





"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved" John 10:9

Newsletter of the Central Illinois District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

2022: Issue 3



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"Honored to Serve the CID"

Rev. Michael W. Mohr elected 17th President of the Central Illinois District

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

What an honor these past few months as the process worked its way to find me elected as the 17th President of the Central Illinois District. I started life in the CID (I lived in Oreana through the start of junior high and attended St. Paul-Decatur during that time), and returned to the district after graduating from the St. Louis Seminary. My entire 24 year pastoral career has been spent here in CID, serving Grace-Strasburg for 20 years and then Holy Cross-Vandalia for the four years just prior to my election. During this time, I'd served the district through various positions, from the Pastors' Conference Committee to Circuit Visitor to Secretary (or Assistant Secretary) of the Board of Directors. I am now honored to serve you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, as District President.



Rev. Michael W. Mohr, CID President

As we face the challenges that come before us, the common path we follow can best be summarized by the words uttered by the Mother of our Lord when she received the news from the Archangel Gabriel that the Incarnation was being accomplished in her womb - "Let it be to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38) As we continue our journey together here in the Central Illinois District, let us always look to God and His Word to shape and form our life together, not only as we interact with one another within our parishes, but also as we reach out into our communities.

God's continued blessing be upon you all.

- Rev. Michael W. Mohr, CID President mmohr@cidlcms.org

(Luke 1:38)

"Let it be to me according to your word."







LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison preaches at the Sunday night Worship Service.



A packed house at the convention.

The 60th Regular Convention of the CID

The 60th Convention of the Central Illinois District (CID) of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the 9th Convention of the CID Church Extension Fund, Inc. (CID-CEF) was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Illinois, on July 17-19, 2022.

Election Results

President – Rev. Michael Mohr

1st Vice President – Rev. Mark Eddy

2nd Vice President – Rev. Mike Burdick

Board of Directors

Secretary – Rev. Kent Umbarger

Assistant Secretary – Rev. Marcus Manley

Treasurer – John Myers, Jr.

Financial Secretary – James Frazee

Clergy (4) – Reverends Jeffrey Caithamer, Peter Glock,

Bruce Scarbeary, Kevin Wendorf

Teachers (2) – Brian Carr, John Jacob

Layman (4) – Tom Blessman, Larry Wachtel,

Robert Dalton, Roger Garlisch

Congregational Constitutions and District Handbook Committee

Clergy (2) — Reverends Daniel Bishop, Kent Tibben Lay Attorney (1) — Greg Townsend

Nominations Committee 2025 CID Convention

Clergy (2) — Reverends Joshua Theilen, Michael Schuermann

Teachers (2) — Lisa Dipple, Robinette Flach Lay (2) — Dan Block, Raymond Stuckemeyer

Nominations Committee 2023 LCMS Convention

Lay (1) — Matt Putnam

Circuit Visitors

Altamont Ryan Meyers

Bloomington North Jonathon Boehne

Bloomington South Chad Lueck (Jonathan Huehn)

ChampaignMichael SchuermannDecaturDavid BueltmannEffinghamStephen RutherfordIroquoisH. Douglas MintonJacksonvilleBrian LesemannLincolnDavid Dunlop

Matthew Montgomery

PeoriaKarl EckhoffQuincyMichael Grieve

Rock Island Kent Umbarger (Tim Nerud)

Shelby Nathan Woolery

Springfield East (to be appointed) (Matt Schneider)

Springfield West Martin Kaufmann
Tazewell Jeffrey Anderson

Names in parentheses have been appointed after the District Convention because the approved Circuit Visitors were elected to other positions.

Endowment Fund Board of Directors

There were five trustees to be elected to the Board of Directors of the Endowment Board. The following were elected:

Mr. Jeff Bonnett, Rev. Martin Eden, Mr. Richard McMullen, Ms. Cheryl Neal, and Rev. Gaylord Spilker.



The 60th Regular Convention of the CID (continued from Page 2)

2022 Approved Convention Resolutions

Resolution R2022-01 Inviting People to Church Services

Resolution R2022-02 To Encourage Church Planting Considerations

Resolution R2022-03 To Provide for 1.1.1 Giving within the Central Illinois District

Resolution R2022-04 To Affirm the Church's Freedom to Celebrate the Divine Service

Resolution R2022-05 To Amend District Bylaw on Human Care Committee

Resolution R2022-06 To Give More Direct Attention to the CID Archives and its Function of Maintaining an Accurate History of the District

Resolution R2022-07 To Expand Circuit C-WOWs to include Laity

Resolution R2022-08 To Reject the Practice of So-Called "Internet Communion"

Resolution R2022-09 To Amend and Update Selected Bylaws of the CID

Resolution R2022-10 To Encourage Congregations and Circuits to Support Local Life Ministries

Resolution R2022-11 To Address Scriptural Errors in Fellowship with the JLC (Japan Lutheran Church)

Resolution R2022-12 To Affirm the God-given Distinctions between the Two Sexes

CID Church Extension Fund (CID-CEF)

<u>CID-CEF Announces the Second Investment Certificate</u> Interest Rate Increase This Summer!

The CID-CEF has raised interest rates on our investment certificates for the second time this summer! The following interest rates are effective beginning August 19, 2022:

<u>Term</u>	<u>Rate</u>
6 month	0.30%
1 year	1.00%
3 year	1.50%
5 year	1.75%
Special 2 year term!	1.50%

Please consider an investment with the CID-CEF where you will not only earn a financial return on your investment but will be blessed knowing you are investing in the future of the LCMS within the Central Illinois District!

Second Opportunity for Ministry Outreach Grants

The CID-CEF awards Ministry Outreach Grants (MOG) twice a year, and the deadline for the second round is rapidly approaching. Applications should be received by the CID-CEF no later than October 1 for consideration at the October Board of Trustees meeting. These grants are provided to assist our congregations, agencies, and individuals carry out the mission and ministry of the LCMS, with special consideration given to new and innovative opportunities addressing the issues and concerns confronting our District and its congregations. For more information and for an application, please visit our website at www.cid-cef.org, then look under "Grants" and "Ministry Outreach Grants." You can also email us at cef@cidlcms.org or call our office at (217) 793-1802 to obtain a copy of the application. May the Lord guide you to embark on an opportunity to minister to others in our Central Illinois District!

9th Regular Convention

The 9th Regular Convention of the CID-CEF was held during the CID District Convention on July 18. Following are highlights from our convention:



- Two new resolutions were passed by the delegates at the convention:
 - o To Affirm the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund
 - o To Continue Uninterrupted Operations of the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund
- A new Board of Trustees was elected, passing unanimously:
 - o President Darin Gehrke
 - o Vice President David Ward
 - o Secretary/Treasurer Carol Radtke
 - o Trustee-Minister of Religion Rev. Charles Olander
 - o Trustee-Minister of Religion Rev. Chad Lueck
 - o Trustee Kim Kleinschmidt
 - o Trustee K. Rick Keller
- Service awards were presented to former President Kevin Schultz for thirteen years of service and no longer eligible for re-election, and to trustees Rev. Terry O'Brien and Dale Wolff, both with seven years of service and leaving the Board.
- The David L. Goldhammer Award for Outstanding Service was awarded to Kim Kleinschmidt for his previous twelve years serving on the Board in the capacity of President and Vice-President during that time.



Worth considering: Back to Church?

This is an article from See? WOW!, the newsletter for CID Witness and Outreach workers. Read all back issues at cidlcms.org/outreach-cwow.html

People are coming back to church since the pandemic. The "who" and the "how" behind this headline may prove a bit surprising.

The Barna research group recently released findings of a survey it took in January, 2022 (in an article "A New Chapter in Millennial Church Attendance"). Among Millennials (now aged 26-41), weekly church attendance has increased since 2019 from an anemic 21% to 39%. The latter figure is still depressingly low, but note that it amounts to a near-doubling during a time of pandemic! For Gen X (those now aged 42-57), attendance has also risen somewhat. By contrast, the church attendance of Boomers (those 58-76) has most recently fallen off after it went up briefly in 2020.

Online services play a big role, for they are included in these figures. Online services "debuted" in 2020 and boosted the numbers. Then in 2021 "the novelty seemed to have worn off," Barna Associate Vice President Daniel Copeland said, and attendance (including online) declined. But in early 2022 church attendance, especially on the part of younger generations, was bouncing back.

Again, note who and how. The significant increase in church attendance by Millennials is attributable largely to people in this age range who are not white. In the 2022 study, 45% of nonwhite Millennials were attending church each week as compared to 35% of white Millennials.

And how were they attending? One third of Millennials, more than Gen Xers or Boomers, reported that they are attending church both online and in person rather than strictly one way or the other. Millennials also turned out to be the most likely generation of the three to attend several churches. For their part, Boomers were the most likely to have dropped out of church altogether. In the survey, almost one-quarter of them said that they have stopped attending church entirely.

Here are some inferences that I draw for evangelism and outreach to inactive members:

- 1. Online church attendance is certainly a reality that must be faced. 20% of those in the survey, across all generations, indicated that they attend church primarily online. But more people, 26%, are attending partly in-person as well as partly online. Especially with the latter group there are opportunities to highlight the value of in-person churchgoing and lead them further and further in this direction.
- 2. The fact that non-white Millennials are especially interested in church is good news for congregations whose members are mostly white. Non-white Millennials may be more interested in checking out such a church online than they would be in coming to its services at first. So proclaim the Law in all its severity and the Gospel in all its sweetness online, and trust the Holy Spirit to reach hearts. And do not fail to invite online viewers to come to your church.
- 3. Online tools must be used to invite and exhort also church members to attend services in person. CID started dabbling at this with our weekly "Pass This On" messages during the pandemic. Should we revive them, or produce something else along similar lines? Let me know your thoughts.
- 4. Don't forget ministry to older adults. Boomers are the least likely of the three generations to sit home and just take in church virtually, but they are also the most likely to drop out altogether. Perhaps some of them have valid health concerns, while others may be needlessly fearful. Yet they all need attention.



Retirement!

The CID Board of Directors held a farewell dinner for out-going CID President Rev. Mark Miller on August 24th at Our Savior's, Springfield. President Miller is pictured with his wife, Deb.



for your many years of service to the CID.



New Accreditation for Three CID Schools

National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) encourages and recognizes Lutheran schools that provide quality Christian education and engage in continuous improvement.

It is entirely voluntary and is available for every school operated by a single congregation, an association of congregations, or a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or the Lutheran Church—Canada.

NLSA serves a variety of levels of schools — early childhood, elementary and high schools, and all combinations of those mentioned above. It helps Lutheran schools evaluate their academic quality and the spiritual dimension of the school. The standards and report forms are similar to other accrediting processes, both secular and religious.

During this last school year, three of our CID Lutheran schools completed their re-accreditation. Each of these schools completed a year-long self-study to review their schools based on a list of national standards. After completing the self-study, a validation team visited the school for three days. During the visit, the team reviewed the self-study documents, visited classrooms, and met with stakeholders. Upon the end of their visit, the validation team makes a recommendation for accreditation and produces a School Action Plan. This plan guides the school with recommendations for the next five years.

Congratulations to the following schools:

Altamont Lutheran Interparish School – Altamont, IL Lutheran High School – Springfield, IL Our Savior's Lutheran School – Springfield, IL

These schools join the following schools in our District that are accredited.

St. John's Lutheran School – Mattoon, IL St. Paul's Lutheran School – Milford, IL Concordia Lutheran School – Peoria, IL Trinity Lutheran School – Springfield, IL



Our Savior's Accreditation — Becky Heppe , Trip Rodgers, and Carmen Yagow



Altamont Lutheran Interparish School Accreditation — Robi Flach and Trip Rodgers

Benefits of Accreditation

Publicly acknowledges the quality of the school through an objective outside agency

Employs the expertise of an objective site validation team

Validates the mission of the school

Measures a school with a set of objective national standards

Examines the spiritual component of the school

Identifies and celebrates the strengths of the school

Pinpoints weaknesses for correction

Provides a solid foundation for faculty professional development

Provides accountability for the school, constituents, congregation, and school community

Provides the "blueprint" for school improvement for the next five years

Involves the support and involvement of a broad constituency

Provides the opportunity for public acknowledgment and celebration

Connects a school to a network of several hundred LCMS accredited schools



A Dollar for Missions

Small gifts add up when put together. Just ask the LWML. Every year, the ladies see how coins from countless "Mite Boxes" add up to "mighty" sums of money for mission support.

At its convention in July, the Central Illinois District resolved to implement a Synod-wide mission funding initiative. We are calling it "A Dollar for Missions," for short "DFM."

The basic idea is simple: Every week each member of your congregation contributes one dollar, over and above regular church offerings. At that rate, in a year's time each member will contribute \$52. The congregation tracks these monies separately from all other offerings, and sends them to the District. At the end of a year, a congregation of 100 people will contribute an extra \$5,200. Even if only half of the members of CID churches contribute, this kind of ongoing offering would yield almost a million and a half dollars every year to support mission projects.



Which missions? As the District recently resolved, "well-conceived projects in the following order of priority: first, brand-new church plants; second, mission-focused augmentations to existing ministries (e.g., adding a new ethnic ministry to a present congregation); third, established CID missions including maintenance and upgrades to facilities (e.g., Ministry in Spanish, Campus Ministry, Deaf Ministry, Prison Ministry)" (Res. R2022-03).

All CID congregations are invited to propose projects for 2023 by December 1, 2022. The District Board of Directors can settle upon a list of projects at its January meeting. Thereafter, the District office will keep congregations advised of the projects that their DFM funds are going to support.

The District's resolution asks congregations to begin gathering DFM funds in January, 2023. For further details, see the Stewardship page of the CID website, http://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-stewardship.html Scroll down to find a link to an informational video and a place where a congregation can order a receptacle for DFM dollars.

And pray that the Lord of the harvest would send not only laborers into His harvest but also send them with good and Godpleasing plans. Contact Dr. Ken Schurb at the District office for additional information: kschurb@cidlcms.org



CID is on Facebook, Instagram AND YouTube

Come find us @cidlcms! Our pages are filled with prayer and encouragement for you to share with those around you. Join us to keep up to date on District happenings and learn about new and exciting things coming soon!

Only the Beginning



June 11 is St. Barnabas Day, a day to remember that "Son of Comfort" (Acts 4:36) who did so much to spread the Gospel and encourage the church shortly after the Lord died and rose. This past June 11, some 23 people from 12 different LCMS churches in Central and Southern Illinois gathered around God's Word for mutual consolation and conversation at the inaugural Small Church Summit at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Farmersville.

After hearing the Good News, singing God's praises, and calling upon Him for help at an opening

service, participants compared notes on positives and challenges faced by their congregations. Conversation eventually coalesced in five broad areas:

- 1) **Doctrine:** both what the church teaches and the act of teaching it
- 2) **Outreach:** efforts at reaching out into communities with human care; how to move the conversation to Jesus?
- 3) **Capacity:** with limited people resources (both pastors and lay church members), activities are limited. How to make the most of available resources?
- "Competition": from larger LCMS churches; from churches of other confessions
- 5) **Fear:** apprehension over whether the congregation can continue, and what might happen if it does not; strategic aspects of possible church closures, i.e., losing a mission "launching pad" in a given place

Participants also identified goals or action steps to suggest to their congregations. They said they want to discuss how these seem to be working out when the Small Church Summit meets next.

The next meeting has been set for Saturday, January 7, 2023 (or, if the weather does not permit on that date, then Saturday, January 14). Members of small churches throughout the Central and Southern Illinois Districts are invited. It will work best if there is more than one participant from each church.

Is your church small? For purposes of this summit: if you think it is, please come! Discussion will pick up where the first meeting's conversation ended, but plans are in place to include new folks right off the bat. There will also be special presentations on Teaching through Preaching and on Planning, led by CID staff members.



SAVE THE DATE:

Small Church Summit

Saturday, January 7, 2023 (back-up date is January 14)

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Farmersville

10:00 a.m to 2:30 p.m.

Join us!

Lutherans For Life 2023 Illinois Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents

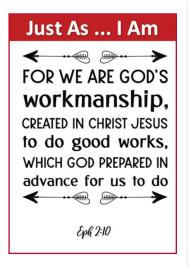
For Students in Grades 6 through 12

Any student in a Lutheran school or Lutheran congregation, e.g., confirmation class or youth group, when validated by a pastor or teacher, is eligible. Students may also enter through a Lutheran home school, when validated by their Lutheran pastor.

Contest Guidelines

Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme: Just As ... I Am with the Bible verse: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10

- 1. Not incorporating the theme and verse in the essay will disqualify the entry.
- Examples of topics the essay could deal with are, but are not limited to abortion, the handicapped, adoption or foster care, infanticide, cloning, stem cell research, physician assisted suicide or euthanasia etc.
- 3. Essays should include student's name, grade (school or church), and email address. All entries submitted by the teacher or pastor, should include their name and email address. This information should be submitted on the rubric page used in grading the essay. Pastors and Teachers, please consult the rubric to submit qualified entries.



- 4. All sources for references, statistics and quotes should be incorporated within the essay and then included in a bibliography at the end.
 - Grades 6 8 should submit essays up to 400 words
 - Grades 9 12 should submit essays up to 750 words

Entries should be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word or Google Docs to *cathy.benning.os@gmail.com* by April 1, 2023.

- 5. There will be a \$100 first place award and \$50 second place award for each of the two categories. The two first place category winners will advance to the national contest. Email cathy.benning.os@gmail.com with any questions.
- 6. Grand prize for the national winning entries in each category is: \$250 for first place plus free conference registration to the 2023 Lutherans For Life conference and one night stay at the conference hotel. \$125 for the second-place winner.
- 7. All entries become the property of Lutherans For Life.
- 8. For questions or resources on the sanctity of life, see lutheransforlife.org



Sign-up now at www.cidlcms.org to get
The GatePost and News You Can Use emailed to you.



1850 North Grand Avenue West Springfield, IL 62702-1626

The GatePost for The Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is a supplement to congregational newsletters.

Submit all articles to the Editor:

Lewis "Trip" Rodgers 1850 North Grand Avenue West Springfield, IL 62702-1626 Email: trodgers@cidlcms.org

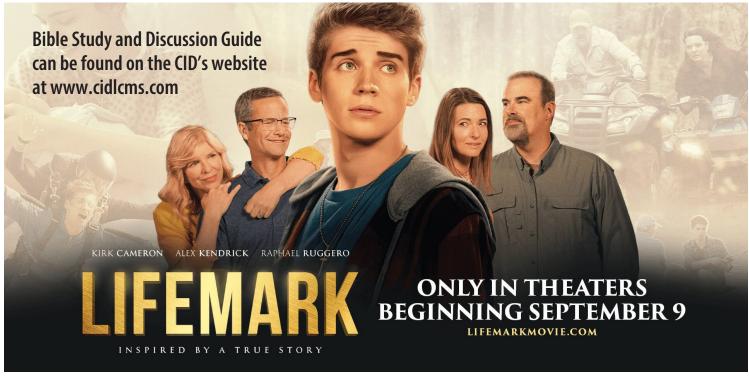
Layout and Design by:

Deverman Advertising Pekin, Illinois

Communications Committee:

Rev. Michael W. Mohr, Advisor Lewis "Trip" Rodgers, Editor Rev. Bob Bruer Jim Deverman Shawn Hoffmann





INVESTMENT APPLICATION

CUSTODIAN Last



CHURCH EXTENSION FUND, INC. (CEF) Central Illinois District - LCMS (CID)

1850 North Grand Avenue West Springfield, IL 62702-1626

TELEPHONE: (217) 793-1802 FAX: (217) 793-9454 EMAIL: cef@cidlcms.org <u>www.cid-cef.org</u>

New Investment: \$	-OR-	(Signed Inve. Agreement m	stment (nust be r	returned with Applicati	ificate Affidavit and Indemnity on) deem \$	
☐ 1.75% 5-year term ☐ 1.50% 3-year ter	1.75% 5-year term INTEREST PAYMENT METHOD (Choose one)					
☐ 1.00% 1-year term ☐ 0.30% 6-month t		Accumulate interest and add to investment				
Special Term and Rate – Limited Time!!!		Investment check semi-annually (if over \$25)				
1.50% 2-year term			irect De		mpleted enrollment form	
INTEREST RATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE – CALL TO CONFIRM CURRENT RATES						
FLEXIBLE SAVINGS – Interest added to account monthly, statement sent quarterly						
Regular Flexible Savings Account	Interest I	Rate: 0.25% Minimum: \$25 – available to all customers				
Capital Campaign Flexible Savings Account	Interest F	Rate: 0.60%	Min	imum: \$500 – availa	ble only to religious organizations	
Account Ownership (Complete A, B, or C. Please print)						
A. Sole or Joint Owners (One or more owners as joint tenants with full rights of survivorship and not tenants in common. Beneficiaries may be designated on "Beneficiary Designation" form. Interest is reported to the IRS using the Social Security number of the first owner listed.) 1. Last or Religious Organization Name First MI Social Security # or TIN Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)						
2			MI	Social Security #	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	
3			MI	Social Security #	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	
☐ Check if "Beneficiary Designation" form is attached ☐ Check that all joint owners have signed application						
B. <u>Trust</u> ("Certificate of Existence of Trust and Authority to Act" must be completed and sent with application)						
Name of Trust				Soc	rial Security #/TIN	
C. Custodian Investment for Minor (Under the Illinois Uniform Transfers to Minors Act)						
MINOR Last First		N	11	Social Security #	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	

MI

Social Security #

First

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

Contact Information for Account Address City State Home Phone Cell Phone Email Address Supporting Investments (Please provide the organization to be recognized for current or future investment requirements) Your Home Congregation or Other LCMS Organization City Investment Certification and Signature – Signatures of all account owners are required. By signing this application ("I" refers to all applicants, whether one or more), I certify that: All information provided is true and correct. I am of legal age and not a minor. I authorize the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund to initiate any correcting debit or credit that may be necessary. I have received a current Offering Circular of the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund. I am a member of, contributor to, or participant in The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or any district or other program, activity, or organization which constitutes a part of the Synod or any of its districts, or I am an ancestor, descendant, or successor in interest to such person. I am a U.S. person (including a U.S. resident alien). The Social Security or Tax ID number shown for me on this application is correct. I am not subject to backup withholding because (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) the IRS has not notified me that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding. Please draw an "X" through the preceding sentence if you ARE currently subject to backup withholding. Due to IRS regulations, the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund cannot record your investment until your Taxpayer Identification Number is provided and the above certification signed. The IRS does not require your consent to any provisions of this application other than the certifications required to avoid backup withholding. Signature of Account Owner/Trustee/Custodian/Authorized Signer Date Signature of Account Owner/Trustee/Custodian/Authorized Signer Date

The CID-CEF is a nonprofit religious organization, therefore CID-CEF investments are not SIPC- or FDIC-Insured deposit accounts.

Signature of Account Owner/Trustee/Custodian/Authorized Signer

The CID-CEF reserves the right to call this investment for redemption upon 60 days written notice and reserves the right to request 30 days notice of redemption prior to maturity on certificates and 15 days notice on flexible savings accounts. Certificates renew automatically unless the CID-CEF is notified otherwise within 10 days after maturity. Certificate is non-negotiable, redeemable with the CID-CEF upon proper endorsement, and subject to an early redemption penalty.

The Mission of the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, Inc. (CID-CEF) is to aid member congregations and agencies in the Central Illinois District of the LCMS in building and expanding their facilities and their ministry for the growth of God's Kingdom.

Date