

THE  
**Melvin M. Kieschnick**  
LECTURE SERIES

**DR. MELVIN M. KIESCHNICK**

*Enricher, Encourager, Executive Par Excellence, Enabler, Example. These carefully chosen words truly exemplify the life and ministry of Dr. Melvin M. Kieschnick, a man of God who has dedicated his life to the ministry of Christian education.*

Born in Texas, Mel attended Lutheran schools throughout his life and in 1950 graduated from Concordia University, River Forest, Illinois, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. In 1954, he received his Master of Arts degree from University of the Pacific, Stockton, California. Mel undertook additional graduate work at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, and the University of Hong Kong.

Mel began his career as a Lutheran school teacher in the United States. In 1956, he accepted a call from the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod to serve as missionary and coordinator of education in Hong Kong. He served as principal of Concordia Lutheran School, a kindergarten to grade 12 Chinese school of 2,300 students. Mel planned and directed the opening

of 10 more schools and basic literacy “roof-top schools.” Mel played a major leadership role in founding the now world-renowned Hong Kong International School. Plans were made (and implemented after Mel left Hong Kong) for six additional elementary and high schools. These schools eventually enrolled more than 20,000 students with a staff of over 600.

Mel organized a training effort to provide in-service instruction in Christian education philosophy and methods to hundreds of teachers. He wrote religion curriculum for schools. Together with his wife, Jane, they produced all the materials for a two-year series for the Chinese Lutheran Sunday Schools.

A testimonial to Mel’s influence is seen today by former students now serving as teachers, pastors and church leaders in Hong Kong.

Mel taught Christian education, psychology and pastoral leadership at Hong Kong College, the Lutheran Bible Institute,

Concordia Theological Seminary of Hong Kong and Lutheran Theological Seminary, Shatin.

In 1968, Mel organized and chaired the first World Conference on Lutheran Education. In attendance were national Lutheran school leaders from Argentina, Brazil, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Japan, New Guinea, Nigeria, the Philippines and the United States.

After his return to the United States, Mel served as Superintendent of Schools for the Michigan District; Executive Director for the Board for Parish Services;

Executive Director of the Lutheran Schools Association of New York; Program Director for the Center for Urban Education Ministries; and Staff Associate for Wheat Ridge Ministries.

A widely acclaimed motivational speaker, Mel has been a featured

speaker at more than 200 education conferences. He has authored two books and published over 200 professional articles. In 2010, he spent a month in China assisting the introduction of Parent Effectiveness Training to that country.

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Mel’s ministry has been supported and assisted by his wife of 60 years, Jane, whom he married in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on July 14, 1951. They are the parents of five children, David, Margareth, Timothy, Elizabeth and John.

