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GME Continued

meditating on the image of the message, “Is anyone out there?” scrawled on the wall between Palestine and Israel

Saturday

Saturday’s plenary session featured Rev. Lisandro Orlov, United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina and Latin American regional coordinator, Lutheran World Federation HIV/AIDS campaign. He spoke of the ecumenical work that he does with HIV/AIDS ministries. In the context of introducing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), his words emphasized the need of Christians to walk with those who typically walk alone. Orlov was also very humble about the work he does. “I don’t do it because I’m a good person,” he stated. “It’s a mission, God’s mission.”


Bono, of the musical group U2, also addressed the GME participants via a video in support of the MDGs and the ONE Campaign, a movement to encourage the United States government to increase federal spending for international aid. Bono told Christians to “put on their marching boots” and work for justice, which he distinguished clearly from charity. He also asked people to “stop asking God to bless what you’re doing and get involved with what God is doing because he’s already there.”

The session concluded with a panel discussion with representatives from the ELCA and Episcopal church.

After the day’s Global University Sessions, participants experienced the Global Fest. The fest included an outdoor exhibition of displays and an evening program of global music, dance, video interviews with international mission personnel, and more.

Sunday

The GME concluded with a worship service Sunday morning. The service featured Nobel Peace Prize nominee Wahu Kaara, MDG campaign program coordinator, All Africa Conference of Churches, Nairobi, Kenya. Kaara reminded worshippers that we are all global citizens and share the same equal rights as all other global citizens simply because we’re alive. She urged them to “stop taking half-measures” in their mission work to benefit themselves, but to act on their consciences to engage in “global mission with a difference.”

 Go to www.elca.org/gme for news, photos, video, and information on upcoming GMEs.

Grants Help Congregations Evangelize

By Larry Iverson
Synod Minister

Each year the Congregational Renewal Team offers the opportunity to apply for grants of up to \$500 to be matched by the congregation for an effort in creative outreach and evangelism. The applications are accepted beginning in September of each year, and grant recipients are notified in March of the following year.

This year six grants were awarded in amounts from \$200 to \$300 to the following congregations: Solor, Webster; Glory to God, Rochester; Rejoice!, Northfield; Our Savior’s, Rochester; North Prairie, Lanesboro; and Grace, Peterson.

The projects varied from outreach community picnics in which all families in the surrounding community will be invited to share in food, fun and hear about the ministries of the church. One church in a rural setting is going to install some additional signs at some busier intersections to draw attention to the location of their church and use the space to announce special events that will increase publicity of their ministries. Another congregation is making an effort to increase the awareness of prayer and spirituality in their community. Another congregation invited the author of a book on evangelism to come and speak and invited the community to attend.

It is the intention of these grants to encourage and support unique and new ideas that will spread the good news of the transforming power of Jesus Christ in the lives of these communities of faith. Please consider some creative ideas for outreach and evangelism in your congregation in 2007. Then contact me (Larry Iverson) in the synod office to get an application for one of these grants.

In Christ’s love,

Larry Iverson

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