



## Children of God: Partners in the Great Commission

*“It’s my prayer that one in five of these children will be cross-cultural missionaries one day, and that all would be global-Christians—that they would be about what God is about, namely, sharing His saving love with all people”—Matthew Beish, Missions Coordinator, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Topsfield, Mass.*

Nine-year old Andrew Farley is praying for the people of North Korea and may become a missionary there when he grows up. He learned about the people of North and South Korea at Our Savior Lutheran Church’s “Wednesday Kid’s Club,” in Topsfield, Mass. Through educational resources like LCMS World Mission’s *Mission Friends*, Andrew and approximately 25 other children, from kindergarten through sixth grade, weekly learn about God’s love for people around the world.

But, Andrew and fellow club members aren’t waiting until adulthood to be involved in God’s mission. The children take home mission prayer requests each week to lead prayers with their families. “Kid’s Club is making our entire family more global thinkers...” shares Andrew’s parents Brian and Joanne Farley. “We know that Kid’s Club is part of God’s plan to help parents raise their children to be Godly men and women.”

“I asked the kids to prayerfully consider serving our congregation by leading its weekly Mission Moment,” says Matthew Beish, Kid’s Club leader. “This week Kyle Uhlig (age 10) will talk about Kazakhstan and give the congregation specific prayer requests.”

Our Savior supports missionary David Coles through the Together In Mission Program. Coles recently met with Andrew and Kyle and members of the congregation’s missions committee. “The intelligent questions the Kid’s Club children asked indicated that they are well informed about my work in Brazil, and that they are somewhat familiar with Brazilian geography, food and culture. Their friendly support and prayers on my



behalf (they wrote to me several times), coupled with the congregation's, have encouraged me," says Coles.

Other Kid's Club mission involvement includes collecting "mites" for LWML, singing at local nursing homes, leading Mission Minutes in their Sunday school classes, memorizing mission-related Bible verses, reading missionary biographies and writing to missionaries.

In Fergus Falls, Minn., teacher Jolene Wagner is giving her kindergarten students at Trinity Lutheran School a heart for people around the world through a "traveling trunk." The trunk is opened each Friday during a two-month span to introduce the students to the people, culture, food, language, religion, etc., of a country. "Many people think the concept of God's mission is too abstract for kindergarten children," says Wagner. "However, I've seen them come to understand that there are people in the world who don't yet have faith in Jesus. They feel a deep need to pray for missionaries, because they tell me 'people need to know about Jesus!'"

Beish concludes, "It's important for Christian churches to teach their youth about other religions, like Islam. In our society and public school systems, diversity is celebrated without clarification. Children can become confused by alternative belief systems, without the church saying, 'There *are* other religions, but truth and salvation can only be found in Jesus Christ. And, here's how you can share your faith with people who believe otherwise.'"

*Reprinted from the Dec. 2002 issue of Harvest News, published by LCMS World Mission.*

