

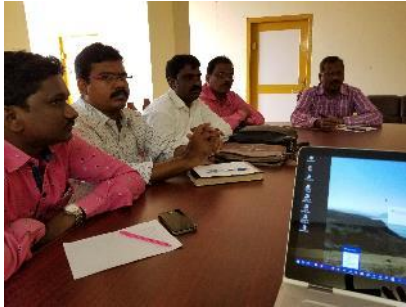


Ambassador Institute Moves Forward

The AFLC World Missions Committee has been working hard strengthening and streamlining Ambassador Institute (AI) so that it will continue to be an important part of our mission's program.

India

The work of Ambassador Institute continues in India. World Missions Director Del Palmer traveled to India December 28 through January 8 to encourage the Ambassador Institute. While he was there, Pastor Palmer met with the Ambassador Institute leaders, and a number of future plans were made.



In the future, Ambassador Institute in India will have a greater focus on working with AFLC pastors and congregations. Each month the AFLC pastors will gather together and go over four AI lessons. The pastors will then be able to use these lessons with their congregations. The goal is that people who attend the AFLC congregations will then be able to use these lessons as tools to witness to and disciple their acquaintances. This plan was put into effect as the pastors met for their February meeting.

The Old and New Testament lessons of Ambassador Institute have been translated into Telegue and will be printed in March. The goal was set to have the Romans lessons translated and printed by the end of June 2018. Having the lessons printed and in the hands of the teachers and students will push the work of Ambassador Institute in India forward.

Uganda

In Uganda the work of Ambassador Institute moves forward on several fronts. World Missions director, Del Palmer visited Uganda in January to strengthen and encourage the AI work there.



The goal is that all of our AFLC missionaries will use the AI materials to win souls, plant churches, and disciple people within those congregations. The Jores are working in the villages around Nabukosi. Michael Rhokenbrodt and the Bergers will be working with the people around Karinga. The Raans are initially working with people in the Jinja area. The work of planting free and living Lutheran congregations is slow and demanding work. Please be in prayer for our missionaries.



Our AFLC missionaries, Pastor Palmer, and World Missions Committee member Lyle Mattson met with the Ambassador Institute Leadership Team. Although this work is not involved in planting or discipling free and living Lutheran congregations, we do not want to let this work dwindle. The reason is twofold. First, through the AI curriculum, the Word of God and a Lutheran understanding of the Scriptures are being taught. Second, our missionaries receive their work permits to stay in the country through the Ambassador Institute of Uganda.

Dr. Kevin Olson has agreed to travel to Uganda to provide training as an independent contractor. Wayne Floan, Rev. Paul Kneeland, and Dr. Olson will be traveling to Uganda February 26 to March 13. Please keep them in prayer.

Reorganization

Part of the streamlining and strengthening of Ambassador Institute by the World Missions Committee was a reorganization.

Rev. Kevin Olson was originally called to develop a distance education program for AFLC World Missions. Development of the Ambassador Institute curriculum consumed the majority of Dr. Olson's time. The fourth and final book of the Ambassador Institute curriculum was finished in December of 2017.

Time needed to travel to the fields will be minimal, with the curriculum completed. The World Missions Committee could not justify keeping a full-time position for someone to serve in this limited capacity. With these things in mind, the Committee determined that the original call of Dr. Olson was now completed.

The World Missions Committee's decision was also prompted by the fact that Dr. Olson and the World Missions Committee had differing visions. It appeared that Dr. Olson sensed a calling to use oral learning to disciple all people everywhere, regardless of denominational ties, whereas AFLC World Missions is constrained to work planting and building up free and living Lutheran congregations.

The World Missions Committee recognizes that Dr. Olson's sense of calling is a noble and respectable vision but not one that AFLC World Missions should expect the congregations of the AFLC to fund.

With that in mind, the World Missions Committee encouraged Dr. Olson to start an oral discipleship ministry that could better match his calling from God. We are glad to announce that Kevin Olson has started the International Orality Institute. We believe this to be a perfect fit for Dr. Olson.

It should be noted that the International Orality Institute is not a ministry of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

As a part of the streamlining process, the World Missions Committee considered the role that the Ambassador Institute Board played in this department. The role of the Ambassador Institute Board was always to provide guidance and advice to the World Missions Committee. The Ambassador Institute Board did not have a supervisory role over the department. Recently, the Board's major role was to help develop and edit the Ambassador Institute curriculum. In the streamlining process, and with the curriculum completed, the World Missions Committee deemed that the advisory role of the Ambassador Institute Board to the World Missions Committee was no longer needed.

It is our prayer that the reorganization of Ambassador Institute will streamline and strengthen the department. The Ambassador Institute Department of AFLC World Missions will still need your financial support and especially your prayers today and in the future.

[For a PDF copy of the Ambassador Inquiry click here.](#)



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