

Current Projects

Carpet Workshop and Community Centers

Three million displaced Kurdish villagers represent one of the world's largest refugee challenges. Our kilim carpet workshops have helped many find meaningful employment and educational opportunities while using a traditional skill. The LOMS example has been copied by other local Kurdish organizations.

Women's Health Care

Over the past 15 years, LOMS has helped provide medical aid to war refugees and displaced persons and operated clinics and hospitals, all staffed by local doctors.

Currently, we provide healthcare at our workshop and through support to local organizations.

This year we equipped the heavily populated area located at the foot of Mt. Ararat in Eastern Turkey with the region's first paramedic facilities and ambulance.



Scholarships

Lack of opportunity among the refugees has resulted in a dramatic increase in the suicide rate for Kurdish girls between the ages of 13 and 25. LOMS provides scholarships and living assistance to talented girls who would otherwise face a bleak future.

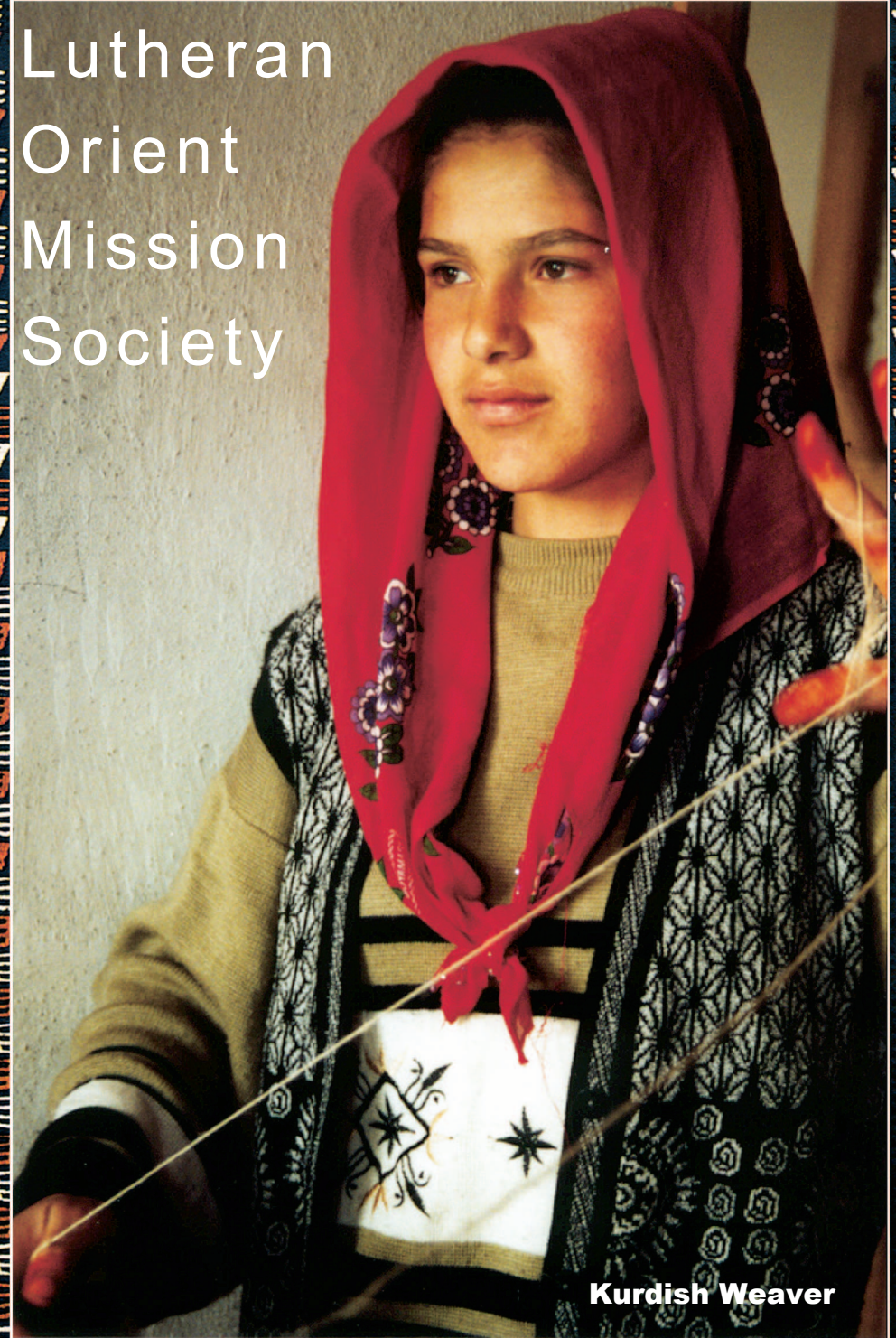
Peacemaking

Through the *Reconciliation Walk* program LOMS has brought thousands of Christians to the Middle East to address the bitter legacy of the Crusades.

The RW continues today as a forum for dialogue, truth and reconciliation. It is our most direct means of peacemaking in the region, involving government, clergy and lay people from across the Middle East. This initiative has taken on new urgency in the wake of the events of September 11, 2001.



Lutheran Orient Mission Society



Kurdish Weaver

Serving the Middle East Since 1910

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Lutherans in the Middle East...

With the Kurds for Nearly a Century

Our primary focus for over 90 years has been on the Kurds, a distinct ethnic group of 25 million that traces its existence to the Medes of the Persian Empire in Old Testament times.

The founders of LOMS envisioned a community that would serve the Kurds

through good works and the good news of the Gospel. Our first team was sent to Iran in 1910. It was of comprised a surgeon and a pastor, a pairing that embodies the LOMS vision to this day.

Cost-efficient Aid and Development

Central to our philosophy is the concept of local, people-centered development, which does not foster dependence on continuing foreign aid. Our projects are geared to use seed money to activate local workers, resources, and products, which inspires self-supporting solutions to the challenges in Kurdistan. Our work helps to develop the local economy and encourages creativity and self-sufficiency rather than reliance on outside aid.



Emphasis on Mothers and Children



From the beginning, LOMS has fulfilled this commission by caring for widows, children and refugees, building and staffing hospitals and clinics and by providing for the education and support of troubled families in Iran, Iraq, Turkey and Armenia. We place great emphasis on literacy programs and health care for poor widows and single

mothers. Studies show that the empowerment of women is the most important step in providing self-sustaining development in a community.

Christian Witness

While overt evangelism is very difficult in the Muslim Mideast, we have never backed away from our Christian identity, following the advice of St. Francis: "Preach the Gospel always. If you must, use words."



The LOMS-produced booklet titled *Kine Em* ("Who Are We?") has been read by over 100,000 Kurds. The booklet, which explores the parallels between Kurdish history and the Christian faith, has resulted in a growing spiritual response to the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.