



**NEWS RELEASE: SYNOD OF ALBERTA AND THE TERRITORIES**

***AN INVITATION TO COVENANT TOGETHER WITH YOU***

***FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY IN EL SALVADOR***

January 18, 2013

**The Synod of Alberta and the Territories is pleased to welcome**

**The Rev. Brian Rude**

**to serve on our behalf *“En Misión con El Salvador: In Mission with El Salvador”***

In May, 2012 the congregations of this Synod in Convention mandated that a way be found to financially support the on-going ministry of the Rev. Brian Rude in El Salvador. After examining all the options, the Synod Council created a new program: *“En Misión con El Salvador: In Mission with El Salvador”* with Pastor Brian Rude serving as program staff. This missional program will be supported by the prayers and directed gifts of congregations and individuals.

Pastor Brian serves as a chaplain in the prisons of El Salvador where the most disadvantaged struggle to survive. Amazingly, it is in this culture that a peace process has developed – giving hope to the country.

Pastor Brian’s missionary service began in 1988 as he worked with an orphanage of the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod. In 1994, his focus shifted to HIV/AIDS ministry. He helped to develop Quetzalcoatl, a foundation that promotes human well-being, self-esteem and AIDS prevention among prison inmates and programs for at-risk youth in marginalized neighbourhoods in the capital city of San Salvador. This led to his current chaplaincy work as prison chaplain.

Many congregations and individuals – including some from across this country and from Europe – have asked how they may be involved in supporting this ministry realizing that the mission will continue only with directed gifts and prayer support. You are welcome to contribute financially by sending your gift to the “Alberta Synod” clearly marked for “In Mission with El Salvador”.

Regular reports from Pastor Brian will be shared with you through the synod mailings, in the Alberta section of the “Canada Lutheran”, published on our website ([www.albertasynod.ca](http://www.albertasynod.ca)) and through our e-news list. For more information or clarification, please contact Sharon Villetard at the synod office ([info@albertasynod.ca](mailto:info@albertasynod.ca)).