

THE
WELS OUTREACH TO POOR

Goal - To share the Gospel with those normally beyond the reach of our congregations.

- Objectives - To contact individually 200 low-income persons per month;
- To conduct daily Bible classes for 20 low-income people;
- To conduct Sunday school weekly for 40 persons of all age groups;
- To conduct adult instruction classes for individuals who show significant interest and dependability;
- To commune those who complete instructions and confess their faith, although it is not expected that a congregation with communicant membership will be formed through this effort;
- To provide personal assistance in procuring food, clothing, housing, and counselling services.

Program:

1. Identify 6-block area of low-income houses as target area.
2. Locate a 2-room facility in area for group meetings.
3. In January recruit ³ Seminary juniors to serve as evangelists to low-income citizens.
4. Train recruits in May, covering evangelism, the culture of poverty, and catechetics.
5. Canvass area in June for VBS.
6. Conduct 2-week VBS in July, using volunteers from inner-city program, if necessary.
7. Continue to make contacts and conduct classes through the middler year.
8. As veterans return to the Seminary as seniors, one of them should replace one of the juniors on the team so that team consists of 1 senior and 3 juniors.
9. Area to be expanded or additional areas added as opportunities appear.

Estimated costs

1. Evangelists to earn \$5.50 per hour, 40 hrs/wk for summer, 20 hrs/wk during school year.
 2. Senior evangelist to earn \$6.00/hr.
 3. Evangelists not paid during training.
 4. Estimated annual cost for manpower \$28,160
- " " " " rooms \$800
- " " " " materials \$1,200

TOTAL \$29,960 *

APPENDIX I

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Library
1121 N. Seminary Drive, GSW
Madison, Wisconsin

Bible Outreach to Poor
Appendix I
2021

MINISTRY TO THE POOR - A NEW FRONTIER

In the past twenty-five years, the Wisconsin Synod has developed into a national church body. Over that period of time it has faced many "new frontiers", in world missions, in home missions, and in special ministries. And by God's grace many of those new frontiers have become a normal part of our Gospel ministry.

I have been particularly involved with two of these new frontiers, the outreach to blacks and Hispanics, both of which are now accepted as a legitimate and necessary part of our mission endeavor. It is my association particularly with these two groups that leads me to suggest that there is another new frontier that deserves our attention, and that is the poor who reside within reach of our WELS congregations.

This is certainly not a new frontier in the sense that the poor are a novelty. Jesus said, "You will always have the poor among you." The poor were a part of the work of the first congregation in Jerusalem, and to this day our congregations have responded to individual needs in their midst, and to more distant needs through the Committee on Relief.

The poor who make up the new frontier are those outside our congregations, who need not only physical relief but also spiritual healing. This is a new frontier, because these people have been beyond the reach of our best mission efforts. We have succeeded rather well in reaching out to all levels of the middle class. On the other hand, our success among the poor has been limited, and our efforts minimal.

Why should this be happening in a Synod which is committed to reach out with the Word to all people, a Synod which has again and again demonstrated its commitment to outreach and integration? In the paragraphs that follow, I will offer some initial thoughts on the matter, in the hope that these thoughts will stimulate interest and planning that will eventually lead to an organized Gospel outreach to the poor.

1. We have not reached out to the poor because the poor have no money. That statement is not intended as harsh criticism. It is simply a fact that we expect our missions to become self-supporting. It is a fact that we expect our new members to be good contributors, and a generous contributor is a delight to every pastor and church council. With a tight synodical budget we are loathe to start missions that will not likely be self-supporting. And inability to give like the rest has discouraged many poor people

from coming to church. There is no intent to exclude the poor. They are, in fact, encouraged to come, even if they cannot afford comfortable clothing. But we also admonish the negligent for the stingy giving, and the poor are invariably caught in the cross-fire.

2. We have not reached out to the poor because they live in other neighborhoods. The WELS has a heritage of hard-working independence. Most WELS members have been blessed with an ability to earn a decent living. They have homes appropriate for their income, and they have built their churches in the vicinity of their homes. For the most part Wisconsin Synod people do not see the poor because the poor can't afford to live where they live. And if a neighborhood deteriorates to the point that the poor can afford to live there, logic dictates that the more affluent people move out. The notable exceptions to the general trend are the inner-city congregations who have chosen to remain and minister to the people of their community. But for the most part, WELS congregations would be hard-pressed to find poor people as evangelism prospects, even if they tried.

3. We have not reached out to the poor because of stigma of poverty. We have no problem with the people made indigent by accident, illness, or economic failure. In fact, those of us who are over fifty can identify rather readily with that kind of poverty. By today's standards, most of those who lived through the Great Depression were poor.

But we have also heard it said, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. And who is there in this wealthy land who has to be poor if he is willing to work? Again and again the fact of poverty is accompanied by the fact of laziness and incompetence, or so it must seem to those living on the outside. How often haven't poor people become prosperous and even wealthy by their unflagging determination and ingenuity? The conclusion is that most people are poor because they deserve to be poor. The worthy poor we will cheerfully help, but there is no hope in helping most of the poor, because they are getting what they deserve, and for the most part, that's the way they want it.

4. A ministry to the poor requires a change of attitudes. From a distance we see only broad outlines. The details are lost. A closer examination often reveals that things are not nearly what they seemed to be from afar. When the details become visible, first impressions are totally inaccurate.

Close examination reveals that there are many reasons for poverty. Let me outline them as follows:

THE RED FACTOR - Some people are poor because of economic circumstances over which they had no control. World War II made many people poor. "We lost everything." Some are poor because of prolonged illness, or because the plant that needed their skills left town. If the red factor (an arbitrary choice of colors) is the only factor, these poor will need only temporary help. They will soon find a way of attaining an acceptable standard of living again.

THE BLUE FACTOR - Some people are poor because of physical and mental deficiency. The physical handicaps are obvious and often overcome. A physical handicap can become an incentive rather than a liability, and with help the physically handicapped often leave the ranks of the poor. The mentally handicapped are not so blessed, especially in the age of the computer. Mental weakness is shunned by employers, and the ability to earn is limited. Still society has made a place for the mentally handicapped. They may always be poor, but their need is obvious, and so is the response.

THE YELLOW FACTOR - Some people are poor because they have been damaged emotionally and socially. These people had the misfortune of being born into a family, a neighborhood, and environment, that did not nurture self-esteem. This one could be the child of a teen-age mother who went back to playing jacks after she had her baby. This one could be the child of parents who were too busy making money to implant self-esteem in their child. This one could be the one who was shot to pieces by the pre-divorce warfare that raged in his home. And this one might be the child of stable Christian parents, who married a clod who wanted attention, and sex, but no responsibility.

These people are for the most part physically able to work for a living. But they quit their jobs for petty reasons. They waste good earning opportunities because they don't feel like going to work. They seek escape from reality and spend what little they have on drugs and alcohol. And they struggle to conjure up a little self-esteem in a brief love affair that produces another child, who has less chance of escaping poverty than its parents had.

These are the "undeserving poor", who are poor through nobody's fault but their own. And yet it is not their "fault". They did not choose their parents, their neighborhood, their environment. They could not predict the failures that would show up after marriage. Only with the body are they able to work. Their spirit feels neither the desire nor the possibility for earning a living.

THE GRAY FACTOR - And this factor is added only because people never cooperate with categories. You are not likely to find any poverty that is all red, or blue, or yellow. The pigments are generally mixed in such a way that it is not possible to discover the primary cause or the probable solution. The result is an ugly gray, some with a decided yellow tinge, some with more blue or red, but hardly ever a problem that has one single solution.

Yes, some poor are more deserving than others, but ultimately there is no difference. The elements that destroyed these undeserving poor would most likely have destroyed any responsible citizen alive, including this writer. I firmly believe that I am not on welfare, or drugs, or in prison, only because God spared me the debilitating evils that have destroyed most of the poor.

Besides, what did the apostle say about helping those who deserve our help? Absolutely nothing! We must work that we may have something to share with those in need. This clarification of the reasons for poverty does not solve the problem. It does not tell us how to reach those in need. It is only intended to change some attitudes about the worthiness of the poor, and to eliminate some of the stigma of poverty.

5. A ministry to the poor requires a change in methods. Before we talk about methods, the obvious must be restated. The poor have a need that is greater than their lack of funds. and that is their lack of forgiveness. In ministering to the poor, the focus must never switch from spiritual to physical. Maintaining priorities will never be simple, for the apostle was clear about responsibilities to a brother in need. But it must remain understood that the poor need not join the middle class in order to enter the Kingdom of God. Our call is to preach the Gospel to every creature, including those of the lowest class.

But experience has shown that we will not reach the poor with the conventional method. The conventional method I refer to includes the canvass, the evangelism call, the instruction class, the confirmation, and the assimilation into active membership. In most cases this will not work.

To begin with, the poor must feel uncomfortable in a typical WELS worship setting, in spite of earnest efforts to welcome them. They cannot conform to the dress code, the offering expectations, to say nothing of unfamiliar hymns and liturgy. But never mind that. The poor will probably never get to church in the first place, because they don't have bus fare or gasoline. The poor will not complete the adult instruction class, because that moves at a regular schedule which is entirely out of synch with their lives. Keeping appointments is an ability that the prosperous have learned. If the poor had learned it, they would not be poor. Even the canvass offers little help in reaching the poor. By the time you return to the address, someone else will be living there. The poor have moved elsewhere, to avoid creditors, or perhaps the police.

Are the poor then in fact beyond our reach? Only if we limit ourselves to "conventional methods." The poor may never complete instructions or receive communion. But as we have the opportunity, God's good news can be shared, and the love that he inspires can be offered. I am an expert on what does not work with the poor. I know nothing about methods that succeed. But I can at least suggest some things that have not yet been proven failures.

1. Concentrate on personal witnessing. The goal is to witness, not to gain members. The goal is to share as much as the time and opportunities allow, to be content with the promise of the Spirit's power, to work and witness without being able to report impressive numbers of adult confirmands.
2. Offer worship opportunities that require no commitment. Rent a room in a poor neighborhood. Put up posters. Hand out flyers in the hallways. Sing some simple Gospel songs, and preach the amazing grace of God, the riches of his mercy. And pray. Don't expect a crowd. Don't expect "prospects". But don't be surprized when the Spirit grants visible signs of his blessing.

3. Gather the little children. They are often free to wander, hungry for the adult concern that is lacking in their lives. Collect them for Sunday school. Don't expect to win their parents. Don't expect them to become "Lutherans". Just show them that Jesus cares and let the Spirit accomplish his will.

4. And don't expect to be cost effective. A church that runs on budgets can't really handle this. Somehow it's OK in world missions where \$50,000 per convert is an acceptable return. But a \$50,000 investment that would touch 5000 poor might seem ineffective use of the Synod's funds. We need some kind of statistic, some measuring stick to measure the unmeasurable progress of the Gospel. It would even be good for the success-oriented missionary to have something he could put down on paper. He might record daily the number of contacts of differing kinds. He might record the incidents of note that suggest the success of the Gospel. We might even decide arbitrarily what "cost-effective" means in this new ministry, and then pat ourselves on the back for doing what we knew we could do.

But these are not answers to the problem. These are rather an invitation to start thinking about the challenges that will be presented, if ever we decide to enter this new frontier.

Rolfe Westendorf

9/14/85

A Report on the Mission to the Economically Deprived

A three year pilot project was begun in 1988 to try and share Christ with those normally unreachable by an existing local congregation because of their socio-economic situation. The attached goal and objectives provides the basic rationale and approach to Gospel ministry.

The attached report provides some of the fruits our Lord is giving to this effort. Generally there is more contact than anticipated given the suspicion factor because of the crime rate in an economically distressed area and the transient nature of the economically deprived. In spite of the latter, two individuals have completed an instruction course and confirmed their faith. For all these fruits of the Spirit we give thanks.

Although efforts are made to gather the prospects into larger Bible Class settings and to even direct them to neighboring congregations, there is not much of this occurring because of the reasons mentioned above. Remembering that the goal is to get Christ to people and not necessarily get people together, there is much cause for thanksgiving.

Funding for the first two years of the pilot project has been provided primarily through the Siebert Lutheran Foundation of Milwaukee which provides funds for Lutheran efforts in Wisconsin. Some supplemental funding has been provided from the Multi Cultural Missions Restricted Fund of the Board for Home Missions. Funding is being sought from Siebert for the third and final pilot year as well. Inquiries will be made of the SEW Kingdom Workers and the Milwaukee area WELSMen organization regarding future and ongoing funding of \$20-25,000 per year.

As mentioned in the project detail, a thorough evaluation will occur during the course of this year. The criteria for evaluation as attached will be used. In addition, Pastor R. Westendorf will be working on a model on how others elsewhere might attempt this type of ministry.

9/90
HJH/wk

THE MISSION TO THE ECONOMICALLY DEPRIVED
administered by
The Multi-Cultural Mission Committee
of the
Board for Home Missions
Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Our Goal - To bring the Gospel in a meaningful way to the economically deprived who are normally beyond the reach of our existing congregations because of their socio-economic situation.

The Pilot Project -

1. Using students from our near-by Seminary, we will contact persons living in an economically deprived area. We will conduct instruction classes, Bible classes, and children's classes for those who will accept this service.
2. We will provide nominal economic assistance wherever we can do so without harming our spiritual mission, and without overextending our budget. We will concentrate on helping people by putting them in contact with existing agencies designed to aid the poor.
3. We do not expect to form a congregation or erect a building. Yet we recognize the importance of Christian fellowship, and will attempt to develop bonds of friendship and love among those whom we serve.
4. We will maintain an area office to facilitate contact with our parishioners, but at present we do not intend to provide worship facilities until the need for such is clearly demonstrated.
5. Our staff consists of two second-year students from our Seminary and a project director in the person of Pastor R. F. Westendorf. Pastor Westendorf is responsible to a sub-committee of the Multi-Cultural Mission Committee for this project.
6. As these students return for their last year of Seminary study, one of the two will hopefully return to this ministry, along with a newly chosen second-year man, so that there will always be one experienced man on the team after the first two years.
7. The pilot project is designed to last for three years. In March of the third year (1991) the Multi-Cultural Mission Committee will decide whether or not our Wisconsin Synod should be doing mission work in this manner.

8. If the decision is negative, the project will terminate as of May 1991 and the parishioners gathered will be referred to existing congregations for further nurture.
9. If the decision is positive, the Milwaukee-area project will become a mission station of the Board for Home Missions, administered by the Multi-Cultural Mission Committee. The principles governing the pilot project will be made permanent until a need for change is apparent.
10. A positive decision on the Milwaukee-area project (called the Northside Lutheran Ministries) suggests the need to begin similar missions in other areas, perhaps Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, or other areas of Milwaukee. The district boards would be invited to suggest appropriate areas, and the Multi-Cultural Mission Committee would then tailor a program for the area, which could include the calling of a full-time man.

It was resolved to adopt the following criteria for evaluation and continuation purposes:

1. Can we find Seminary students capable of serving the economically deprived?
2. Can we maintain a minimum of twelve teaching contacts per week?

Note: Offerings, participation, communing, fellowshiping and referrals to existing congregations are all desirable, but not essential, to this ministry.

3. Can we consistently minister to the needs of the soul as well as the needs of the body?
4. Can we maintain adequate supervision of and support for this ministry?
5. If the above questions are answered affirmatively, how do we act to fund the program and expand it?

Quarterly Report
WELS MISSION TO THE ECONOMICALLY DEPRIVED.

Station NORTHSIDE LUTH. MINISTRIES
 Area 26th + NORTH
 City MILWAUKEE
 Date AUG 1, 1990

Parishioners	current	(since last report)			last report
		added	dropped	returned	
Regular (Bible classes at least twice a month)	<u>34</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>25</u>
Irregular (average contact at least once a month)	<u>30</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	—	<u>31</u>
Special (describe) <u>1 Fellowship</u> <u>1 House of Prayer</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	—	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	<u>66</u>	—	—	—	<u>58</u>
Number Baptized	<u>28</u>	—	—	—	<u>27</u>
Number Communing	<u>2</u>	—	—	—	<u>0</u>
Active in Min.	<u>0</u>	—	—	—	<u>1</u>

Children

TOTAL	<u>92</u>
in classes	<u>17</u>
local instructors	<u>0</u>
other instructors	<u>0</u>

Prospects

hot	<u>5</u>
lukewarm	<u>6</u>
cold	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	<u>15</u>

Receiving Social Aid

Regular	<u>15</u>
Occasional	<u>15</u>
TOTAL	<u>30</u>

Total Served

by this Ministry	
Current	<u>158</u>
Last Report	<u>138</u>
Cumulative	<u>192</u>

Missionaries TOM KOCK & EARLE TREPTOW
 Administrator REV. ROUFF WESTENDORF

Christ the Lord to Us is Born
 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising
 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come
 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child (LW)
 Go Tell It on the Mountain (LW)
 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
 I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes (LW)
 Joy to the World, the Lord is Come
 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice
 Now Praise We Christ, the Holy One
 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice
 O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is
 O Little Town of Bethlehem
 Of the Father's Love Begotten
 Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful
 Oh, Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly
 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing (LW)
 Once in Royal David's City (LW)

Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men
 Rejoice, Rejoice, This Happy Morn
 See In Yonder Manger Low (MISC)
 Silent Night! Holy Night!
 Sing, O Sing, This Blessed Morn (TH, 1982)
 The People That in Darkness Sat
 To Shepherds as They Watched by Night
 To Thee My Heart I Offer
 What Child Is This (LW)
 When Christmas Morn is Dawning (LBW)
 Your Little Ones, Dear Lord (LBW)

Key to abbreviations

LBW — *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 LW — *Lutheran Worship*
 MISC — *Miscellaneous Sources*
 TH, 1982 — *The Hymnal, 1982*
 WF — *Hymns of Werner Franzman*

IN THE NEWS

A new mission in Milwaukee

Two students of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary are heading a pilot project to bring the gospel to those who are beyond reach of the church's normal evangelism efforts in Milwaukee's central city.

Seminarians Brian Ewings and John Vieths, using Siloah Lutheran Church as their base, are walking the streets in some of the city's toughest neighborhoods to bring the word to the economically deprived.

"Experience has taught us," explained Pastor Rolfe Westendorf, member of the Multi-Cultural Mission Committee sponsoring the pilot project, "that some people will probably never come to church, not because they don't want to, but because they aren't able to."

"These are people," he said, "who lack resources most of us take for granted — presentable clothing, transportation, something to put in the offering, an alarm clock to get them up in time."

"Because these people lack certain financial and emotional re-



Vieths and Ewings meet with advisor Pastor Rolfe Westendorf (left).

sources, they are often neglected spiritually," said Westendorf who is pastor of Siloah and advisor to the seminarians. "They just don't fit in with our church's way of doing things."

Ewings and Vieths are not expecting to organize a new congregation in Milwaukee's inner city. But through Bible classes and Sunday school and personal witnessing they intend "to increase the communion of saints who will

one day worship in heaven," according to Westendorf.

The Multi-Cultural Mission Committee is a committee of the synod's Board for Home Missions and lends support to cross-cultural mission work especially to the Black and Hispanic communities throughout the nation.

The pilot project was made possible by a grant from the Siebert Lutheran Foundation of Wauwatosa.

Mission to the Children Guidelines

1. Historical Beginnings

When working with a UNICEF-sponsored children's humanitarian organization in 1989, a member of a WELS congregation in Tucson, Arizona was touched by the desperate poverty and tragic suffering of the children of a village called *La Ladrillera* in Northern Sonora, Mexico. After repeated trips with other WELS members to distribute food, clothing, and medicine, the families of the village asked if they would teach stories about Jesus to their children. Thus began a three-year mission of compassion to these precious little children, who struggle each day against poverty, hunger, and disease in a small rural area, just 12 miles south of the U.S.-Mexico Border.

In 1995, after an interruption of two years, two WELS members revisited *La Ladrillera*, and made a prayerful decision to revive the work of meeting the spiritual and physical needs of the children and families of the village, as well as a number of children and families from neighboring villages. *Mission to the Children* served over 125 souls, including over 60 little children, precious to Jesus. Over half the children came from other nearby villages, where the spiritual and physical needs were just as great.

To continue and, God willing, to expand both *proclamation of the Gospel and the concrete demonstration of the love of God in Jesus* among the little children and their families in the rural Mexican villages in Northern Sonora, and perhaps elsewhere along the U.S.-Mexico Border, we propose the following guidelines as a basis for the conduct of this compassionate *Mission to the Children*.

2. Scriptural Foundation

Mission to the Children provides an opportunity for our WELS laity to demonstrate their love for Christ and for their fellowmen through this two-pronged, Christ-centered, compassionate ministry.

First and foremost, *Mission to the Children* seeks to bring the Gospel of Jesus to the hearts and lives of these precious little children and their families in obedience to Christ's Great Commission:

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Mt.28:19)

Secondly, in serving these little ones and their families by attempting also to meet their physical needs, we follow the example that Jesus Himself set in His own earthly ministry. For while He welcomed everyone in love and turned no one away, He also walked much of the time - even perhaps *most* of the time - among the poor, the sick and the lepers, the lame and the blind, the suffering, the oppressed, and marginalized of His society.

"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, the epileptics and the paralytics, and he healed them." (Mt.4:23,24)

Thirdly, *Mission to the Children* seeks to provide additional opportunities for our WELS laity to respond, lovingly and gratefully, to God's Word where He commands us to care for the poor, the hungry, and the sick:

"Is this not the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter, when you see the naked, to clothe him? If you do away with the yoke of oppression... and if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness and your night will become like noonday." (Is.58:6-7,9-10)

"...when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed." (Lk.14:13)

"Command those who are rich in this present world... to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."
(1 Tim.6:18)

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." (Gal.6:9,10)

And finally, when we serve these poor little children, we serve Christ Himself, as He taught us with His words:

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me... I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Mt.25:35-36,40)

In truth, *Mission to the Children* is simply another tangible expression of our love and gratitude to our Lord Jesus Christ, and a way of revealing the gentle presence of our compassionate Savior-God in the midst of our broken, suffering, sin-cursed world.

The Little Children of La Ladrillera



*"If anyone gives a cup of cold water to one of these little ones
because he is My disciple, I tell you the truth,
he will certainly not lose his reward."*

Matthew 10:42

3. General Principles

Mission to the Children is a ministry of compassion to the poor, especially to the children living in poverty in rural Northern Mexico. All who participate in this ministry are lay-volunteers with the exception of pastoral advisors and full-time Lay-evangelists. All that we share, whether spiritual blessings, material goods, or medical services, is given away freely, *gratis*, according to Jesus' own Word and Example: "*Freely you have received, freely give.*" (Mt.10:8) All donations, whether monetary offerings, goods, or services, go directly to help the little children in Jesus' name.

Mission to the Children listens, first of all, to the families whose children we seek to serve... to better understand the depths of their suffering, to discover their greatest needs, and to learn how we can help in Christian love. We cannot come into such a situation with pre-conceived notions and pre-packaged solutions. We must instead come humbly, willing to listen and to learn, before we can truly begin to serve in a meaningful and effective way. Only then do we attempt, with God's help, to meet the needs of the children on every level.

Having identified the needs, we then seek solutions. Always, we seek to meet the great spiritual needs of the children and their families. God's Word is taught regularly to both children and adults. Baptisms are performed. Pastoral counseling is provided as needed. In everything, *Christ is held before all as Savior and Lord!*

But there are other needs to be met as well. Indeed, we see the truth of the old saying again and again: "*Empty bellies have no ears!*" We cannot only proclaim the love of God; we must demonstrate that love in concrete ways. If we preach God's love to the poor man, he may rightly ask us: "If your God loves me, if you love me as you say, why do you not give food to my hungry children?" Or as the Apostle James would say:

"Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes or daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

(Jas.2:14-17)

Therefore, we must seek also to meet the *physical* needs of the children. Staple food items may be purchased for each family, vitamins and/or milk and/or powdered formula may be provided for the children, medical attention and medicines for all who suffer from sickness and disease. Blankets might be collected, or clean, used clothing in good condition might be distributed.

Special projects might also need to be undertaken such as bringing fresh, clean water to a village; or teaching school or English classes; or having nurses instruct the village women about nutrition, sanitation, first aid, health or pre-natal care; or working to plant vegetable gardens; or starting cottage industries; or providing vocational training.

When required and/or necessary, *Mission to the Children* works with the local, state, and federal Mexican authorities according to Mexican law and government regulations.

The solutions are always suggested by the needs, by listening to the people themselves, and by praying for the guidance of God.

The programs of *Mission to the Children* offer no quick fixes. Great quantities of time, money, expertise, patience, and love must be invested in every village, in every family, in every child!

At the same time, we are careful not to create or promote an unhealthy dependence on our aid. Ultimately, we hope to help the people of the villages become *self-sufficient* with regard to their material needs. "*Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.*" When a village becomes self-sufficient, *Mission to the Children* is free to move on to help other villages down the road, who need God's love and help just as desperately, while continuing our Gospel proclamation and spiritual ministry to all the children in all the villages we are able to reach.

4. Support

All support for *Mission to the Children* comes from (1) the donations and gifts of private individuals, (2) donations and gifts from organizations and groups within WELS congregations, (3) donations and grants from individual WELS congregations, groups of WELS congregations within a certain locale, or federations of WELS congregations, (4) donations, gifts, or grants from WELS Synodical committees, (5) gifts or grants from WELS national organizations, and (6) gifts or grants from outside, non-WELS sources or organizations where appropriate. In addition, *Mission to the Children* seeks the expertise, knowledge, experience, and advice of professional people as needed. And perhaps most important of all, we seek the prayers of our fellow Christians.

5. Staff

(A) **Field Mission Team.** Each Field Mission Team shall be comprised of (1) the Lay-evangelist, (2) the Doctor, (3) the Materials Coordinator, and (4) the Special Needs Coordinator. Each one of these individuals is permitted to have as many volunteer aides as is necessary to serve the children in Jesus' name effectively with regard to their various areas of responsibility.

(1) **Lay-evangelist.** This layman is primarily responsible for initiating, coordinating, and implementing a program which addresses the *spiritual needs* of the children and their families. Such programs may include Sunday School lessons for the children, Bible classes for the adults, worship services for the community, the proper administration of the Holy Sacraments, and counseling in spiritual matters as needed. The Lay-evangelist serves as a part-time volunteer until the time when the needs and potential of the Gospel ministry in a particular village demonstrate and justify a full-time, salaried Lay-evangelist.

Other volunteer lay-persons may be recruited to assist the Lay-evangelist in carrying out these vitally important programs, and the participation of interested WELS Pastors is always welcome.

(2) Doctor/Nurses. A liscensed, practicing doctor of good standing shall serve as the Mission Team's medical coordinator, shall be primarily responsible for the medical staff, and shall provide health care, medical services, examinations, innoculations, and medication in meeting the medical needs of the children and the community.

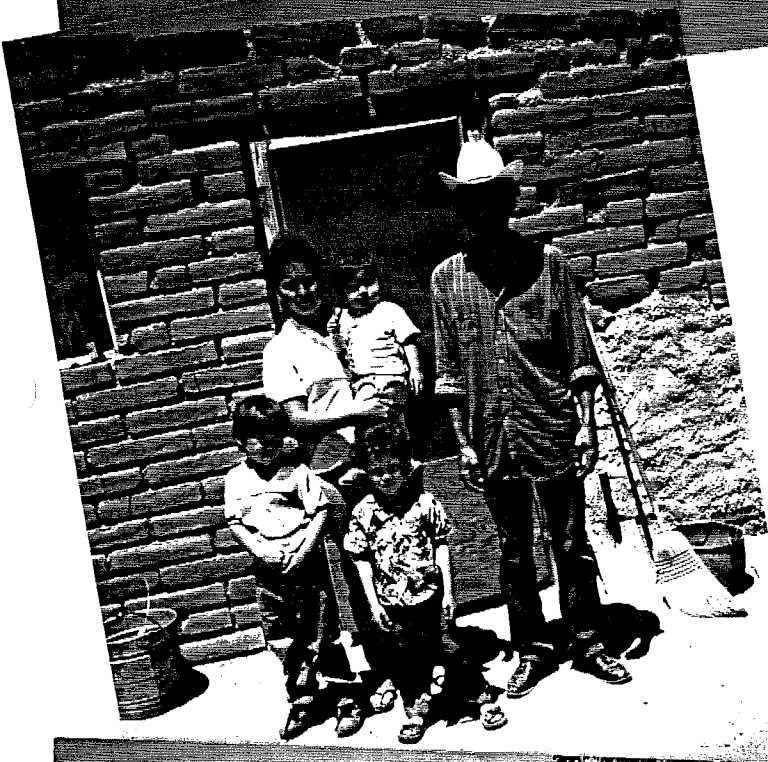
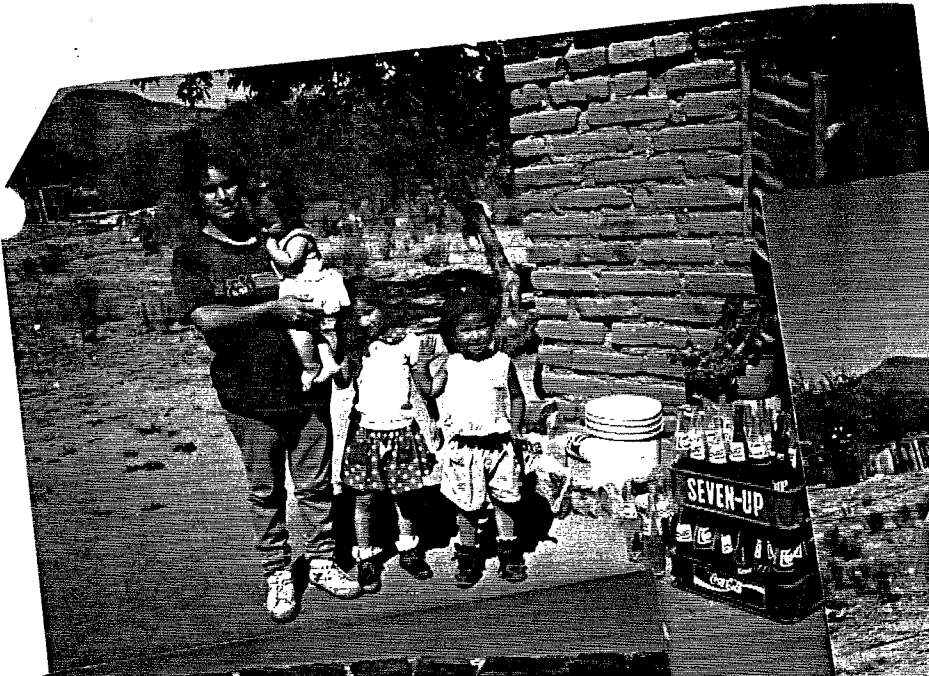
The doctor will work with other doctors, nurses, or nurse practitioners when necessary and practical in caring for the health of the children, as well as with nearby Mexican doctors when feasible, and will draw on his contacts in the medical field, as much as possible, in obtaining necessary medicines, equipment, and materials. Nurses and nurse practitioners can assist with the medical program as directed by the doctor.

In addition, the doctor and/or nurses should provide training for the women of the village in the areas of health care, nutrition, sanitation, pre-natal, neo-natal and child care, and first aid. If possible, one or two women of the village should be trained to handle both emergencies and routine medical situations as rural health care workers.

(3) Materials Coordinator. This lay-person will be primarily responsible for coordinating the requests, collection, and distribution of the basic items needed by the children and their families, such as food, vitamins, used clothing, shoes for the children, school supplies, blankets, etc. In each area of need, the Materials Coordinator may appoint other laymen or lay-women to assist in carrying out this responsibility economically, efficiently, and effectively.

(4) Special Needs Coordinator. This lay-person shall be responsible for determining the special needs of the community, and the feasibility of meeting those special needs. If a special program is deemed feasible, the Special Needs Coordinator will take whatever steps are necessary to meet the special needs of the children, the families, or the village, such as providing sanitation or a source of clean water, initiate a garden program, vocational training, or cottage industries, provide transportation or education for the children, etc. The Special Needs Coordinator shall call upon either other lay-people or professionals with expertise for advice and/or aid in meeting the special needs of the community.

(B) Field Supervisor. The various Field Mission Teams shall come under the direct supervision of the Field Supervisor. This lay-person shall supervise the work of the Mission Teams in Mexico, be available to the Lay-evangelists and other Mission team members for advice, and report directly to the *Mission to the Children* Committee, serving as liason between the Mission Team and the Committee. The Field Supervisor shall visit each Mission Program regularly, and shall serve on the *Mission to the Children* Committee.



(C) *Mission to the Children* Committee. This six-member Committee shall be the "governing body" of the *Mission to the Children* Program. Committee members shall include the following lay-people with voting privileges:

(1) *President*. The President shall reside over the meetings of the *Mission to the Children* Committee and its executive board; execute the business enacted; and make regular and timely reports to the Executive Committee for Latin America and other Synodical bodies as necessary.

(2) *Secretary*. The Secretary shall keep minutes and records; write general correspondence as directed; and assist in the production and distribution of public relations materials.

(3) *Treasurer*. The Treasurer shall keep records of expenditures; prepare reports, budgets, and requisitions; serve as the official contact with the Synod's fiscal office and Field Mission Teams in regard to finances; serve as financial secretary to record and acknowledge gifts, donations, and grants; and file regular reports of all income and expenses.

(4) *Contact Coordinator*. The Contact Coordinator shall be primarily responsible for the public relations programs, developing videos, displays, bulletin inserts, newsletters, etc., and for answering requests for information about the work of *Mission to the Children*.

(5) *Field Supervisor*. The Field Supervisor, as the one person most familiar with the work of all Field Mission Teams, shall report to the *Mission to the Children* Committee, serving as advisor to the Committee, and holding one vote.

(6) *Medical Advisor*. One of the Mission Team Doctors shall serve as Medical Advisor to the *Mission to the Children* Committee, sharing his knowledge, expertise, and advice on all medical matters.

A Pastor Advisor shall also attend all *Mission to the Children* Committee meetings, providing spiritual guidance and practical advice as needed. The Pastoral Advisor is not a voting member of the Committee, but may vote to break a tie.

Any or all the members of any of the Field Mission Teams are welcome to attend the *Mission to the Children* Committee meetings, and are encouraged to do so. In addition, at least one of the Lay-evangelists shall attend the Committee meetings in an advisory capacity.

Mission to the Children Committee meetings shall be held at least monthly, and more often if needed. Committee members should live in close proximity to each other to facilitate meeting together. Their appointments shall be for three years each, with replacement or reappointment by the Executive Committee for Latin America each fall on a 2-2-2 consecutive basis.

Necessary *Mission to the Children* Committee business may be conducted by its Executive Board consisting of the president, secretary, and contact coordinator. Such business shall be ratified at the following plenary session.

The *Mission to the Children* Committee shall make regular and timely reports directly to the Executive Committee for Latin America, which shall, in turn, regularly consider the programs of *Mission to the Children*, and advise the *Mission to the Children* Committee in the administration of its programs. Minutes, treasurer's reports, and other reports shall be sent to the Executive Committee for Latin America members.

6. Lines of Communication

(A) From the *Mission to the Children* Committee to the Mission Teams:

All official correspondence with the field mission teams shall be the responsibility of the president in the case of Committee matters, the doctor in the case of medical matters, and the treasurer in the case of financial matters.

Copies of all official *Mission to the Children* Committee correspondence are also to be sent to the Field Supervisor and the chairman of the Executive Committee for Latin America.

(B) From the Field Mission Teams to the *Mission to the Children* Committee:

All official correspondence and reports concerning the various aspects of the field programs will be sent to the president and secretary of the *Mission to the Children* Committee as well as to the Field Supervisor.

7. Financial Matters

(A) Income. All funds received in any manner are to be reported and deposited in a *Mission to the Children* checking and/or savings account by the Committee treasurer. Disposition of these funds is to be determined by vote of the *Mission to the Children* Committee, and all funds are to be disbursed by the Committee treasurer. Monthly reports of income and expenditures are to be reviewed by the Committee, and sent to the Executive Committee for Latin America, with copies to the Field Supervisor and all Mission Team members.

(B) Use of funds in the field. Funds are to be transmitted to the field by the *Mission to the Children* Committee treasurer upon request by the Mission Team Lay-evangelist and as approved by the Committee. Funds transmitted to the field shall be kept in the possession of the Lay-evangelist. Funds shall be administered by the Lay-evangelist as determined and approved by consensus of Field Mission Team members. The Lay-evangelist reserves the final decision regarding the spending of Mission Team funds. Disagreements regarding the spending of Mission Team funds are to be settled by the decision of the Field Supervisor.

(C) **Requests for funds from the field.** Requests for funds by the Doctor, the Materials Coordinator, and the Special Needs Coordinator shall be made to the Lay-evangelist. Determination of proper requests shall be made by Mission Team consensus. Requests for funds for the Mission Team shall be sent to the Treasurer of the *Mission to the Children* Committee, with a copy to the Field Supervisor. The Lay-evangelist retains the right to veto funding requests. Disagreements regarding funding requests are to be settled by the decision of the Field Supervisor.

(D) **Monthly financial reports from the field.** Regular monthly financial reports showing income and disbursements for the Field Mission Team shall be sent to the *Mission to the Children* Committee treasurer and president, with a copy sent to the Field Supervisor. The Field Mission Team financial report shall be the responsibility of the Lay-evangelist, who is responsible for all funds entrusted to the Mission Team.

(E) **Special funds.** Special funds sent directly to the Field Mission Team shall be forwarded to the treasurer of the *Mission to the Children* Committee for future disbursement. These funds shall be deposited with other *Mission to the Children* funds. Gifts given for special projects for certain Mission Team projects are to be earmarked for those projects, and utilized to carry out those projects only.

(F) **Field working fund.** A working fund of \$200 shall be entrusted to the Lay-evangelist, and disbursed by consensus of the Mission Team. The Lay-evangelist reserves the right to veto requests from Mission Team members regarding the use of the working funds. Disagreements regarding the use of the working funds will be settled by the decision of the Field Supervisor.

(G) **Field working fund report.** An accounting of disbursements from the working fund shall be included in the Lay-evangelist's monthly financial report to the treasurer and president of the *Mission to the Children* Committee, with a copy to the Field Supervisor.

(H) **Monthly program financial reports.** Regular monthly financial reports showing all income and disbursements for the total *Mission to the Children* program, including the monthly financial reports from the Field Mission Teams, shall be prepared by the Committee treasurer each month, and sent to the Committee president, secretary, and contact coordinator, the Field Supervisor, the members of the Mission Teams, and the members of the Executive Committee for Latin America.

(I) **Full-time salaried Lay-evangelist.** In the event that a full-time, salaried Lay-evangelist is deemed necessary at a mission station, the salary shall be provided from *Mission to the Children* funds. The full-time, salaried Lay-evangelist can be called by the Executive Committee for Latin America to work for a period of two or three years. Salary shall be determined by the Executive Committee for Latin America. Funds for salary purposes be provided from any source *other than the Synodical budget*.

(J) **Annual budget.** An annual budget is to be prepared in written form for the fiscal year, July 1 through June 30, and is to be submitted to the *Mission to the Children* Committee by March 1 of each year. The treasurer shall receive the initial input from the field and prepare the final draft.

(K) **Annual Mission Team financial statement.** An annual printed financial statement is to be made at the close of each fiscal year by each Field Mission Team, detailing their income and expenditures, and sent to the Field Supervisor and members of the *Mission to the Children* Committee.

(L) **Annual program financial statement.** An annual printed financial statement for all Field Mission Teams and the *Mission to the Children* total program is to be made at the close of each fiscal year, and copies are to be forwarded to the Field Mission Team members, the Field Supervisor, members of the *Mission to the Children* Committee, members of the Executive Committee for Latin America, and the Executive Secretary of the Board for World Missions.

8. Amendments

Proposals for amendments to these guidelines shall be submitted in writing to all members of the *Mission to the Children* Committee and the Field Supervisor for comment. Proposed amendments shall be adopted by majority vote of the *Mission to the Children* Committee when approved by the Executive Committee for Latin America.

Mission to the Children

Program and Organization Guidelines
September, 1995



*"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me,
and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven
belongs to such as these.'"*

Matthew 19:14

Appendix 4