

Congregation Connect **Asia Pacific**

Asia Pacific Partnership

God has provided an excellent opportunity for LCMS congregations to share the love of Christ in an area of great spiritual need. The many competing pressures of ancestral worship, post-modernism, communism, materialism, and the very densely populated areas remind us that there is an urgent need for workers in this mission field. Through a Congregation Connect partnership in Asia Pacific, your congregation can bring Christ to this quickly-developing region.

LCMS Work in Macau

LCMS work began in Macau in 1988 and established Concordia English Center. The center uses a combination of English-as-a-Foreign-Language teaching, small-group Bible study, and various fellowship activities to gather and evangelize both Cantonese residents of Macau and Mandarin-

speaking migrant workers from the surrounding areas. Another English center was established in 2005 in partnership with an area church. This center has grown to serve more than 200 students. Programs are continually being added to help increase the opportunities for sharing the Gospel. This center is also used as a starting point for exploring new areas of work and collaboration.



The Lutheran Church–Hong Kong Synod (LCHKS) strives to provide its Lutheran schools with a Gospel-focused, English-rich learning environment. There are 10 high schools, six elementary schools, and 16 kindergartens serving more than 18,000 students. Approximately 80 percent of the students in LCHKS schools are not Christian. This gives LCMS congregations an opportunity to share the love of Christ by building relationships with students through teaching, after-school activities, and visiting students' homes.

Missionaries

Sharon Owens, volunteer coordinator, serves the Lord in Macau. Sharon's main responsibilities include providing leadership, vision, and administration in this region. She is responsible for the orientation, training, and supervision of GEO missionaries, short-term missionaries, and short-term teams.

Rev. Joel Scheiwe, strategic mission developer, is responsible for engaging in the training of local leadership as well as connecting North American churches and missionaries with local churches. He is also the primary contact for Congregation Connect partners.

Next Step:

Have more questions? Talk with a placement counselor. Call: 800.433.3954 or send an e-mail to mission.teams@lcms.org



Regional Background:

- Hong Kong and Macau are in East Asia, bordering the South China Sea and mainland China.
- Hong Kong and Macau are Special Administrative Regions of China. This means they
 have their own laws and governance- "one
 country, two systems."
- Macau was once a Portuguese colony.
- Casinos are a large portion of Macau's economy. Migrant workers from Jiangmen come to work in this industry.
- Hong Kong was once a British colony.
- Hong Kong is known as the "Pearl of the Orient."
- Nearby China has the world's largest population with 1.3 billion people.

Climate:

Tropical climate with cool, dry winters and hot, rainy summers.

Language:

Hong Kong & Macau—Primarily Cantonese

Information taken from CultureGrams World Edition 2008

