



LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Translating and Publishing Lutheran Resources Around the World

LWML - English District provides books for immigrant outreach

Thanks to a mission grant provided to the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF), churches in the English District and throughout the LCMS are being given free Lutheran books for Gospel outreach in their communities.

At its 2018 convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the women of the LWML – English District voted to provide a \$2,000 mission grant to LHF for “From Cradle to College: Lutheran Books for Immigrant Children and Campus Ministries.” The support for this project came at just the right time!

“Not long after we were notified of the LWML – English District’s support, our office received a call from Rev. Derek Mathers, mission executive for the LCMS English District,” recalls Rev. Dr. Matthew Heise, LHF executive director. “St. Luke Lutheran Church in Toronto, Ontario has been ministering to Farsi-speaking Persian (Iranian) immigrants, and Bible storybooks to explain the faith to children were badly needed.”

A few days later, Rev. Mathers dropped by the LHF office to pick up a variety of Farsi materials, including the *Small Catechism* and *A Child’s Garden of Bible Stories*. The books were presented to families at St. Luke (see photos), and as their Persian outreach has gained traction, Rev. Mathers has been back to LHF a second time for more books.

“St. Luke has already baptized 60+ Persians since the beginning of the year,” Rev. Mathers said. “Average attendance at Farsi-speaking Sunday services is above 125 almost every Sunday. God is bringing new people all the time! Everyone who was a member and who has since started coming has been given a copy of the *Small Catechism* in Farsi. They bring them with them and read it all the time. It is the source book for classes.”

“For churches wanting to share the Gospel with immigrants in their communities, the language barrier can be a big issue,” reflected Rev. Heise. “We’ve seen time and again the joy on a new believer’s face when he or she receives a book about the Savior, written in a language they can read and understand. The partnership between LHF and the LWML-English District allows that to happen not only here in the United States, but in mission fields around the world.”

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (an LCMS recognized service organization) translates, publishes, distributes and introduces Lutheran books and materials for churches around the world. To learn more about the LHF mission, go to www.LHFmissions.org.



Photo captions: (Top) Rev. Derek Mathers, English District mission executive, presents the Farsi Small Catechism and A Child's Garden of Bible Stories to Persian families at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Toronto, Ontario. (Below) St. Luke members re-enact the New Testament story of Jesus and the woman at the well (with the "living water" of the Word in the books behind her!). Thanks to a mission grant from the LWML - English District, the books (translated and published by the Lutheran Heritage Foundation) were provided to St. Luke at no cost to them.