



GLOBAL MISSION NEWSLETTER

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Volume 2 Issue 1

April 2010

IRINGA ROAD LUTHERAN CHURCH MAKES A MISSION GIFT TO SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, TOLEDO, OHIO

Witnessing to all people...Caring for all God has entrusted to us GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Inside this issue:

Restore Value of Food	2
How Can I Serve?	2
Concern for Poor	3
Letter from Tanzania	3
The Blessing of Seeing	4
TZ Bishop's Itinerary	5
Letter from China	6

Special points of interest:

- Opportunities for serving in mission
- About the Lutheran World Federation
- Haiti Earthquake Relief

In March, Grace was informed that on that on Companionship Sunday in January, Iringa Road also took a special offering. The story of the visit to Salem continues to be told at Iringa Road, and for the first time, an offering was collected to be sent to the United States, to Salem Church, in Toledo, Ohio. Members of Iringa Road made a very generous gift of 250,000 Tanzanian Shillings for Salem to use for their Tuesday outreach program! This sum would support a Tanzanian family of 6 for over 5 months. This was no

small offering coming from one of the poorest countries in the world. Salem now has a friend on the other side of the world! This gift was given out of Iringa Road's love for the people of Salem and the mission they have in the neighborhood. This is a wonderful witness to the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit to touch people's lives. It is a testament to the importance



of the mission Salem is called to do. Pastor Mlahagwa and Godwin experienced something they could relate to at Salem,

and wanted to respond to that in some way.

Who knew that over 20 years ago, when Bishop Peter Mwamasika and Bishop James Rave formed the companion-

ship between the Dordoma Diocese, and the NWO Synod that something like this would happen? God knew.

On Sunday May 9th, dur-

ing the 10:30 worship service at Salem, a presentation will be made to give the gift from Iringa Road to Salem.

(See "Gift" on pg. 2)

Gift (Continued from page 1)

The new Bishop of the Dodoma Diocese, Rev. Festo Ngowo, and our NWOS Bishop, Rev. Marcus Lohrmann will be a part of that service and presentation. Members of the Synod office, the synod Global Mis-



Pastor Mlahagwa and Godwin Mbwambo at Salem

sion Board, and many members of Grace will be in attendance. Any friend of Salem, or anyone interested in companion relationships is welcome to also attend. The mission of Salem is touching many

hearts in northwestern Ohio, and now it has touched hearts in Tanzania, Africa. Bwana Asifiwe! Praise God!

Contact the Church office by May 1st at 474-6403, if you would like to attend this worship service, and a carpool will be arranged.

Great Britain: Restoring the Intrinsic Value of Food Is a Major Challenge

As a church leader in the “West,” living in a country that is overflowing with cheap food, the challenge is to restore the intrinsic value of food in people’s lives. Because food is inexpensive, readily available and mostly grown and processed by others, it no longer has the sacredness or value that it had for previous generations. This makes us remote from our brothers and sisters in other parts of God’s world, and reduces our sense of

awe at God’s creative grace. We need to regain our sense of the “dailiness” of bread, and of God’s grace.

Upon her consecration in January 2009, Bishop Jana Jeruma-Grinberga, became the first woman head of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain .

Article from March 2010 newsletter of Lutheran World Federation

“We need to regain our sense of the ‘dailiness’ of bread...”

How Can I Serve?



General qualifications for ELCA mission personnel are the same for all categories of service. Specific job-related qualifications are listed in the full position descriptions. Service is open to active members of the ELCA and other Christian churches. Compatibility with ELCA .

Global Mission guiding principles is an expectation. There are four There are four general categories of global mission service that vary in length and support provisions:

- **Long-term service:** four-year or longer salaried positions (See “Serve” on pg. 3)

Serve (Continued from page 2)

- **Global Mission 2-year program:** two-year stipend-level positions
- **Volunteer service:** self-funded positions, two months to two years
- **Young Adults in Global Mission:** one-year service learning [Global Mission Two-Year \(GM2\) Program](#)
 - o 24-month commitment
 - o Designed for single persons, often recent college graduates or early retirees

- o No provisions for dependent children
- o Stipend, housing, and benefits provided
- o Orientation required [Global Mission Volunteers of the ELCA](#)
- o Two months to two years (depending upon assignment,



Teaching English to Chi-

- availability and other conditions)
 - o Open to single persons and couples, with or without dependent children (depending on local conditions)
 - o Housing is normally provided by the local church or program (See “Serve” on pg. 4)

Tanzania: Concern for Poor Households

As a woman, wife and mother, I understand the prayer as a petition to God for sufficient food for both the body and the spirit for my household. As director for women’s work in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) my concern is for women in poor households, where access to food is limited for financial reasons. As a church member I believe

in abundant life—not just survival—for church members, and that means sufficient food for both body and spirit. *Ms Rachel B. Ramadhani is the ELCT women’s desk director in Arusha, Tanzania.*

“Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses...”

News from Langson Mboya—University of Dodoma, Tanzania

27th March, 2010
 Ron Hiatt, Jeanne Harmon and Pastor Merlin Jacobs,
 We were so glad during your visiting day at our home in Dodoma, TZ; it was a wonderful day for me and my family. We wondered how you still remember and honor our beloved Tilda.
 On 4th Jan. 2007 Jeanne Harmon

wrote a letter to us with a small amount of money, enabled us to buy a brick for the corner stone. I and my family are now living in the new house and we thank you very much for your assistance, and only God will pay you. We really appreciate you for honoring us and in fact it is a pleasure to have good relationship with you.

This was God’s plan; because since that day, a lot of blessings have been obtained (primarily) after establishment of the bridge of relationship between your church, our church and my family, my house has brought a memory which is still strong and continues to grow, as the days go on. We wish you all the best for Easter. God bless you.

The Lutheran World Federation – A Communion of Churches

Regional Office in North America

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is a global communion of Christian churches in the Lutheran tradition. Founded in 1947 in Lund, Sweden, the LWF now has 140 member churches in 79 countries representing 68 million of the nearly 70 million Lutherans worldwide. The LWF acts on behalf of its member churches in areas of common interest such as ecumenical relations, theology, humanitarian assistance, human rights, communication, and the various aspects of mission and development work. Its secretariat is located in Geneva, Switzerland. Since 2003, ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson has served as president of the LWF. The LWF Regional Office in North America was established in 1998 to increase awareness and strengthen commitment of member churches in the region through deepening relationship expressed in gifts sharing and concrete cooperation. The office is located in the ELCA Church wide Office in Chicago, Ill., serving the three LWF member churches in the region, namely:

The Estonian Evangelical
Lutheran Church Abroad

The Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada

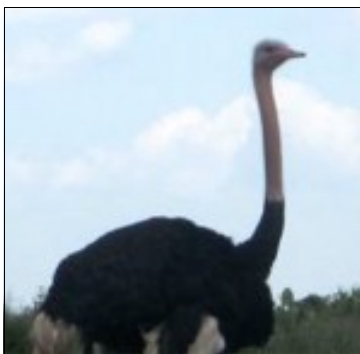
The Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

The Blessing of Seeing

Not even the ostrich ...

A reflection by the Rev. Sam Wolff

ELCA missionary serving in Kenya



When I decided to leave mission work in Africa after more than 20 years, many people asked me, “why?” Initially I had no answer, and so I would reply, “it’s just time.”

A few years later, while serving an international congregation in the heart of Europe, the “why” dawned upon me. I had left my mission work in Africa, because I was *tired of seeing*. I was tired of walking out of my home every day and seeing people dying of AIDS; mired in hopeless poverty; fighting to survive just one more day in urban Africa. I was tired of seeing corruption, tribal-

ism, nepotism, drought and hunger. I was tired of seeing.

Then one day I thought of the ostrich. Having lived many years in Africa, I’ve seen thousands of ostrich. Never once, though, did I see one with its head buried in the sand.

That realization brought me up short. “Who am I,” I wondered, “to try and bury my head and not see”? I am back doing mission work in Africa. I see the same problems. It seems, though, that I see with different eyes.

I see women sing as they do back-breaking work. I see children playing soccer on dung heaps with a ball made of banana leaves; they play with all the joys of childhood. I see my neighbor who has AIDS in its last stages, carry himself with great dignity. I see Africans at worship who care more about adoration than they do about time. I see some of the most beautiful people in God’s world.



ELCA NEWS SERVICE February 24, 2010

ELCA Increases Financial Commitments to Haiti Earthquake Relief

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- Focusing on immediate provision of shelter and non-food items as the rainy season approaches, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) announced it has increased its financial commitment by \$2.5 million toward earthquake relief efforts in Haiti.

The ELCA will provide an additional \$1.5 million to the Lutheran World Federation's Department for World Service (LWF-DWS) and \$1 million to the Lutheran Church in Haiti, said Megan Bradfield, associate director, International Development and Disaster Response, ELCA Global Mission.

Through Feb. 24 the ELCA has received more than \$5.8 million in gifts in response to the earthquake, including a matching gift of \$320,000 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Minneapolis, said Christina Jackson-Skelton, ELCA treasurer.

(PHOTO of Bishop Ngowo and his itinerary)

GRACE LUTHERAN

4441 Monroe Street
Toledo, OH 43613

Phone: 419-474-6403
Fax: 419-474-7726

E-mail: Grace-Lutheran@sbcglobal.net

Look for information
about ChinaConnect
and Pastor Steve Ray in
the next issue!

March 17, 2010

Dear Vicki,

I am still studying as a master student in public health in Shandong University. I am working on my manuscript and would love to try some English academic journals. One member of our group, who is also studying with my mentor, just failed to win the President Scholarship across the whole university. He has 16 publications, during the two years of Masters study, which is very impressive. Candidates with extraordinary publications have a greater chance, so I will work harder and try my very best! I always look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely, Sophie Ye

SERVE (continued from pg. 3)

- o Basic overseas medical insurance provided; in some instances a local stipend may be provided
- o Volunteer pays for airfare and local living costs

Young Adults in Global Mission

- o For young adults, ages 19-29, who have demonstrated involvement and leadership in church or campus ministries and who can give a year to an intentional service and learning program
- o You apply to the program, but you can list a country preference
- o Selected candidates come to Chicago in mid-April (at ELCA's expense!) for a discernment and interview weekend to determine placement in a country program

- o Term of service begins mid-August with an eight-day U.S. orientation
- o Volunteers make an 11-12 month commitment, with service

concluding mid-July to mid-August of following year

- o Volunteers raise at least \$4,000 toward participant support
- o Travel, lodging, board, and weekly allowance provided
- o Work in supervised setting
- o Medical insurance provided
- o Student loans may be deferred.



Worship in Jinan, China

If you would like more information about possible service, check the ELCA website or speak directly to Jeanne Harmon, Ron Hiatt or Vicki Quraishi about their experiences in serving others.