



INDIA

LEFT: Sanchita Kisku is an International Leader scholarship recipient finishing her Ph.D. at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.



God has opened the door

Sanchita Kisku is curious. She wonders why there are so few female leaders or pastors in her church, when so many women fill leadership roles in Indian tribal culture. “If you give leadership to women, the church will grow,” says Kisku. “How can women reclaim our tribe status as leaders in the church?”

This question is the focus of her thesis, which she will complete this December at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago before returning to teach at Santal Theological College in India. Kisku is an International Leader scholarship recipient. Her scholarship was made possible by generous gifts from ELCA members, a giving opportunity now available through ELCA Global Church Sponsorship. She says her church, the Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church, and its companion, the South Central Wisconsin Synod, encouraged and supported her studies.

“The ELCA is listening to people around the world ... They are doing God’s mission,” says Kisku. “God has really opened the door for me. It’s a privilege to study here.”

When she returns to Santal this winter, Kisku’s new knowledge and credentials will help the college gain status as a seminary, which will in turn build up more church leaders – especially women – who feel called to study theology in India.

“When I came to Chicago, I was swimming in the ocean. There was so much to know and to learn,” says Kisku. “This different way of teaching, to be open-minded and to learn from each other, has opened my eyes.”

In 2014, your gifts to ELCA Global Church Sponsorship will help support scholarships for International Leaders like Kisku. Learn more at www.ELCA.org/globalchurch.



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