



## 2015 Report

### *En Misión con El Salvador: In Mission with El Salvador*

Since 2013 The Rev. Dr. Brian Rude has served as a deployed staff member of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories serving in El Salvador. In addition to his ministry of accompaniment in El Salvador within prisons, congregations and communities, Pastor Rude spent much of January 2015 speaking and sharing in several locations throughout our Synod. Thank you to the congregations who hosted these presentations: Hosanna, Edmonton; Grace, Hinton; Grace, Wetaskiwin; Good Shepherd, Red Deer; Church of the Cross, Calgary; Messiah, Camrose; the High River-Okotoks Parish; and the Lutheran Campus Ministry Young Adult Retreat at Camp Kuriakos.

As an on-going evaluative and accountability piece of this ministry Bishop Larry Kochendorfer facilitated, with assistance from Pastor Rude, a Synod Delegation to El Salvador, March 17-31, 2015. The Synod Delegation experienced, embraced and engaged the contexts and ministries of *En Misión con El Salvador – In Mission with El Salvador*, including ministries within prisons, communities and congregations; built relationships with our sisters and brothers in Christ in El Salvador; participated in the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Congregational partnership between The Divine Redeemer Lutheran, San Miguel and Hosanna Lutheran, Edmonton; and sought an expanded global understanding of faithful discipleship through the El Salvadoran Lutheran context.

One of the gifts of the 2015 Synod Delegation to El Salvador was meeting El Salvadoran Lutheran artist, Christian Chavarria Ayala. Through financial support from the Lutheran Triune Educational and Benevolent Society of Calgary our Synod was able to bring Christian to Alberta for a three-week journey throughout our Synod. It was a gift to welcome him and to host him in our Synod.

"In Canada you are born, you live, you die. In El Salvador you are born, you survive, you die." These were words often spoken by Christian as he shared at congregations, cluster gatherings, campus ministries, Young Adults Campus Ministry retreat, Annual Study Conference, and so on. His personal story of violence, death, living as a refugee in Honduras and later in Sweden, undergirded by great hope in the promise of God, impacted all those who heard him. Christian's sharing included an encouragement to all to journey to El Salvador as a gift and sign of hope to sisters and brothers there. Many purchased his art, primarily painted crosses, and some (those at the Young Adults Retreat) sought to paint in his unique style. "The civil war was a turning point in my life.

My brother's death at 18 changed the course of my life and my mind about wanting to be actively involved in fighting in the war. As a child I wanted revenge for my family's deaths. As I grew older, I learned to know what is just and what is unjust. I learned how to face life without guns and how to respect life. Suffering taught me to be thankful to God for everything God gives us every day." While at the Annual Study Conference Christian painted a cross as a gift to our Synod which will be used as a processional cross. You can find more information about Christian and his personal story, 'Afflicted with Hope,' here: <http://www.embracingelsalvador.org/christian-armando-chavarria-ayala>.

Throughout 2015 Pastor Brian accompanied many groups and individuals in El Salvador, for example: a diverse and enthusiastic group of youth from three United Church of Canada congregations in Toronto; Caleb Sorenson, from Grace Lutheran, Hinton who spent one month in El Salvador; a student group from Saskatchewan, which included one student from LCBI, Outlook, SK, and one student from Luther College, Regina, SK (both of whom Pastor Brian saw again in October, at their respective schools); and a team of "Habitat for Humanity" volunteers from Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lethbridge.

Ministry in 2015 included participation in the 4th Triannual Partner Parish / Synod Encounter with dozens of Lutheran Church partners, primarily from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, with participants from Finland and Germany; and on-going Board work through CRISPAZ ([www.crispaz.org](http://www.crispaz.org)).

Late summer included a pilgrimage through parts of western Canada where Pastor Brian had been asked to speak at the Restorative Justice Conference in Saskatoon, Oct 1-3 (Micah Mission & St. Thomas More College, invited by Rev. Dr. Cam Harder). This opportunity enabled him to engage with several congregations and ministries including Lutheran Church of the Cross, Calgary; Messiah, Camrose; Hastings Lake Bible Camp; participation at the "Retreat of Our Own", Canmore; the new Lutheran community at Warman, SK; LCBI, Outlook, SK; and Luther College, Regina, SK.

*En Misión con El Salvador: In Mission with El Salvador* operates with directed gifts from congregations and individuals only, with gifts received in 2015 used for expenses in 2016. You are welcome to partner with us by offering prayers and by contributing financially with a gift sent to the "Alberta Synod" clearly marked for "In Mission with El Salvador."

Thanks for your support for our two-way ministry with our sisters and brothers in El Salvador.

The following represents a record of income and expenses for the ministry offered by The Rev. Dr. Brian Rude through *En Misión con El Salvador: In Mission with El Salvador*, since its inception.

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<u>December 31,</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Surplus/Deficit carried forward		-\$6,328	\$10,405	\$17,358
<b>REVENUE</b>				
<i>Previous year's income available</i>				
<i>for current year's expenses</i>				
ABT Synod Congregations	\$32,272	\$39,650	\$36,705	\$35,080
Individuals from ABT Synod		\$6,600	\$5,795	\$3,331
ABT Synod Conventions/Conferences Congregations/Individuals		\$1,408	\$4,589	\$2,005
beyond ABT Synod	<u>\$1,057</u>	<u>\$14,525</u>	<u>\$12,300</u>	<u>\$7,045</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$33,329</b>	<b>\$62,183</b>	<b>\$59,389</b>	<b>\$47,461</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Salary & Benefits	\$32,086	\$40,167	\$39,918	
Travel	\$4,471	\$5,283	\$10,083	
Other (legal, program review)	<u>\$3,100</u>	_____	<u>\$2,435</u>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$39,657</b>	<b>\$45,450</b>	<b>\$52,436</b>	
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(\$6,328)</b>	<b>\$10,405</b>	<b>\$17,358</b>	<b>\$64,819</b>