Sharing the Story: Presentations by the NW MN Synod “India Travelers”

Nineteen members and friends of the NW MN Synod traveled in our companion synod, the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC) of southern India, Nov. 2-17, 2012. They are eager to share their experiences with the people, organizations and congregations of the NW MN Synod.

Here’s what you can expect when you book a “traveler” for a presentation:

- General information about India and our companion synod.
- An overview of the trip itself, with selected photos (in PowerPoint presentations).
- Information and perspectives on the AELC, its congregations and people, and its ministries of education, healing, evangelism and mercy.
- Personal reflections on what the trip meant to him/her, how it fed his/her faith, and how the trip impacted the lives of those who traveled and members of the AELC.
- Suggestions about how persons, organization or congregations can get involved in praying for, relating to and supporting the AELC and its ministries.
How to book a presentation:

1. **Contact a “traveler” directly (please do not try to schedule a program through the synod office, unless you want to book Bishop Larry).** Contact information for all travelers is included within this document—see below. Negotiate a date/time that works for both the traveler and the congregation/organization.

2. **Provide a comfortable meeting space,** conducive to both a presentation and discussion, with suitable refreshments provided by the congregation/organization.

3. **Provide a good-sized projection screen, LCD projector, and laptop computer** for the traveler to use. Discuss these arrangements with the traveler beforehand.

4. **There is no standard fee for having a traveler make a presentation.** However, the congregation/organization is asked to (a) reimburse the traveler for meals, lodging and round-trip mileage at $.56/mile and (b) during the presentation, gather an offering from participants for the *Northwestern Minnesota Synod—Companion Synod General Fund* to help our synod underwrite the costs of maintaining the companion synod relationship (e.g. seed funds for future exchange visits from or to India). Please submit one check (payable to NW MN Synod, with “India Presentation” on memo line) for the offering to NW MN Synod, Concordia College, Moorhead, MN 56562. Please do not send the offering with the traveler who made your presentation.

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR INDIA TRAVELERS**

**Pastor Marilyn and Tom Breckenridge**  
Email: msbreck@gmail.com (Marilyn) tom@rdbfinancial.com (Tom).  
Phone: 612-599-3435 (Marilyn) 612-214-4378 (Tom)  
Marilyn is a retired ELCA pastor who served on the St. Paul Area Synod Staff and most recently served Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wadena. Tom is a financial planner and a former United Church of Christ pastor. The Breckenridges have homes in Edina, MN and on Ottertail Lake (in the synod).

**Dr. Jacqueline Bussie**  
Email: jbussie@cord.edu  
Phone: 218-299-4382  
Dr. Bussie is a theologian on the faculty of Concordia College, Moorhead. She serves as director of the college’s Forum on Faith and Life. She lives in Fargo.

**Ms. Jill Carlson**  
Email: jcarl@rrv.net  
Phone: 218-281-4063  
Jill, her husband and children live on a farm near Climax, MN. Jill is a school psychologist and has been very involved in her congregation, Sand Hill Lutheran Church, Climax.

**Pr. Melissa Ehrhardt**  
Email: ehrhma@yahoo.com  
Phone: 320-533-0379  
Pastor Melissa serves the Faithful Shepherd Lutheran Parish (Clarissa, Eagle Bend, Little Sauk) and also is the Acting Secretary of the NW MN Synod.
Pr. Joy Grainger
Email: jgrainger10@gmail.com. Phone: 218-773-3310
Pastor Joy lives in East Grand Forks with her husband and serves the Climax Lutheran Parish.

Ms. Peggy Larson
Email: p3larson@gmail.com. Phone: 218-631-3965
Peggy and her family live in Wadena. She is the youth director at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wadena.

Pr. Linnea Papke-Larson
Email: lpapkelarson@flcbemidji.org. Phone: 218-444-5302
Pastor Linnea serves as associate pastor at First Lutheran Church, Bemidji. She, her husband (also a pastor) and children live in Bemidji. Pastor Linnea lived in India during part of her childhood.

Ms. Arlet Phillips
Email: aphilips@rrv.net. Phone: 218 893 2645
Arlet and her husband live in the country near East Grand Forks. She is office manager for a large farming corporation and also works for a document shredding company. She is an active member and former office secretary of Bygland Lutheran Church, Fisher.

Pr. Andrew Ronnevik
Email: andrew.ronnevik@gmail.com. Phone: 218-751-1893
Pastor Andrew is associate pastor at Calvary, Bemidji. He has traveled to and lived in India, prior to the November 2012 trip.

Ms. Elaine Scheer
Email: ecscheer@msn.com. Phone: 218-937-5331
Elaine and her husband, both retired, live in the country near Hawley. They belong to Gran Lutheran Church, rural Hawley. She was a long-time church office secretary and has been very active in the NW MN Synod Women’s Organization, having served as SWO president.

Ms. Cynthia Schulze
Email: cdschulze@aol.com. Phone: 218-444-7679
Cynthia, a psychologist, lives with her family in Bemidji where they belong to Calvary Lutheran Church.

Ms. Laura Skogen
Email: blskogen@ptel.com. Phone: 218-205-0922
Laura provides counseling and staff supervision for Lutheran Social Services in Fergus Falls, where she lives with her husband (an ELCA pastor) and children. She belongs to Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Prof. Hank Tkachuk
Email: tkachuk@cord.edu. Phone: 218-236-6596
Hank teaches intercultural communication at Concordia College, Moorhead. He and his wife live in Moorhead—and they have been to India many times. Hank is a member of Bethesda Lutheran Church, Moorhead. He organized the November 2012 trip and serves on the NW MN Global Mission Table.
Ms. Holly Wavra
Email: hwavra@yahoo.com. Phone: 218-893-4261
Holly and her family live in the country near East Grand Forks. They belong to Bygland Lutheran Church, Fisher, where Holly coordinates children's ministry programming. She is a speech language pathologist in the local school district.

Bishop Larry and Joy Wohlrabe
Email: Wohlrabe@cord.edu (Larry) and jwohlrabe@cableone.net (Joy)
Phone: 218 299 3019 (Larry) and 701 640 2521 (Joy)
Larry and Joy live in Moorhead and are members of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church. Joy is the hospice social worker for Riveredge Hospice in Breckenridge, and Larry is bishop of the NW MN Synod. In addition to the November 2012 trip, they traveled to India in 2009 with Prof. Tkachuk.

Wayne and Janet Woolever
Email: woolever@prtel.com (both of them). Phone: 218-731-3718 (Wayne) 218-842-5140 (Janet)
Wayne is a retired special education and industrial education teacher, and Janet is a preschool teacher. They live on a farmstead near Erhard, MN and are members of Grove Lake Lutheran Church, Pelican Rapids.