

Many Global Mission Resources Available

Visit www.semnsynod.org/globalmission.html for a variety of resources, including:

- **Global Mission Sunday helps** (consider celebrating our companion synod relationships on Christ the King Sunday, Nov. 20)
- **Prayer petitions** for our companion synods
- Information on starting a **companion church relationship**
- **Advocacy for Colombia** information
- **Newsletters from the LIZWAN Scholarship Fund**
- And more!



If you don't have Internet access, please call the synod office at (800) 426-6376 or (507) 280-9457 if you would like a printed resource sent to you.

Mileage Rate Increased to 48.5 Cents Per Mile for Remainder of 2005

The Internal Revenue Service and Treasury Department announced an increase to the optional standard mileage rates for the final months of 2005.

The rate will increase to 48.5 cents a mile for all business miles driven between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2005. This is an increase of 8 cents from the 40.5 cent rate in effect for the first eight months of 2005, as set forth in Rev. Proc. 2004-64.

"This is about fairness for taxpayers," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. "People are entitled to deduct the real cost of operating a vehicle. We've responded to the recent gas price increases by making this special adjustment so taxpayers get the tax benefit they deserve."

In recognition of recent gasoline price increases, the IRS made this special adjustment for the final months of 2005. The IRS normally updates the mileage rates once a year in the fall for the next calendar year.

Evangelism Grants Available

The Congregational Renewal Team of the Synod Council is going to award a limited number of grants up to \$500 in 2006 for congregations who submit an application for creative outreach and evangelism projects. If interested, contact Larry Iverson in the synod office at (507) 280-9457, ext. 106 for an application. The deadline for grant applications is Feb. 10, 2006, and the grants will be awarded and announced in March 2006. Please note these grants need to be matched by the congregation, and an evaluation report must be submitted by Dec. 31, 2006 outlining the results of the project.

Remember in Prayer

Health Concerns

- The Rev. Eugene Boschee
- Jenelle Mandsager, wife of the Rev. Michael Mandsager
- Shannon Reuss, wife of the Rev. Peter Reuss
- The Rev. Don Roberts
- The Rev. Charles Solberg

Joys

- The Rev. Todd and Heather Hawkins, who welcomed a baby girl, Grace Anne, on Sept. 20.

Sympathies

- The Rev. Joel Erickson, whose mother died Sept. 19.
- The Rev. Arne Halbakken, whose mother died Sept. 6.
- The Rev. Randall Johnson, whose mother died Sept. 24.
- The Rev. Ronald Onnen, whose son-in-law died Sept. 1.

2006 Poster Included

A poster for "2006: A Synod Joined in Bible Study" is included with the print editions of this issue, and will be distributed at the Theological Conference Nov. 6-8. Congregations are encouraged to display this poster in their church starting the first Sunday of Advent. If you did not receive a poster and would like one mailed to you, please contact Annie Lynsen at lynsen@semnsynod.org or (507) 280-9457 ext. 103 with your request.

Correction: In the October 2005 issue of *River Crossings*, the photo caption on page 3 was incorrect. It should have read: Dr. Ruben Mesa (Zumbro, Rochester) spoke during a plenary session on Wednesday, Aug. 10.