

Partnering with South African church bodies

Missionaries, South African church bodies work together for expanded ministry

History

The LCMS has been working in South Africa since 1981, partnering with both the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (LCSA) and the Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (FELSISA) to spread the Gospel in southern Africa and beyond. Both church bodies have their roots in mission efforts from Germany and both are partner/sister churches of the LCMS and members of the International Lutheran Council.

Touching South Africa and beyond

The LCSA and the FELSISA are moving into the third generation of mission work (see pages 4-5 of this issue) as they intentionally train leaders who will serve throughout Africa. Through the ministry of the Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) in Tshwane (Pretoria), South Africa, pastors and deaconesses are trained for ministry in their congregations and communities. Currently, 12 students are studying at LTS and come from many countries in addition to South Africa, such as Kenya, Liberia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. LTS is operated by a partnership between the LCSA, the FELSISA and the Mission of Lutheran Churches (Bleckmar) in Germany. Recently, LTS signed an agreement with a local university, the University of Pretoria, which will allow eligible students to receive a Bachelor or Master of Theology accreditation.



The Rev. Dr. Carl and Deaconess Deborah Rockrohr are some of the newest missionaries to join the LCMS team in South Africa.

The Rev. Glenn Fluegge, who serves at the LTS, wrote, "Looking at a photo I recently took of students, I realized that it includes students from all over Africa—Nigeria, Liberia, Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia—and there are more who weren't included in the photo. We face exciting challenges in the classroom as we continually cross-cultural boundaries and bring God's unchanging Gospel to different people, but LTS has a tremendous amount of potential to touch Africans all across this continent!"

LTS benefits from the teaching of Fluegge, who has served as an LCMS missionary with his family in Togo and South Africa, for 13 years; the Rev. Dr. Carl and Deaconess Deborah Rockrohr, who are new to the LCMS missionary team in South Africa; the Rev. Dr. William Schumacher, who serves in Africa on a part-time basis while maintaining his professorship at Concordia

Seminary, St. Louis; the Rev. Dr. Wilhem Weber, bishop of the LCSA and rector of the seminary; the Rev. Dr. David Tswaedi of the LCSA; and the Rev. Nathan Mntambo of the LCSA. LTS faculty and students also benefit from frequent short-term theological educators from LCMS seminaries, who teach intensive classes in their specialty areas.

LCMS missionaries in South Africa

Today, the LCMS supports a team of 14 GEO* and career missionaries. This team includes those who work locally in South Africa, and others who are based in South Africa but whose work reaches far beyond the country's borders. Much of their work is carried out through partnerships with the LCSA and the FELSISA.

The LCMS team includes

- **GEO* missionary Zeal Beale**
- **GEO missionary Shara Cunningham**
- **Rev. Glenn and Susan Fluegge**
- **GEO missionary Emily Goddard**
- **GEO missionary Marva Ludgood**
- **Rev. Dr. Carl and Deaconess Deborah Rockrohr**
- **Dr. Mike and Cindy Rodewald**
- **Coral Rose**
- **Rev. Dr. William Schumacher**
- **GEO missionary Ginger Taff-Lagergren**
- **GEO missionary Julia Wehrenberg**

**Note: GEO missionaries are globally engaged in outreach and serve one- to two-year terms.*

Children at the crèche in Ntshongweni gather for singing and games.



LCMS Ministry in South Africa

