



## ARE YOU READY?

A message from the desk of JOTHAM JOHANN JHANG +

**D**uring this Advent season, we get ready for the coming of Baby Jesus. As God provided us the ultimate present in His Son, we too prepare CHRISTmas presents from our hearts. So Advent is a time of preparing presents to share, but more importantly, it is a time when we are being prepared for Christ. In Luke chapter 3, verse 3, we hear of John the Baptist preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. You and I can identify with that. We too were baptized. We too were washed out of our sins and into new life with Christ. We too experienced a turning away from sin and a turning toward God. Advent is also a time when we are reminded of being in a constant

state of readiness. As we are informed in Matthew 24, Christ will return to us “like a thief in the night”. If you fall asleep at the wheel, there’s bound to be trouble.

Part of being ready is to be prepared to share the Good News. Christ gave us that responsibility before ascending into heaven. So, are you ready to share the Gospel? When I ask that question, I get a  
(Continued on page 2)

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Groundbreaking of the future campus of the CAME Mission Center and the Lutheran Church of St. Andrew. Rev. Jotham Johann Jhang is in a white shirt (center-right). In the background behind him is a white banner of CAME.

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## NEW CAME CENTER CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

**A**t last! Construction has begun at the future home of the CAME Mission Center. The building permit has been issued by the county for the new campus at 15300 New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring, Maryland. Settlement on the loan from LCEF has been closed and the journey has begun. We give thanks to God.

This campus will be the new home of the Lutheran Church of St. Andrew, CAME’s first Antioch partner congregation. It will also house the offices of CAME and feature a mission conference center.

As CAME’s Antioch partner, the people of St. Andrew generously and  
(Continued on page 4)



## ARE YOU READY? Continued from page 1

real variety of answers, but they really amount to: no; not now; not ever; maybe; yes and often a luke-warm yes. So I ask other questions to clarify, “Are you baptized and partake in communion? Ok, you’ve been refined and are undergoing refinement. This is good. Do you believe that your sins are forgiven? Do you trust in Christ as Lord and Savior? Is Christ in your life? If the answers are yes, then, you are ready. Does it help to attend church services regularly and become involved in the life of a church? Yes. Does it help to know Scripture well? Does it help to get special training in Gospel outreach? Yes. But, the bottom line is, you are ready.

The excuses? “I didn’t go to seminary. I’m not equipped to do that. I need to do more bible study, before I’m ready. I don’t have an outgoing personality. I’m too tired just surviving. I might hurt someone’s feelings.” These are the same kinds of excuses used by the guy who says, “I’ll go to church when I retire.” Brothers and Sisters—You need not be John the Baptist or Apostle Paul to share the Gospel.

About 8 years ago, shortly after the founding of CAME, Hmong Missionary Yia Vang and I were invited down to Hickory, North Carolina to meet with a number of Lutheran church leaders in Catawba County. They were interested in exploring ministry to the large Hmong population there, immigrants from Laos. Although there were some Baptist and Missionary Alliance churches among the Hmong in the area, they were very small groups and about 90% among the Hmong were unchurched in the area. During the meeting, the time came for the question, “Are You Ready?”, but no one was asking it, so I asked it, “Are You Ready now to do your

Lord’s bidding? Are You Ready to share the Gospel among these people whom God has sent your way?

There were a lot of scared people in the room. There had not been any new Lutheran mission work or church planting in that county for over 25 years. Not even one Hmong was a member of one of our congregations.

The CAME Board and I made a somewhat triumphant return to Hickory in early Advent. We met with missionaries David Vang of the Hickory Hmong Lutheran Mission and Danny Xiong of the Charlotte Hmong Mission, both identified and mentored by CAME missionaries Yia Vang of Wisconsin and Fungchatou Lo of Minnesota. In addition to leading the first Hmong church plant in Newton, which has its own facilities now, David has also planted a second mission due east in Mount Airy, NC, identified and mentored an additional missionary for that post and is planting another station in Winder, GA.

In the mean time, Danny gave up a very good job last year to start planting a station in the Charlotte area and devoting himself to studies at a seminary program for ordination. He is looking at planting an additional station in downtown Charlotte, looking for larger gathering facilities and interviewing leaders for an apprentice missionary.

Christ made readyour Brothers and Sisters in Catawba County. From seemingly nothing, we now have hundreds of newly Baptized and confirmed Hmong, in our midst. From a few volunteers to full-time missionaries serving the Hmong now and hundreds of volunteers deployed to assist, God rendered them ready.

My brothers and sisters in Christ – God is so gracious that not only did He send His only Son to die in our stead, he even sent a Preparer to ready us for His coming. God is so gracious that He has still not returned for close to 2000 years, giving us every possibility of becoming ready for his return. We fall asleep during our watch, and yet he wakes our from our slumber to be vigi-

lant. He even allows us to take part in helping others become ready. What a joy for us to have the opportunity to be preparers also.

ARE YOU READY? If not, may the grace of God take root in your heart, through the hearing of His word. If you are ready, consider this an invitation to assist those who are in slumber to become ready also.

Thank you for your interest, your contributions and your prayers. During this CHRISTmas season of celebration, may the grace of God, which transcends all human understanding, stand guard over you and keep ready your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus! Amen...Jotham+

**This article herein is an excerpt from Rev. Jhang’s sermon entitled “Are You Ready?”, and is based on Luke 3:1-6.** The Rev. Jotham Johann Jhang, J.D., is President & Executive Director of CAME. He also serves with LCMS World Mission as Director of Multi-Ethnic & Cross-Cultural Ministries (St. Louis, MO). His Antioch partner congregation is the Lutheran Church of St. Andrew, Silver Spring, Maryland. He lives with wife Veronica and daughter Olivia in Centreville, Virginia.



**CAME's BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

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*Building Bridges* is a publication of  
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**Your Participation in the Christmas Season and Beyond**

Thank you for your interest in Asian mission and outreach, and, more importantly, for your prayers. During Christmas, whether you pray for us, send financial gifts, donate your time and talents, go on a servant event on our behalf, or encourage others to join us in our march forward, we are thankful for your stewardship and involvement in our Lord's Mission. **Enclosed is an envelope for your use in supporting the ongoing mission work through CAME.** As the Spirit moves you, we welcome your support and thank you for your partnership! Please indicate your involvement below or on the envelope and **make your checks out to: CAME.** God Bless! - CAME TEAM. P.S. You may also donate on-line at <http://www.cameministries.org/Missions/Giving.html>

THE CAME TEAM IS:

Jotham Johann Jhang—Executive Director	Ken Hennings—Chairman, BOD
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**PLEASE FILL OUT, CLIP AND RETURN THIS PAGE IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE**

Jotham & the CAME Team, we want to stand with you and the mission to Asian Peoples!

Enclosed is a gift of support from \_\_\_\_\_ to help you (\$\_\_\_\_\_).

- We can't give right now but we want to keep praying for you.
- We'd like to hear about ways we can volunteer our time and talents.
- Our friend/sister congregation/group would like to receive Building Bridges. His/her info. is enclosed below.

Friend or congregation/group	Address	City	State	Zip	Email
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I would like a CAME speaker for my congregation or group function.

Contact person's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to pray regularly for CAME and her missionaries in the field. Please send me prayer requests.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like information about adopting a Pauline (multi-site) missionary on a monthly or yearly basis.

I would like to receive information about conducting an Asian Ministry Emphasis Sunday.

I will pray for Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims, that they will open their hearts and minds to the Gospel.

I would like information on books/materials available on witnessing to:

Buddhists  Hindus  Sikhs  Muslims

**NEW CAME CENTER CONSTRUCTION UPDATE - Continued from page 1**

graciously offered to house the new headquarters of CAME, absorbing its construction costs. These headquarters will not only enable CAME to host many thinktanks, conferences, and training workshops regarding mission work among Asians, but also provide ready access and opportunities for St. Andrew members to volunteer their services and gifts with CAME. Below is an opportunity for you to support the construction effort during this Christmas season.

**Approximate Total Needed to ready the new CAME Mission Center: \$50,000**

**Enclosed is an envelope for your use in supporting the construction and furnishing of the new CAME Mission Center.** As the Spirit moves you, please simply check off the item which you desire to support, and include this page along with payment. Thank you for your partnership! Please indicate your involvement below or on the envelope and make your checks out to: CAME. God bless! - CAME Team  
Donate on-line at <http://www.cameministries.org/Missions/Giving.html>

**Christmas Wishlist**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Office Furniture for Cubicles.....\$800
- \_\_\_\_\_ Inner Office Furniture.....\$2,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ Conference Room LCD Screen Display.....\$2,500
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ceiling Mounted Projection Screen.....\$350
- \_\_\_\_\_ Computer/Electronic Equipment.....\$3,500
- \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated cost for satellite, research,  
videoconferencing, and other equipment.....\$40,850
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use as needed for the glory of God!

For more info. regarding the new campus, please go to [http://www.mystandrew.org/furnishing\\_god's\\_house.htm](http://www.mystandrew.org/furnishing_god's_house.htm)



Pastor Jotham speaking at the Ground-breaking ceremony



The future site of the CAME Center/St. Andrew Campus by map (left) and by satellite image (right)

## CAME Team and Board (tentative) Travel & Special Events Highlights



**DEC 10** Preach at St. Andrew (Silver Spring, MD) —JJ; **16** Field research of Asian community (Chicago, IL)—JJ; **27** Field research of Asian Community (Philadelphia, PA)—JJ with JR; **JAN 11-13** LCEF Board Meeting (Tempe, AZ)—JJ; **16-18** President's Hispanic Ministry Summit (St. Louis, MO)—JJ; **25-27** LIRS Board Meeting (Baltimore, MD)—JJ; **28-30** Pauline Missionary Journey to help start Hmong Mission (Seattle, WA)—FL; **FEB 7-9** Urban Missions Conference (Tampa, FL)—JJ

KEY:JJ—Jotham Johann Jhang;; FL—Funghatou Lo; David Chan—DC; Abu Thampan—AT; JR—Johnson Rethinasamy; RL—Richard Law; TG—Tom Going; SC—Sang Choi

**Prayer Requests and Thanksgivings:** We humbly ask that you would include these prayer requests during your devotional time with your family and during the prayers of the church at worship on Sunday. The Lord has opened the doors of churches and hearts of our Lutheran partners to us. **Today, our greatest need is more ethnic missionaries!** Our challenge is to find enough talented workers to meet the opportunities in the mission field. The field is ripe indeed and so are our partners. Pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send workers into the mission field. **Second on our priority list is financial needs.** As the work of CAME and its partners expand, we are challenged with providing sufficient funds for mission and outreach. Pray to the Lord of Mission to provide the resources to carry out His work.

We thank God for working through us, despite our limitations and failings, to share the Gospel with thousands upon thousands of Asian people who do not know Jesus. What a privilege and joy! We pray:

1. for our new Antioch Partner Church Network, that more partner churches who share our bold vision, will join with us to make a broad Gospel-outreach impact in unchurched Asian communities.
2. for the 98 new missions among Asian people groups which have been planted through CAME and her partners.
3. for the new mission started among the Indonesian people, in Plymouth Township, Michigan. Ask the Lord to grant Living Word Lutheran Church and Pastor Randy Duncan great vision and perseverance. [CAME is providing assistance during the startup phase of this new mission effort.]
4. for CLIMB (the Chinese Leaders in Mission Building). [CAME continues to support the equipping of this group financially and with other resources as CLIMB helps to plant more work among the Chinese.]
5. for the construction of the new CAME Center and St. Andrew campus, that it may be conducted successfully, that the Lord would provided the resources needed, and that the construction would be to God's glory.
6. for our Board members. We thank God for the way they give of their time, effort and support the work of CAME in many ways. Ask God to keep providing them vision and wisdom.
7. for the opening of many doors and the enabling of our work, that Christ continues to take charge.
8. for David Vang and Danny Xiong, reaching out to the Hmong in North Carolina, for vision, sustenance and perseverance.
9. for the search in finding additional CAME staff—leadership development and resource development.

Please pray for the following ministries which are currently being planned for launch in 2007:

1. **Hmong** outreach in Springdale (Arkansas), California and Massachusetts.
2. **Chinese** outreach in Louisiana, Virginia, and New Jersey
3. **Asian Indian** outreach at Trinity, Lisle, IL, at Our Savior, Bettendorf, IA, in Philadelphia, and in Cleveland.
4. **Vietnamese** outreach in Biloxi, MI, and Orlando, Florida (as our partners recover from Katrina).
5. Other mission fields that will be prepared for outreach in 2007 and beyond, include various sites in Georgia, Memphis, Tennessee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Twin Cities, Minnesota
6. Additional **OVERSEAS MISSIONS IN ASIA—sites in Vietnam, Cambodia, Burma, China and India.**

### CAME's MISSION & OPERATION

***CAME's mission is to equip and empower congregations to reach out with the Gospel to the 97% of Asian people who are unchurched.***

CAME is a consortium of partner congregations, 14 districts of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and LCMS World Mission.. Her Board of Directors consists of representatives from these partner congregations and districts. CAME's work is also supported with gifts and prayers by 85 supporting congregations and hundreds of family groups, associations and individual donors.

CAME is an acronym for: Center for Asian Missions & Evangelism "...for Jesus Christ CAME to seek and to save the lost..." (Luke 19:10). CAME is an independently-operated, non-profit organization affiliated with the LCMS. She is funded by grants and financial support from congregations and donors.

Mark Hricko, Pastor of CAME's Antioch partner—Lutheran Church of St. Andrew, Silver Spring, MD (on the left) pointing to the future site of the new CAME Mission Center, on the future campus of St. Andrew. Construction has begun. See the front page for more details.

**ASIAN MINISTRY PROGRESS:** At the launching of CAME in May, '98, there were **48** Asian missions/churches in North America. Today there are **210** Asian missions/churches in the LCMS! Now sharing the Gospel with tens of thousands!



### *Inside This Issue: SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION ISSUE*

- + Are You Ready?
- + New CAME Mission Center Construction
- + YOUR PARTICIPATION
- + Christmas Wishlist
- + Prayer Requests and Progress Thanksgivings
- \* Visit our website—[www.cameministries.org](http://www.cameministries.org)



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