



Rockrohr News and Notes

www.rockrohr.net

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Ministry Information:

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Our website has the latest news of our work and family!

Christmas Greetings from the Rockrohrs

(We have sent this missionary newsletter to all who are on our Christmas letter mailing list to introduce our new missionary work to those who don't know about it yet.)

Christmas Greetings to all our family and friends!

The solid foundation of our family's Christmas joy is what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. We rejoice every year that the Son of God was born

to give us forgiveness and everlasting life. As humans we are not sure what each day, month or year ahead on earth will bring. But we know that in Christ our earthly and eternal future is in God's hands.

May God give you time to worship Him with your family and sing:



Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Deaconess Training in South Africa

In preparation to start her position as Director of Deaconess Training at the seminary, Deborah was in South Africa in late October. She was able to meet the first group of deaconess students, attend the service of blessing for the students, and meet many who will support the deaconess training.

People often ask, what does a Deaconess do? South Africa has many societal needs in which a deaconess might serve. Since deaconesses are equipped for mercy works in the name of Christ, they can extend the gospel outreach of the church into the

community. This may include involvement in crèches (daycare), HIV/AIDS outreach and support, soup kitchens, care for women in crisis, and other similar projects. In South Africa, the voice of the church is welcome even in ventures which receive government funding. Deaconesses can integrate prayer, devotions, and the gospel message with physical and social care.

Deaconess students are also equipped to support the work of the pastor in Lutheran congregations, visiting the sick or shut-in, teaching women and children, guiding the work of the altar guild, and

assisting with other tasks as may be assigned by the pastor.

Deborah is designing the curriculum to include two years of courses in Bible, doctrine/catechism, church history, and deaconess ministry, plus field work which allows for practical application of learning. After this, students complete an internship/practicum, normally in the home area under the supervision of the local pastor.

Many photos of Deborah's recent trip to South Africa can be seen at <http://www.rockrohr.net>





The first deaconess students at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Pretoria, South Africa.

LTS: Training Lutheran Pastors and Deaconesses for Africa www.lts.org.za

God's assembled people. God's concern for pastoral care of His people is taught both in the Old and New Testaments. It is God's will that faithful pastors be trained and placed among His people.

Paul also valued the work of the "deaconess." (See Romans 16:1) Since New Testament times the work of women in the church has been highly cherished.

Lutherans in South Africa have determined to start a new phase of training at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Pretoria.

First, the training offered will include the option to

receive an accredited university degree. LCMS missionary work in Africa has not trained pastors at this level before, but the Lutherans of South Africa have taken on this challenge.

Second, the training of deaconesses to serve in church and society has begun. Never has LCMS missionary work sent a full-time deaconess to assist with training new deaconesses in another country. But the Lutherans of South Africa have requested this help.

We are thankful to be part of this new work! Thank you for your prayers and support!

St. Paul wrote his colleague Titus: *"The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you."* Titus 1:5 NIV

Very clearly Paul did not consider missionary work "finished" until there were spiritual leaders among

Rockrohr Funding Not on Target

LCMS missionary budgets are raised outside of the regular synod budget. Thus we, like all LCMS career missionaries, must raise and maintain our budget through donors.

Before we can move to South Africa, there must be \$147,000 donated or pledged to our budget. As of November 10, about \$75,000 has been received.

In order to start Ted's schooling on January 11th, and for us to prepare for seminary courses which we will teach in February we need to move in late

December or very early January. If by December 7th the \$147,000 level is reached we will be given permission to move to Pretoria. If not, our move will be delayed to raise the needed funds.

If you are considering supporting our missionary work, we ask that you consider pledging or donating before December 1st. Donations and pledges by this date should count towards the amount needed to move to South Africa.

The telephone number to give by phone is:
1-800-433-3954

You can find the links for online giving at:
www.lcms.org/rockrohr

Make checks payable to LCMS World Mission with "Rockrohr" noted on the memo line and mail to:

LCMS WORLD MISSION
P.O. Box 790089
St. Louis, MO 63179



Deborah visits a daycare run by the Tshwane Leadership Foundation. This organization may help provide deaconess students training opportunities.

