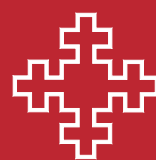
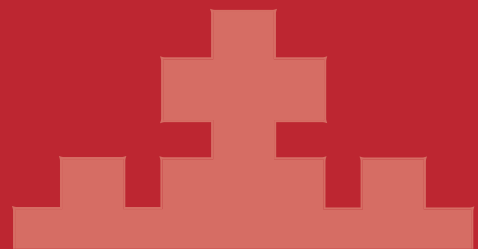


ANNUAL REPORT 2010



THE FINNISH
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN MISSION





LOVE • FAITH • HOPE
– from people to people

The Finnish Evangelical
Lutheran Mission
ANNUAL REPORT 2010
152nd operating year

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

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Timo Frilander



Jouko Martinen



Ritva Niemi



Joanna Lindén

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Editor-in-Chief: Eeva Kemppe-Repo

Editor: Kirsi Elo

Translation: Linda Brown

Layout Ad Helena Oy, Helena Lyytikäinen

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Winds of change

Christian mission work has faced new challenges in recent years. Globalisation has led to increased international migration, and as a result, many have been uprooted from their familiar surroundings. At the same time the gulf between the rich and the poor has widened. Famine has not been eradicated and human trafficking has spread all over the world. The geography of poverty has changed and the various forms of suffering that used to be far away have now arrived on our doorstep. Another cause for concern is the increase of intolerance in the world, which has led to the persecution of many minority groups, who often have to flee from their homes.

Despite this dire situation, we at the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission do not feel the situation is hopeless. Our years of experience remind us that

The vibrant congregational life typical of the South is in our midst...

we can make a difference in the lives of people living in even the most difficult of situations. Our most powerful asset in this effort is the gospel of God's love.

Last year the prospects of Christian mission work were discussed at several international meetings. Two ideas in particular stood out in those meetings. The first was that as a result of globalisation, congregational life is changing, particularly in churches in the northern hemisphere. The vibrant congregational life typical of the South is in our midst. This change has long been visible in FELM and now the parishes in Finland are also starting to reflect this change.

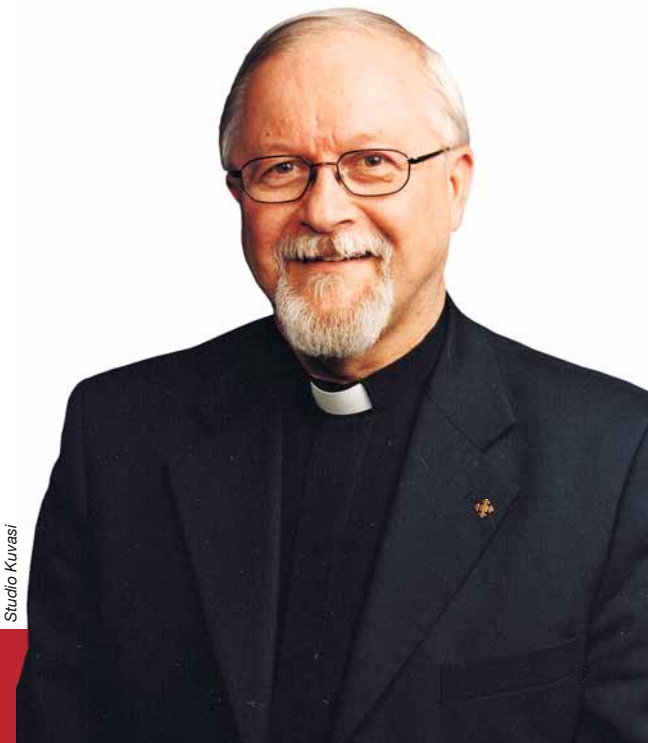
The other idea that stood out in the meetings was the commitment of Christian mission work to eradicate poverty and the problems associated with poverty. Different Christian denominations see more

or less eye to eye on this subject, which strengthens the ecumenical aspect of mission work.

Through FELM, each and every parishioner in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland has been a part of strengthening and creating new congregational work and development cooperation, which spring from a Christian conviction. Our partner organisations consider us a reliable and competent mission organisation. By working together we can change the world and bring hope to people.

The other idea was the commitment of Christian mission work to eradicate poverty...

*Seppo Rissanen
Director of FELM*



Reducing poverty, fighting for human rights and ministry

In 2010 FELM initiated its new strategy (2010–2015). The strategy is based on the Gospel, which encourages us to continuously look at the world from a new perspective. A good example of this in the Bible is Paul, who, after his meeting with Christ, saw himself and God’s love in a completely new light. He also related to other people – people whom he had previously hated and despised – in a new way. Today we believe that the Gospel has the power to free us from self-centredness and indifference, and to help us live in peace with each other and to love our neighbour.

Over the course of last year, we increased our ministry and diaconal work among communities that are still outside the church. That is why we increased our cooperation with partners in countries where the church is still in a clear minority position, e.g. in Bolivia, China, Cambodia, Malawi and Nepal.

In countries where the church is already well established, we are trying to support mission work within the country.

For example, in Ethiopia we have had encouraging experiences with small-scale outreach programmes, where dioceses reach out to marginalised groups in the surrounding regions. In Tanzania, too, we have increased our support of the church’s domestic mission work.

Ministry, service and advocacy go hand in hand

Our goal is to defend human rights and reduce poverty. The majority of the world’s population lives in poverty and has no say in decision-making that influences them. This is in glaring opposition to the good life that God created us for. Over the course of 2010 FELM focused on food security as well as empowering poor and marginalised communities to define the problems they are faced with and to be involved in finding solutions to the problems.

When it comes to key areas of development, we emphasise the right of women to be involved in decision-making, to be

educated and to have access to health-care. We have consciously intensified our efforts to ensure that the UN’s Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is fully implemented. In many communities, HIV and AIDS have brought development to a stand-still, which is why preventive work, caring for the infected and improving the livelihood of those living with HIV are important for the development of societies as a whole. When planning and implementing our projects, we emphasise sustainable development and ecology so that we can guarantee the premises for a good life for future generations as well. All these themes are part of FELM’s development cooperation programme, which was redrafted in 2010.

In addition to helping our neighbours who are in need, throughout our history we have been involved in changing structures. In 2010 we developed and strengthened our advocacy work among partner churches and among the international networks that we work with. If we are to succeed in the fight against AIDS and to improve food security, the right political decisions need to be made and we need to effect changes in popular attitudes both in Finland as well as abroad.

Ministry, serving our neighbour and advocacy go hand in hand in FELM’s work. As part of our comprehensive approach, we proclaim Christ’s love of a person as a whole – spiritually, physically, emotionally and socially – both now and in eternity.

*Rolf Steffansson
Director,
Department of Mission Cooperation*



Joanna Lindén

In FELM’s strategy in 2010–2015, the priorities of our operations abroad are to increase our ministry and diaconal work, reduce poverty and promote social justice. In 2011, 15% of the funds in our operations abroad will be used for reaching out to new communities. We are increasing funding for ministry work in Nepal.



Programme expenditure 2010



Programmes for operations abroad

FELM's motto is "**LOVE • FAITH • HOPE – from people to people**". It is a reflection of FELM's comprehensive approach to mission work, which includes ministry and serving one's neighbour.

FELM's operations abroad can be divided into five programmes:

- **MINISTRY AND CONGREGATIONAL WORK** supports the ministry work of minority churches and minority Christian communities as well as establishing and strengthening new congregations and training church workers. In particular, we are increasing outreach work targeting new regions and new people groups. In 2010 FELM channelled €5.1 million into supporting its partners' ministry and congregational work.
- **SOCIAL JUSTICE AND DIACONIA** aims to reduce poverty and increase justice in the world, as well as to promote sustainable development. The goal is to strengthen the churches' diaconal work, and improve the situation of children, women, disabled people and marginalised minorities. The majority of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs' funds are implemented under this pro-

gramme. In 2010 FELM used €8.1 million to promote social justice and diaconia.

- **SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE AND FINANCES** strengthens the theological, financial and administrative self-reliance of our partners. In 2010 FELM channelled €1.2 million into developing the self-reliance of its partners.
- **PEACE AND RECONCILIATION** helps our partners engage in interfaith dialogue and helps to prevent conflict between different people groups, e.g. different religious or ethnic groups. In 2010 FELM channelled €1.5 million into the programme for Peace and Reconciliation.
- **HIV AND AIDS** fights the spread of HIV and its underlying causes, prevents discrimination and supports those living with HIV and the communities who care for them. In 2010 FELM channelled €0.8 million into the programme for HIV and AIDS. Today AIDS work tends not to consist of individual projects, instead it is incorporated in the training of church workers, healthcare and diaconal work as well as the work that churches engage in with young people, women and families.

Everyone in a position of responsibility is important in the church's mission areas

The majority of those living in the Mtwara-Lind mission area of the Southern Diocese in South-Eastern Tanzania are Muslims or adherents of traditional religions. Superstition and witchcraft still keep people in bondage.

The Lutheran Church represents a small minority, but despite its small size, it is widely recognised as a reliable partner in various kinds of education and awareness work. The church's main priority, however, is congregational and mission work.

The growing church needs more workers, in particular evangelists, to run small village parishes. The evangelists conduct church services, run Sunday schools, teach religion in primary schools to Christian children, lead confirmation classes, do home visits, conduct funerals and maintain contact with the pastor, who visits at regular intervals to conduct baptisms, confirmations and communion services.

Many of those in positions of responsibility in the villages are young Christians and need training. Last year FELM funded a follow-up course for the group of ten people who started in 2008, and a new group started their training as evangelists. The group of 16 new students also included four young women, one of whom had built a church in her village the previous year with the help of other girls from the village, because there were no Christian men in the village. There's a challenge for those villages that still conduct church services under a tree!

Each person in a position of responsibility is important in a region that the church clearly sees as a mission area. We have had a lot of positive feedback about the courses, as people want to hear the Gospel. Many have asked for courses to be organised in their villages. Villagers ask for advice and prayer.

Marjatta Mäkinen



Marjatta Mäkinen

The women of Mkunwa didn't wait for someone to come along and build them a church. They took matters into their own hands and built one themselves. Evangelist **Monica Andwike** inspired the women to build the church.

Hymns are more than just beautiful melodies



Hannu Pesonen

Reading and writing in Tiang is a completely new skill for adults as well as children. In 2004 work was initiated on Djaul to develop a written language for Tiang, a language that has previously never been studied or researched. The project included developing an alphabet and grammar.

Papua New Guinea is a unique country. It has a population of 6 million, and a total of 830 different languages. One of these languages is Tiang, which is spoken on Djaul Island, close to the Equator. The Tiang people place significant importance on traditional Melanesian values, e.g. harmony within the community, solidarity, and respect for authority and leadership.

The Tiang culture is an oral culture, and all information is passed on to the

next generation through stories, teaching and songs. The Tiang people are therefore accustomed to memorising information. When the first missionaries arrived on Djaul in the 1920s, it posed no significant challenge to the Tiang people to learn all 444 hymns in the hymnal in a language that was completely foreign to them – Tolai – into which the hymnal had been translated at the end of the 19th century.

No more meaningless words

Even though the Tolai hymns have become very dear to many of the islanders, their content and meaning unfortunately is no clearer to the new generations than they were to the previous generations. In fact the reverse may be true, as nowadays very few people on Djaul understand even a single word of Tolai. For us Westerners, hymns are more than just beautiful melodies, and their words are very meaningful. That is why we have felt that translating hymns into the Tiang language is an important part of our Bible translation and literacy work.

The work has been very rewarding. Thanks to hymns and songs in their own language, the Tiang people can now understand the message and meaning of the songs. The songs have also encouraged them to use the Tiang language in church services, to learn to read, and to get more people involved in the church's activities and functions. Some have started to use their own traditional music in new, spiritual songs.

Riikka-Maria Kolkka

Equal Share 2010: preventing desertification and promoting food security

The target countries for the 2010 Equal Share Campaign were Senegal and Mauritania, two countries on the edge of the Sahara in West Africa.

Over a third of Senegal's population lives below the poverty line. In recent years, the number of poor people in rural areas has increased, because there are few sources of livelihood. There is not adequate food produced in nearby regions for everyone, and the lack of clean drinking water and healthcare allow diseases to proliferate.

The development aid department of the Lutheran Church of Senegal works to improve living conditions in poor regions. Better harvests can be achieved by devel-

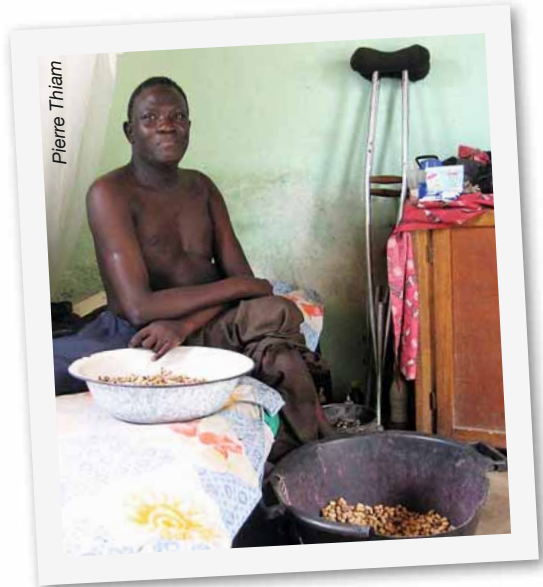
oping agricultural methods as well as by digging and repairing wells. The church has donated threshing machines and mills to ease the burden of women so that they have time for other activities as well. Schooling and microloans enable people to improve their economic situation themselves.

In the Equal Share Campaign seminar, which was held in Finland in September, the Church of Senegal's Director of Development Cooperation **Pierre Thiam** talked about people who had been granted a microloan. One of them was **Robert Séne**, who has polio.

"Robert Séne's legs are paralysed so he can't go to work," explained Pierre Thiam. The church granted Séne a microloan of €150, and with this money Séne bought 10 sacks of peanuts, which he peeled and sold in small packets. "In the rainy season it wasn't profitable to sell peanuts, so Robert Séne decided to use the rest of the peanuts to make peanut oil."

Pierre Thiam praised Robert Séne's business acumen, because with the money he made from selling the oil he repaid the loan and was even able to buy two sheep. During Muslim celebrations, sheep are in high demand in Senegal.

Small projects have been the start of a source of liveli-



Pierre Séne suffers from polio, but he created a source of livelihood for himself with the help of a microloan.

hood for many poor people. Some have bought animals, others seedlings for fruit trees. One person started a small market shop, selling vegetables and fruit.

Microloans are granted to individuals or groups of people, regardless of ethnic or religious background. The loans do not accrue interest and must be repaid within a year. In 2010, the church's microfinance scheme totalled 23 million francs, equivalent to over €35,000.

Paula Laajalahti



Francois Ngom lives in the village of Fangade in Senegal, and he planted fruit tree seedlings. "In two years these trees will begin to bear mangos."

The Equal Share Fundraising Campaign is an annual fundraising, PR and advocacy campaign, which is conducted to support FELM's development cooperation all over the world. The Equal Share Campaign was first launched in 1992, inspired by the spring and autumn equinoxes. Light is dispersed evenly across the world on these two days every year, but the prerequisites to life are never evenly dispersed. This is why we need a more equal share of well-being around the world.

Significant improvements in the situation of linguistic minorities in South-East Asia



In addition to high-level advocacy, FELM also promotes mother-tongue education among ethnic minorities at the grass-roots level in countries including Laos.

Dozens of organisations have been working to support linguistic minorities in Asia and their work is starting to bear fruit. During recent years, there have been significant improvements in the situation of linguistic minorities in four South-East Asian countries: the Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand and East Timor.

Kimmo Kosonen, an expert in multi-lingual education, has been at the fore-

front of effecting this change. Kosonen is one of FELM's and SIL International's employees in Thailand. He believes his work perfectly exemplifies what FELM is striving for in its strategy, i.e. reaching out to people in the most vulnerable of situations.

Kosonen and others working to defend linguistic minorities are trying to institute mother-tongue education as a basic right for each and every child in Asia, and ultimately, all over the world. This basic right would allow children from linguistic minorities to start their education on an equal premise with other children, which would give them a better chance to succeed at school, eventually get a good job, and help build society.

Getting the facts to those making the decisions

At the beginning of the 21st century when Kimmo Kosonen started his current work, language was never discussed as an educational issue in international meetings on education. The reasons behind the poor success rate of children from linguistic minorities were never discussed. Today language is included on the agendas of meetings and the impact of mother-tongue primary education on learning

results is widely understood.

Kimmo Kosonen's work is essentially high-level advocacy. He works to increase the information available to decision-makers and to help them understand the issues at stake so that the language-policy decisions they make are based on facts.

It is the responsibility of Kosonen and other experts to bring the facts to the table; in other words, to give decision-makers information based on studies and research that show the importance of language in education on learning results. Kosonen has spoken about this topic to ten South-East Asian ministers of education.

"It's a challenge to show decision-makers that even in their countries mother-tongue primary education will benefit the development of society as a whole."

The work of Christian organisations is widely respected

Kimmo Kosonen emphasises that beneficial development is the result of the large-scale networking of experts, new progressive organisational leaders and productive conferences. In addition to SIL, there are approximately ten other organisations involved in the work, including influential UN organisations.

"When the authorities and other decision-makers hear similar messages from several different quarters, it begins to gradually change their way of thinking."

At times Kosonen has been surprised by the fact that decision-makers want to work specifically with Christian organisations instead of relying solely on top professors in the field.

"One authority said that while observing our work, he had noticed that we treat people from minority backgrounds as equals, and he respected that. It occurred to me that perhaps Christ is shining through our work, even if we don't notice it ourselves."

Sari Lehtelä



*Kimmo Kosonen and **Kristy Bang**, Coordinator for Multilingual Education at UNESCO, collect information about the use of minority languages used in education in 23 Asian and Pacific countries.*



FELM's emergency relief

FELM works with local churches and organisations in nearly 30 countries. Earthquakes, floods, drought, famine and conflicts of various kinds are constant threats in many areas. FELM's emergency relief is focused mainly in countries where it is already involved in work.

Throughout its emergency relief efforts, FELM adheres to the principles of humanity, impartiality, equality and independence. FELM carries out its emergency relief mainly in collaboration with international networks such as ACT Alliance and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

As well as being active within its partner networks, FELM invests in developing the expertise and emergency relief capacity of its partner churches and NGOs.

FELM does not compete with other organisations involved in humanitarian work. Our purpose is to support high-quality emergency relief work that adheres to international norms and standards and at the same time makes the most of FELM's strengths, such as commitment to our partners, a thorough understanding of local conditions and cultures, and a willingness to cooperate on both a local as well as a global level.

The Diocese of Peshawar of the Church of Pakistan assumed responsibility for the reconstruction and aid of four villages in the flood-stricken district of Charsadda, where the paths of rivers were changed and entire villages swept away.



FELM's emergency relief funding in 2010

MALAWI: €40,000 allocated to our partner, the Evangelical Lutheran Development Service, for a food security project to prevent famine in the Chikwawa area.

ETHIOPIA: €98,000 allocated to the Mekane Yesus Church's project to prevent famine in Sirinka in the region of Amhara.

MAURITANIA: €50,000 allocated through the LWF's country programme for reconstruction after the 2009 floods.

NEPAL: €62,000 allocated to rebuild the village of Badarjhula in Central Nepal after it was destroyed by fire.

CHINA: €50,000 for reconstruction etc. after the earthquake in the Yushu Tibetan Autonomic Prefecture in the province of Qinghai.

PAKISTAN: €100,000 allocated to immediate emergency relief after the floods in the summer of 2010 through the Diocese of Peshawar.

FELM's child sponsorship



FELM's child sponsorship scheme helps build a bridge into the future for children. It gives them the opportunity to go to school and thus attain a better life. Sponsors involved in the scheme support poor families, children who have lost their parents, and young people in school or vocational and tertiary education.

In 2010 FELM's child sponsorship scheme funded the schooling of children and young people in 16 countries. We channelled €1.1 million into child sponsorship, mainly in Nepal and Ethiopia. At the end of 2010 there were 3100 child sponsorship agreements. Most sponsors are private individuals, families and

various small groups within congregations, but we also have schools and organisations as sponsors.

In 2010 we initiated new projects in Tanzania and Senegal, focusing in particular on improving the position of disabled people, AIDS orphans and girls.

We initiated a new child sponsorship project in Pakistan in the Diocese of Peshawar, sponsoring children in four schools. The support provided by the sponsors ensures that children of even the poorest families can continue their schooling. There are a total of 900 children – both boys and girls – in the four schools involved in the scheme.

The pastor of the slums loves children

Pastor **Chanda Saiyotha** of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand works in Khlong Toey, Bangkok's largest slum, where roughly half a million people live. He wants to offer slum children the chance to lead a life different to that of their parents.

"Families in this region face huge problems, including drugs and broken relationships. Parents can't cope with caring for their children. When I meet parents and ask if their child can come to the church's club, they usually say yes. They also respect the church's work, even if they don't go to church themselves," says Chanda.

The Immanuel Lutheran Church, one of the nineteen parishes of the ELCT, first started working in the slums 10 years ago. Nowadays its work focuses specifically on the slums and in particular on the slum children.

Violin lessons as a means to a better life

The church's upstairs room is full of small violin cases. A total of 60 children attend violin lessons at the church, and because the music tuition is provided free of charge, it opens up the world of music to the poor.

The children also learn English, painting, dancing and IT skills, as well as being allowed to just play and be involved in various clubs. 150 children are involved in the church's clubs.

Chanda feels it is important that the children have experiences of success, which are then celebrated together as a group. Last year the violin students performed on Thailand's *I Love Art* television



"Social status and respect aren't important to me. Instead, I want to learn to serve God in a manner that will help Christ's church grow", says Chanda Saiyotha. Here he is pictured in the slums. Muk takes violin lessons at the church.

programme. One of the boys who took violin lessons has continued his violin studies at university. Playing the violin transformed his life, and now his example serves as an encouragement to others. He is still active in the church's activities.

"Education is the only chance for slum

children to attain a better life. It helps them to see that drugs can only offer a life of lies. I hope they can come to understand that God is the source of everything that is good and that he wants the best for everyone."

Sari Lehtelä

Five new pastors

Chanda Saiyotha's five years of studying at the Lutheran Seminary that FELM supports came to an end when he was ordained as pastor at the end of March 2011.

Five new pastors were ordained at the same time, which is the largest number to date in the history of the church. The ordination of Thai pastors strengthens the church's self-reliance, because the church no longer needs to rely on missionaries to conduct baptisms, weddings or funerals for parishioners.



New pastors in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand: Chanda Saiyotha, Boonma Saiyotha, Suthin Somporn, Boonmee Jarupong and Yohan Trakoonmeesuk.



Education helps prevent conflict between castes in Nepal

There is a wide gulf between Nepal's numerous communities and ethnic minorities. Since 2006 when the peace treaty was signed, Nepal has been in a transitional phase, in which different people groups are trying to figure out how to work together for peace and democracy.

The Dalits belong to the lowest caste of all in Nepal, but education gives them the chance to fight their way upwards in society. FELM supports *Samaritan Uplift Service*, an organisation that works in three provinces and trains group leaders and other people to speak out on behalf of the Dalits and mediate conflicts between different castes.

Malati Devi Karn is a group leader with the Mushari, a minority group who live in South-East Nepal and are considered even by the Dalits to be the lowest of the low. Malati belongs to the highest caste, the Brahmins, but she lives with Musharis in the village of Jutepan.

"I want to show solidarity towards the Dalits. I know that I can influence the attitudes of other Brahmins and show that we are all equals and that we can respect each other."

Malati Devi Karn defends those belonging to Nepal's lowest caste. She says, "Through education and advocacy we can influence attitudes towards the Dalits."

Respect and self-esteem

80% of Nepal's population gets its livelihood from agriculture. The Dalits have no land of their own and are completely dependent on landowners, which often leads to conflicts.

A women's group that works towards peace meets every week in Laxmipur to assess the village's development. The women have been trained by Samaritan Uplift Service and have learned to act as mediators in conflicts.

One of the landowners in the region attended a meeting and listened carefully to what the 17 women working in his fields

had to say. Group leader **Elisa Souren** said, "Community spirit and our relationship to the landowner have improved. We feel our position is stronger and more independent. Instead of squabbling amongst each other, we are working together. We have also learned to defend our rights in situations where we have problems with other people groups."

Leadership training, literacy work, healthcare and women's microfinance schemes have combined to help improve the Dalits' status in society.

Joanna Lindén



Joanna Lindén

DANITO YERI is a project run by the Mekane Yesus church in the Illubabor Bethel Synod and its target is to improve the situation of the Manja, who are discriminated against, and to promote the peaceful coexistence between them and the majority population, the Gomaro people. All aspects of the project require collaboration and combine to improve the living conditions of the community. The main emphasis is on education: village schools for primary education, dormitories for girls and boys from remote villages so that they can attend secondary schools, financial support for children from poor families, adult literacy groups, nutritional and agricultural guidance and AIDS awareness. The project includes 18 protected springs, a nursery garden that produces coffee and apple tree seedlings, and honey production that is being modernised. Mills, a women's microcredit scheme, and vegetable gardens all help to advance the position of women.



Development cooperation has improved relations between antagonistic people groups

Life in remote areas in Ethiopia is a challenge for everyone. Basic services such as clean water, healthcare and access to education cannot be guaranteed in the region of Kaffa in South-West Ethiopia. Life is particularly difficult for the Manja people, a group that is discriminated against by the majority population and that is treated as unclean because they are said to eat pig and monkey meat.

The purpose of the Danito Yeri development cooperation project is to help improve relations between different people groups. The project is essentially a conventional multi-faceted development project, but all aspects of the project are carried out and implemented in the spirit of communality. The project has run for six years and is now entering its final phase. Let's take a look at what the situation is like on the ground.

Step by step on a long journey

As I step into a café with **Mesfin**, a familiar waiter welcomes us and serves us our coffees. Mesfin peeks at the bottom of the cup and nods with satisfaction when he does not find the sign indicating it is a dish intended only for Manja people. This signifies a huge step towards equality. Earlier, Manja people weren't even allowed to

enter the café, and if project workers brought members of the Manja community with them, it could potentially cause problems. Continuity has been a significant factor, and now there are even some cafés where Manja people feel comfortable on their own. It is important to keep reminding ourselves of these little steps of progress, because there is still a long way to go before equality is fully attained. For example, the neighbouring restaurant always seems to have mysteriously run out of food when a member of the Manja community wants to order a meal.

A group of Gomaro people has gone to visit the Manja in the village of Ha'iti. Building a school for the village is a matter of concern to everyone. The villagers can get wood and stones for the building, but they need external help for the roofing materials. The Gomaros suggest that if they write a joint petition, it will have a better chance of success. They spend a lot of time thinking about the exact wording of the petition, and finally, when it is ready, it is read out loud to those who cannot read. Then they select two people, as representatives of each people group, to take the petition to the municipal authorities. The project leader will also be given a copy.

Aatti Gaanni, a widow in her forties has once again made the four-hour journey

from the village of Shakkicha to the office from which the project is managed, and she will not give up without a fight. The women in her village were not initially included in the microcredit scheme, but, inspired by the results in other villages, Aatti is bringing a petition from 30 women. They have established an association, received permission from the village elders, and convinced the Gomaro women to join their cause. Aatti's son has had eight years of schooling and he helped the women draw up the official documents. This is an excellent example of what can be achieved with tenacity and initiative.

In the city of Deka, the project has built a dormitory for boys, regardless of their ethnic background. There are 12 boys in the home: four Manja, four from the tanners' community and four Gomaros. The boys themselves, however, do not classify themselves in this way. For them they are just normal 9th and 10th grade boys – **Abbebe**, **Addaame** and **Tesfaye** – who share their daily joys and sorrows. In the neighbouring municipality there is unrest, and violent conflict is unavoidable. The boys discuss the events and ponder what has brought matters to this point. Together they try to figure out the reasons and implications of the unrest.

Kirsi Leikola

Support groups help to prevent the discrimination of those living with HIV

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania's 4-year project with Tumaini University came to an end in 2010. The positive results and the importance of AIDS work spurred us on to continue the work with a new project that will last until 2015. The project has had a significant impact, because it affects the roots of the epidemic and the disease's impact on people's lives. It is important to try and prevent the virus from spreading as well as to alleviate the plight of those living with the disease.

Support groups for HIV positive people are extremely important in terms of supporting their welfare. The groups lessen the stigma associated with the disease and they also give HIV positive people courage and hope. They provide an excellent forum for the dissemination of information on HIV/AIDS and for rectifying wide-spread misconceptions. The groups empower those living with HIV and allow them to speak openly about the disease. Many people with HIV become active in advocacy work after they get over the initial shock of infection. Being HIV-positive can be a powerful tool, e.g. when a woman living with the virus stands up in front of a group of people to talk about the disease without being ashamed, and insists she be treated with respect.

People living with HIV are in the front line in the struggle to break down traditional gender roles. In the effort to prevent the discrimination of people living with HIV, support groups are an example of grass-roots advocacy at its best.

Microloans improve the livelihood of those living with HIV

HIV and AIDS promote poverty. We have started to tackle this problem through microloans. In many microfinance schemes HIV-positive people are seen as a risk group; who wants to grant a microloan to someone who might die soon? However, the risk is worth taking.

In Southern Tanzania in the regions of Makambako and Ilembula, we started a microcredit scheme. There were already support groups for HIV-positive people in the regions, and the prerequisite for being granted a microloan was that the applicant was either HIV positive or already had AIDS. Applicants also had to present a business plan, and for this they needed external help, as not all applicants were literate.

The microloans ranged from 5 to 30 Euros. The applications were mainly for animal husbandry projects, sewing shops,

selling fish, producing baked goods, and in particular for agricultural ventures. Those who were granted microloans took the initiative and established oversight groups consisting of five members each to support loan receivers, to see that the loans were implemented correctly, and to ensure the reporting was conducted properly. The programme was managed by the local church hospital's microloan association. The majority of microloan receivers were women. The repayment percentage in the first year was 98.4 and in the second year the loan receivers decided to donate roughly one euro each towards administrative costs.

Salome Mbewa is a 51-year old widow with three sons and a daughter. Salome is on antiretroviral drugs and feels that she is in good health. She has been granted a loan three times, each loan roughly €50. She used the loans to buy pigs and repaid the loan by selling piglets. She used pig manure to fertilise her gardens, which has improved her harvest, but animal diseases have caused problems.

Salome gets together with her support group once a month. The meetings are important as they provide a forum to discuss how loans can best be put to use and how they can be repaid. The group provides support in good times as well as bad. Salome says that other people treat her well, but her family has rejected her. She is not allowed to take part in family events and she is completely ostracised. The fact that the church accepts her and has welcomed her into the church choir comforts her, and faith has given her new hope. Salome has accepted her illness and believes that with the help of medication, she has a long life ahead of her.

Kati Kempainen



Patients waiting for their medication at Ilembula hospital.

The joint AIDS project in 2007–2010 of Tanzania's Evangelical Lutheran Church's Tumaini University and the Southern Diocese combined education, research and diaconal work. Its goal was to create a network of professional carers, encourage people to get tested for HIV, and to increase awareness about HIV/AIDS through the means of marriage ministry, counselling, pastoral care in hospitals and AIDS education in schools. The microcredit scheme improved the livelihood of people living with the disease and home visits carried out by Ilembula hospital workers ensured that even the most marginalised people were reached. Through a separate child sponsorship programme, 100 AIDS orphans were able to attend school.

Partner churches and organisations

Angola

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Angola

Bolivia

- The Lutheran World Federation
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bolivia
- Instituto Superior Ecu mico Andino de Teologia

Botswana

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Botswana

Cambodia

- The International Cooperation Cambodia
- The Wholistic Development Project
- The Chab Dai Coalition

China

- The Christian Council of China
- The Amity Foundation
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong
- The Institute of Sino-Christian Studies
- The Lutheran Theological Seminary

Colombia

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia
- The Lutheran World Federation

Dem. Rep. of the Congo

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Congo

Estonia

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Estonia

Ethiopia

- The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus
- SIL International

France

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church of France / The Home Mission Society of Paris

Laos

- Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
- The Lutheran World Federation

Malawi

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi
- The Evangelical Lutheran Development Service

Mauritania

- The Lutheran World Federation

Middle East

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
- Door of Hope, Gospel Riders – Jerusalem, Caspari Centre
- Evangelical Alliance in Israel
- Joint Mission in Israel
- Middle Eastern Satellite Television SAT-7

Namibia

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia

Nepal

- The Nepal Christian Council
- The Nepal Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Several development projects with various NGOs

Pakistan

- The Church of Pakistan / Diocese of Peshawar
- The Tank Christian Hospital

Papua New Guinea

- SIL International

Russia

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia

South Africa

- Kwazulu-Natal Christian Council

Senegal

- The Lutheran Church of Senegal



Singapore

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Singapore

Taiwan

- The Lutheran Church of Taiwan
- The China Lutheran Seminary
- The Chinese Christian Medical Mission

Tanzania

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania
- Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service



Thailand

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand
- Alliance Anti Trafic
- SIL International

Venezuela

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela

Vietnam

- Alliance Anti Trafic
- Church World Service of NCC/USA
- VietHealth

Zimbabwe

- The Gwai Grandmothers' Group

Multilateral cooperation

- ACT-Alliance
- CUAHA (Churches United in the Struggle Against HIV/AIDS in Southern and Eastern Africa)
- CLAAS (Center for Legal Aid Assistance & Settlement)
- The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA)
- The Conference of European Churches

- Interfaith Action for Peace in Africa (IFAPA)
- Joint Christian Ministry in West Africa (MICCAO/CMWA)
- The World Council of Churches (WCC)
- The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- The Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)
- Project for Christian Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA)
- Lutheran Mission Society in Hungary

Development cooperation against poverty



FELM's development cooperation is geared towards reducing poverty and promoting human rights while respecting and preserving the environment. Through our development work we strive to guarantee a life of dignity for all people, regardless of gender, ethnic background, or political or religious affiliation. Development cooperation is part of FELM's comprehensive mission work.

FELM is one of the eleven organisations that the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs partners with and one of the largest development organisations in Finland. As per the partnership agreement signed in 2003, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs provides FELM with funds for development cooperation every year. FELM follows the Ministry's criteria for development cooperation. Funding from the Ministry covers 85% of programme costs and the remaining 15% is funded through donations. FELM's programme for development cooperation clearly defines the targets, principles and operational areas of its development cooperation.

Rights-based approach

In 2010 FELM's development cooperation programme focused on combating desertification in Mauritania and Senegal. These countries were selected as targets for the

Equal Share Fundraising Campaign, and food security was promoted by developing different agricultural methods, improving the availability of clean water and promoting the development of diverse means of livelihood.

The Equal Share Fundraising Campaign also strives to draw attention to how important it is for communities to recognise their rights, to take the initiative in improving their living conditions, and to be involved in decision-making that affects them. All FELM's work is rights-based, which means that the focus of our work is always on people whose quality of life should not be threatened by poverty or human rights abuses. The premise of rights-based approach is the implementation of the principles of human rights and adherence to international agreements. Defending human rights is a prerequisite for combating poverty and promoting development.

FELM's partners are mainly churches, Christian NGOs and international networks of churches. They represent the most vulnerable people groups, and our operations impact even the most remote areas. Long-standing partnerships guarantee a mutual trust, which in turn strengthens the commitment of both parties to the development targets that have been agreed on. FELM supports

Development cooperation in numbers:

In 2010 FELM channelled €7.6 million to development cooperation projects (€7.4 million in 2009), of which €1.1 million came out of FELM's own budget (€1.1 million in 2009). The funds were used in 19 countries (18 in 2009) in a total of 91 projects (95 in 2009). We worked with 44 different partners in various countries (37).

the development of its partners' expertise and operational capacity.

A new development cooperation programme

In 2010 FELM's development cooperation programme focused on sustainable development, social advocacy, defending the human rights of minorities, education, health-care, promoting food security, as well as HIV and AIDS work. Projects initiated in 2010 focused on work with disabled people, peace work and child protection. We started new projects in Ethiopia, Cambodia, Nepal, Senegal, the Palestinian Territories and Vietnam. We also started several new projects in advocacy work, and in the coming years, we will focus on developing these projects. One of the major tasks in 2010 was to draw up a new development cooperation programme for 2011–2016. In Finland, our development work is supported by communications and global education projects.

Salla Matilainen

Operations in Finland are evolving

FELM's work in Finland focuses on supporting the mission work of the Lutheran parishes and of other member organisations. The parishes are our most important partners in Finland. We support them by means of help with communications, organising education and visiting them. In 2010, we visited 82% of the parishes and met approximately half a million people. 95% of the parishes have a partnership agreement with FELM.

More than ever, it is the minority churches of the South that are involved in mission work. The majority of Christians and missionaries are in the South. This is why sending Finnish missionaries abroad is no longer the only indicator of the efficiency of mission work. It is more important to focus on how we can support churches of the South in a comprehensive way – spiritually, financially and practically.

This shift in focus should be reflected in the partnership agreements between FELM and its parish partners in Finland. We are working on drafting an agreement that better reflects this shift. In addition to supporting Finnish missionaries, we support local missionaries in our partner churches abroad, the training of church workers, and the churches' endeavours to overcome boundaries, which helps growing churches to become more self-reliant.

The agreement with our partner parishes could reflect the church's comprehensive approach to mission work, which includes the responsibility of our congregations to reach out to people in their area with an immigrant background or who are adherents of other religions.

Making space for multiculturalism and voluntary work

FELM and the Lutheran parishes in Finland are searching for new ways to reach out to people with an immigrant background and to help them feel at home in their local parishes. The number of immigrants is likely to increase dramatically over the next few decades, and it is therefore important to make preparations now to reach out to them. These new Finns have the potential of reinvigorating the spiritual life and the operations of our congregations if we give them with the chance.

2011 is the European Year of Volunteering. Mission work is a significant form of voluntary work in the Lutheran Church in Finland. FELM is taking part in this process by renewing its employee-focused mode of operation and promoting the use of voluntary efforts. Over a third of Finns are currently involved in voluntary work, and another third would like to be

involved, if only a suitable form could be found.

Being a member of a congregation is a perfect opportunity to take part in the task set for us by Christ in a way that suits each of us. However, we often need guidance and training in order to find which particular role is suitable to us, and to learn to fulfil it. That, to a large extent, is what FELM is striving towards in our work in Finland. We are also preparing to expand our voluntary work to our operations abroad.

Networking and advocacy

Anyone over 15 years of age can join FELM's Network. As part of the Network, all members serve in a manner of their choosing. They receive up-to-date information and can be a part of FELM's work. The Network is a wonderful new way to feel connected with other volunteers and with the work FELM is involved in.

Each person is valuable. Unfortunately this is not true in many parts of the world. That is why one aspect of mission work is defending the human dignity of the marginalised and the weak. Our advocacy work focuses on getting to the core of the causes of poverty, which is often the result of a lack of human dignity. In 2011 the Equal Share Fundraising Campaign will focus in particular on supporting marginalised people in Nepal. Advocacy work involves partnering with churches, associations, governments and international organisations. By concentrating our efforts we can achieve great results. We at FELM want to encourage the congregations in Finland and their members to reach out actively on behalf of the poor. The Equal Share Campaign is a dream of justice realised. This dream becomes a reality in concrete actions of love through which we manifest God's love.

*Markku Laine
Director, Department of Mission
Education and Resources*



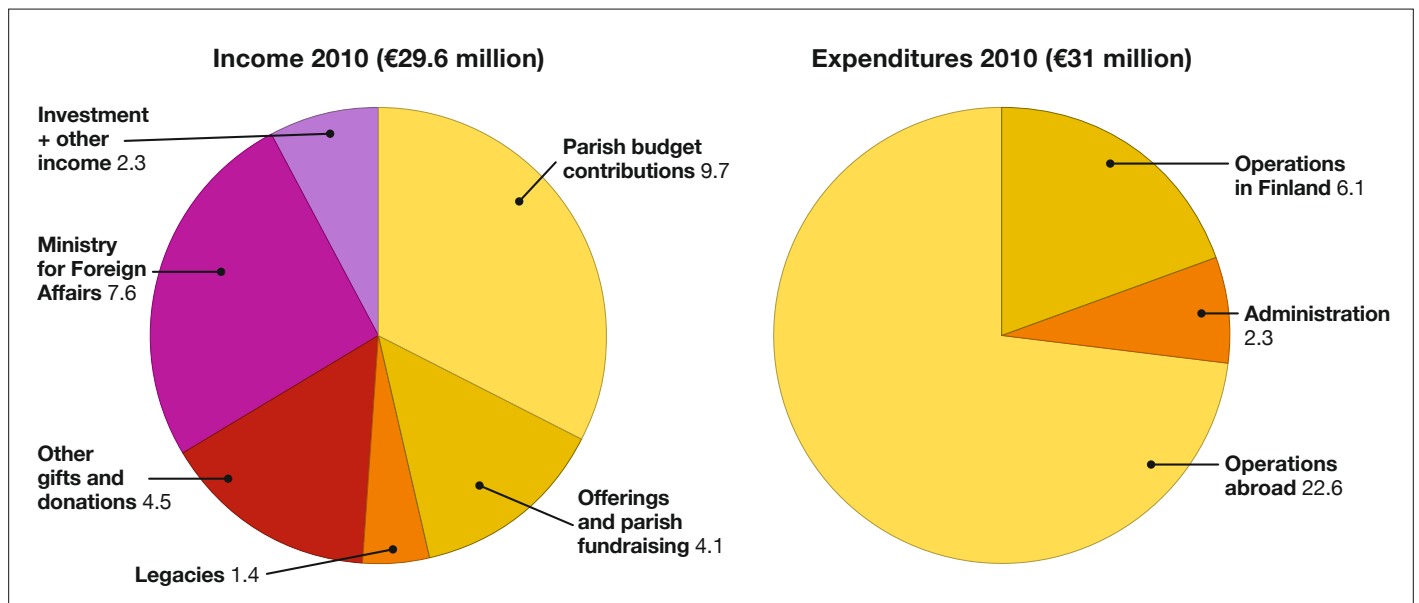
Elina Fanta

Every year the music group Cumina gathers together a new group of enthusiastic young musicians to tour confirmation camps and other events.



The Equal Share Campaign is FELM's largest annual fundraising campaign. Lutheran parishes in Finland help by organising various events, and volunteer workers have a significant impact on the success of the event.

Finances and fundraising



Finances 2010

FELM's funds are generated mainly by contributions from Finnish Lutheran parishes, individual donors and Christian organisations as well as by development cooperation funding granted by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The total income for 2010 was €29.6 million.

Operational costs in 2010 were €31.1 million, of which €22.6 million was spent on operations abroad.

Personnel

Personnel 31.12.	2008	2009	2010
Operations abroad	165	149	144
Operations in Finland	180	186	188
Dep. of Mission Cooperation	22	22	25
Dep. of Mission Education	97	105	105
Administration	48	46	45
Communications and joint	13	13	13
Total	345	335	332



The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission

The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM) is one of the mission organisations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. Founded in 1859, FELM now operates in about thirty countries on five continents. Its members comprise the parishes of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church (449), other organisational members such as Christian organisations (26) and private individuals (372).

■ FELM's motto is **'Love, Faith, Hope – from people to people'**. It reflects FELM's comprehensive approach to

mission work, including the preaching of the Gospel and service as a response to the Gospel.

■ FELM's annual budget of approximately €29 million is generated through contributions from Lutheran parishes, other church organisations and individual donors. FELM has a partnership agreement with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland regarding the funding of NGO-based development projects. In 2010 a total of €22.6 million was allocated to operations abroad. €8.4 million was channelled

to fundraising, communications, education and shared expenses in Finland.

■ FELM has 332 employees, of whom 144 work in mission capacities in about twenty countries.

■ FELM organises its operations into five programmes: ministry and congregational work, social justice and diaconia, sustainable governance and finances, peace and reconciliation, and HIV and AIDS.

www.mission.fi



FELM's museum Kumbukumbu will celebrate its 80th anniversary this year. It is an ethnographic museum, and exhibits material from various Asian and African countries – in particular Namibia and China – brought to Finland by missionaries. In 2010 the Tukutuku exhibition included artefacts, pictures and texts to show the impact of ox-drawn carts being replaced by cars.

Contact information:

sls@mission.fi
firstname.lastname@mission.fi

Executive Director
 Rev. Dr. Seppo Rissanen
 Tel. +358 9 1297 212

Department of Mission Cooperation

Director
 Rev. Rolf Steffansson
 Tel. +358 9 1297 233

Director for Development Cooperation
 Maria Immonen
 Tel. +358 9 1297 280

Department of Finance

Director
 Lauri Haavisto, MSc (Econ.) LL.M.
 Tel. +358 9 1297 283

Department of Administration and Personnel

Director
 Tarja Larmasuo, LL.M
 Tel. +358 9 1297 204

Department of Mission Education and Resources

Director
 Rev. Markku Laine
 Tel. +358 9 1297 205

Department of Communications and Fundraising

Director
 Rev. Eeva Kemppe-Repo
 Tel. +358 9 1297 250

FELM's operational concept and values



Operational concept:

We live out God's love in words and deeds. We proclaim the Gospel, defend human rights and fight to eradicate poverty.

Values:

■ Christian hope

The Gospel gives rise to Christian hope. It encourages us even in the midst of hopelessness to follow Jesus' example and to change the negative things we see in our lives and in our environments. The Christian hope in our work is the driving force for the renewal of life in this earthly life as well as for eternity.

■ Loving our neighbour

Our work is based on God's love for each and every person and all of creation. Loving one's neighbour involves overcoming boundaries, defending the weak and sharing what belongs to us.

■ Fighting for human dignity

All people are created in the image of God and therefore their human dignity should be inviolate. When we fight for human rights, regardless of culture, religion, ethnic background, gender or social situation, we are defending God's creation.

■ Transparency

We are accountable for our operations to God, our partners, those we aim to help through our work, as well as those who help to fund our work. We want to keep our operations accessible on a spiritual level so that various actors within the church can join in the work of FELM.

■ Reliability

Confidence in our work and the reliability of our operations are a prerequisite for the continuation of our work. We operate in a manner that ensures we are worthy of the trust and reliance that our partners and supporters place in us.

FELM's strategy 2010–2015



**The Finnish Evangelical
Lutheran Mission**

Tähtitorninkatu 18
P.O. BOX 154
FI-00141 HELSINKI
FINLAND

+358 9 12971
sls@mission.fi

IBAN:
FI3880001400161130
BIC: DABAFIHH



www.mission.fi