

# LCMS Mission Focus

ASIAN AMERICAN

At the launching of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) Center for Asian Missions and Evangelism (CAME) in May 1998, there were 48 LCMS Asian missions in North America. Today, there are 178. CAME’s purpose is to equip and empower Lutherans to reach out with the Gospel to the 97 percent of Asian Americans who are unchurched. The largest ethnic groups among Asian immigrants are the Chinese, Asian Indians, Vietnamese and Koreans, with each of these groups hovering around 2 million. Most of these people are of Buddhist or Hindu backgrounds. CAME was first established on the East Coast, but has expanded to other geographic areas.

New missions are launching in various locations across the nation. One example is among the Malayalam-speaking Asian Indian community in Texas, where the first LCMS Malayalam missionary, Rev. Abu Thampan, will work among this previous uncultivated mission field. New work continues to expand among Hmong, Vietnamese, Chinese and Korean groups as well.

One of the challenges is to recruit Asian Americans into the ministry, so existing or new congregations will have pastors who speak the language and understand the culture. Training is coordinated with the Mission Training Center at Concordia University, Bronxville, N.Y., and the new Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.



Jotham Johann Jhang, Executive Director of CAME, states, “What a privilege it is for Lutherans like us to take part in the life-transforming work of the Gospel! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will focus our endeavors upon those Asian Americans who live and work close to where we live and work. We will sit next to them at the restaurant. I encourage you now to engage them. Relate to them. Encourage members of your church to look at ministry among them!”

- CAME Web site: [www.camelutheran.org](http://www.camelutheran.org)
- Subscribe to “Building Bridges Newsletter” or order a directory of Asian congregations: [CAMElcms@aol.com](mailto:CAMElcms@aol.com)
- Contact Rev. Jotham Johann Jhang at 1-800-637-5723, X214, or E-mail: [camelcms@aol.com](mailto:camelcms@aol.com)

### Involvement Ideas

- Learn more about LCMS Asian American mission work.
- Pray for LCMS Asian missions in the United States.



LCMS WORLD MISSION  
The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod  
1333 S. Kirkwood Road  
St. Louis, MO 63122-7295  
1-800-433-3954  
[www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org)

Date 3/03

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