

### Executive Director of LCMS World Mission visits Mission Central

What a blessing that the number one man in LCMS World Mission, the Honorable Rev. Dr. Tom Zehnder, Executive Director of the Board for Missions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod from St. Louis, Missouri came to visit for two days at Mission Central! Pastor Zehnder wanted to know exactly “what is going on at Mission Central and see how God is blessing the work of 44 Volunteers and 7 Volunteer Pilots”! The days were spent examining how the “model” for this amazing ministry out here in the cornfields of Iowa could be of help in the offices in St. Louis. Rev. Zehnder was very, very interested in seeing how all of the Volunteers have worked and what their special assignments have been over the years. Each year for the last 15 years God has continued to allow Mission Central to support more and more missionaries each year, with 2008 being the greatest year for Mission Support ever! Pastor Zehnder was a former Missionary to the far East, and also served as President of the Florida-Georgia District for a number of years. He had never had the opportunity to come and visit and was so happy to meet some of the staff and taste some of Maxine’s cooking! It is our prayer that some of the information shared will help in some way to be for efficient, effective and helpful to sending more missionaries to tell people about our Savior Jesus around the world.

### Missionaries from Kyrgyzstan visit Mission Central



Mike and Ann Wade

Mike and Ann Wade, our Agricultural Missionaries from the mountain country of Kyrgyzstan, came and told of their work among the Dungan people. Mike and Ann are special missionaries working to help raise the standard of living and provide more food for the Dungan people who live in Kyrgyzstan in Southeastern Russia, next the Chinese border. These missionaries are very well known in our District having traveled here for programs for many years. They told of how they had introduced several new varieties of crops and that these crops are helping in such a powerful way. They have the opportunity to witness for

the Lord Jesus, and tell these mountain people about their Savior who died for them. Most of these people are Muslim. However, since 2000 God has blessed our work in this country and we now have 56 new congregations! With the aid of some fertilizer and some chemicals, these remote farmers have been amazed at the increase in the yield of their crops. The introduction of “Hybrid Seedcorn” has made a huge difference, and Mike has been able to bring some new varieties of garden vegetables that have helped the people so much. When these groups are gathered together, they have Bible Study and are introduced to the God who provides these gifts to them.

### Iowa District West Missionaries meet at Mission Central



Rev. Mark Gerken (right), Rev. Henry Witte (left) and Rev. Dan Vogel (middle).

It was truly a special day when three of our Iowa District West missionaries came to meet at Mission Central. Rev. Mark Gerken, Rev. Henry Witte and Rev. Dan Vogel all met in our offices to discuss the Hispanic Outreach ministry here in Iowa District West. Rev. Witte told of his contacts with four ESL classes in Sioux City and Rev. Vogel was able to share some of the things that are happening at Denison and Storm Lake. It was a day that the three could coordinate their schedules and shape a further vision for “Reaching out with the Gospel” to the people from Spanish speaking countries that God is sending to Iowa District West. At noon the entire group met with a visiting foreign missionary family, and also had a noon meal together! Our volunteer video director, Lloyd Boettcher from Storm Lake was also present that day and provided the DVD interview for the missionaries. God has blessed us with some wonderful missionaries in Iowa District West and is using them to touch the lives of people that He is bringing here to learn about Jesus!



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