

Education for pastors & leaders

“... entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” II Timothy 2:2

On every field, there is a need to train national pastors and leaders who can train others. We have tried in the past to do this by bringing leaders to our schools in the United States. This method has often been less than ideal because of many problems we have seen in connection with it:

- › Problems in coming to the US
- › Problems with finances
- › Problems of language and culture
- › Problems in returning

These problems greatly limit the number of students who can be trained in this way. We have come to believe the best way of training reliable men is to train them in their own country with conservative, Lutheran, biblical classes developed in their own language and culture. Toward this end, AFLC World Missions has initiated a distance education department called the Ambassador Institute. We have called Rev. Kevin Olson to develop this program for us.

Children

Jesus commands us to “... go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” We notice two things in Christ’s command: there needs to be a personal relationship with Christ through His saving grace, and a response to that grace by living for Him.

As we go out into the world with this message, we must first start at home with our children and grandchildren who are the example of receptivity. We can share with our little ones nothing greater than spiritual life. Spend time reading God’s Word to them, pray with them and read mission stories to them at home and in Sunday school.

Make it a point to expose them to missions. Jesus’ command to go and make disciples is not only for us but for the next generation, as well.

Self / God-sufficiency

The Great Commission calls us to go into all the world with the focus on spiritual life. Free Lutherans believe it is biblical to focus on spiritual life and allow those who are spiritually alive to create their own congregations under the guidance of the Spirit and Word of God.

Our tendency in helping new works is to jump in and provide them with church buildings, pastors and even with denominational structure. While this is convenient for the nationals and it makes us feel good, such help is not in the long-term interest of the national church. It prevents them from maturing and depending on God.

In the future, AFLC World Missions will seek to develop mission works that are reliant on God. We desire that they are:

- › Self-governing
- › Self-supporting
- › Self-propagating

The poor

“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?” James 2:14-16

Throughout the Scriptures we are reminded that true faith manifests itself in a compassion for those who do not have the necessities of life. Around the world there are those who do not have their daily needs met. We are called to do what we can to help them.

AFLC World Missions is committed to having compassion for the needs of the poor. This is something our AFLC needs to do both here at home and on the foreign field.

