



# Rockrohr News and Notes

www.rockrohr.net

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### Ministry Information:

Carl and Deborah Rockrohr are missionaries with

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

## The Growth of God's Kingdom

*Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;*

*all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed.*

*Isaiah 61:9*

The Old Testament reading for the Third Sunday in Advent is a prophecy from Isaiah that God's people would be spread throughout all nations and peoples in the world. There are many such prophecies throughout the Old and New Testaments.

We are living in a time of human history in which the growth of God's

Kingdom can clearly be seen. For example, some statistics from Africa:

1900 - 8.7 million Christians in Africa

2000 - 357 million

2011 - 474 million

2025 - estimated 600-670 million Christians in Africa

In 1965 Africa was 25% Christian, today in 2011 it is 46% Christian.

Every day there are about 34,000 new Christians in Africa. Between 2009 and 2010 there were about 700,000 new *Lutherans* in Africa.

Of course, these humanly measured statistics cannot exactly measure all God is doing... but

these statistics are clear evidence that right before our eyes the Lord is building up His Kingdom right in our very own day. God is fulfilling His prophecies recorded in the Scriptures. God is answering our petition in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy Kingdom Come."

During this Advent and Christmas season, and at the start of a New Year, please pray with us that our eyes may be open to what our Lord Jesus is doing in His Church. We celebrate His birth as our Savior. We rejoice in the growth of His Kingdom as He wills. We prepare and wait for the revealing of His glorious return.

## Presentation Available Online

Would you like to see the presentation Carl and Deborah give when they visit congregations?

A 35 minute video version of the presentation has been added to [www.rockrohr.net](http://www.rockrohr.net). It is a video of the PowerPoint

with narration by Carl. It does not have all the benefits of a live presentation (!) but we hope it might be beneficial to those who are interested in our work in South Africa but have not had opportunity to hear Carl or Deborah

speaking. There is also a short 3 1/2 minute introduction video on the same page.

Feel free to ask us specific questions or details about the work through email.





*The "soup kitchen" of Tshwane Leadership Foundation in Pretoria, South Africa*

## Deaconess Insights: Serving the Poor and Needy

to bring physical comfort, even as they share the love of Jesus with those around them. Deaconess training at Lutheran Theological Seminary includes supervised field work in addition to classroom learning.

women; leadership and job skill development; hospice care; infant/toddler day care; residential care for the mentally ill; and services to homeless men, the aged, and young girls fleeing prostitution.

We frequently say deaconesses are engaged in "works of mercy." What does that involve?

Deaconesses study the Scriptures and catechism so that they can speak words of comfort and encouragement, praying with and for those whom they serve. They are also trained to use their hands

Deborah visited the Tshwane Leadership Foundation (TLF), a pan-Christian agency in Pretoria, in early November. TLF provides meals to 180-200 impoverished people three times a day, seven days a week (see photo). It also provides crisis and transitional housing for

Each of these activities and services provide opportunity to combine the gospel message with tangible and physical care. Deaconess students learn these types of "works of mercy" to support the work of the pastor, connecting the church with community needs.



*Carl enjoyed preaching at his "alma mater" grade school's church, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and School in Wauwatosa WI over Thanksgiving weekend*

## Funding Update: Your Support is Needed

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.

As of December 5th, \$100,999 of the \$147,000 needed to move to South Africa has been reported to us.

We give thanks to God for many generous and heartfelt individual donors and congregations. Yet fund-raising awareness needs to continue, and support needs to build in

the coming weeks and months. *We encourage you to forward our newsletter to others who may be interested in learning about our work.*

Even if congregations cannot at this time budget official support, perhaps special gifts and offerings can be considered.

If you have not supported us already (or even if you have), we appreciate your prayerful considerations to support our ministry at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Pretoria, 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](http://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  
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