTS | Mission Plan for 2010 | Total Mission Plan (First Mile) payments | Total Extra Mile Gifts | Total | Extra Funds Given (shortage) |
|---|-----------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| National ELCA Mission Support | 396,879 | 389,243 | - | 389,243 | (7,637) |
| SYNOD MINISTRIES: | | | | | |
| Luther Seminary | 60,000 | 58,770 | 2,230 | 61,000 | 1,000 |
| ND Luth. Campus Ministry | 123,000 | 121,739 | 4,094 | 125,833 | 2,833 |
| Oak Grove | 1,000 | 855 | 395 | 1,250 | 250 |
| Red Willow Bible Camp | 1,000 | 855 | 395 | 1,250 | 250 |
| Park River Bible Camp | 1,000 | 855 | 395 | 1,250 | 250 |
| Native American Christ. Min. | 6,000 | 6,000 | 1,200 | 7,200 | 1,200 |
| Dacotah Oyate Luth. Church | 62,000 | 62,000 | 1,200 | 63,200 | 1,200 |
| Lutheran Disaster Response-ND | - | - | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| CAR COMPANION SYNOD: | | | | | |
| CAR-Roofs | - | - | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| CAR-Cycles (Complete!) | - | - | 6,706 | 6,706 | 6,706 |
| CAR-as needed for Village Education, Lutheran High School, Seminary, and Gallo Clinic | - | - | 13,112 | 13,112 | 13,112 |
| CHURCHWIDE MINISTRIES: | | | | | |
| ELCA-Malaria Campaign | - | - | 4,970 | 4,970 | 4,970 |
| ELCA-World Hunger | - | - | 4,970 | 4,970 | 4,970 |
| ELCA-Missionary Sponsorship | - | - | 4,970 | 4,970 | 4,970 |
| Totals \$ | 650,879 \$ | 640,317 \$ | 59,634 \$ | 699,951 \$ | 49,072 |

