



# 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!*

## Epiphany: The Light of Christ in Africa

*“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” Matthew 2:1-2*

January 6<sup>th</sup> marks the beginning of the church season called *Epiphany*. The theme of Epiphany is that Jesus Christ is the light of the nations; a light for all peoples. The narrative of the Wise Men from the east searching out the Christ child has always pointed the church to God’s plans that people of many tribes and races would come to believe in and worship Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

And this, dear friends, is

coming true in our own lifetime! Sometimes in the United States setting it is envisioned that Africa is a place where there are hardly any Christians. Or, that missionaries work primarily among totally unreached tribes in the bush villages. But in fact, God has blessed His Church in Africa with tremendous growth in the last 150 years. Africa is a continent flowing with Christians!

It is estimated there were more than 474 million Christians in Africa in 2011. There are more African Christians than the entire populations of the USA, Canada and Mexico combined (about 460 million people)! In 2011 there were about 19 million *Lutherans* in Africa, as compared to

*(continued on page 2)*

*“Advanced pastoral training in Africa is becoming increasingly important as Lutheran church bodies throughout the continent are growing more rapidly than pastors can be prepared. As a result of rapid growth, theological astuteness in many emerging Lutheran church bodies is minimal.*

*“The number one request from the leaders of emerging Lutheran church bodies is for help in better understanding their Lutheran identity. As these western Lutheran mission/daughter churches grow more mature and expand, they plant additional churches often referred to as Africa-initiated Lutheran churches (AILCs). Many do not have adequate access to local formal theological education programs and currently must depend upon other institutions such as LTS as they develop their own.”*

*Dr. Michel Rodewald,  
LCMS Africa Regional  
Director 12-16-2011*

## Presentation Available Online

A 35 minute video presentation has been added to www.rockrohr.net. The video is narrated by Carl

and gives a presentation explaining the work of Carl and Deborah. There is also a short 4 minute introduction video on the

same page.

The direct link is:

<http://www.rockrohr.net/africa-mission-work/video/>





*Frank Kainerugaba and Enoch McBen, both from Uganda, are the two LTS students who have successfully completed the four years of basic Lutheran theology in 2011. Both have been accepted at the University of Pretoria to start post-graduate studies in 2012.*

*(from page 1)*

7.6 million Lutherans in the U.S. and Canada. In all, Africa is about 46% Christian. While there are still unreached people in Africa, the astounding growth of the Christian faith in Africa has led to the primary LCMS missionary focus on the training of pastors and other church leaders.

Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) has seen the great growth of the church in Africa, and the need for well-trained pastors and deaconesses.

## Light of Christ in Africa (cont.)

The seminary has developed a partnership with the University of Pretoria to offer a Bachelor of Theology for the pastoral students. Also, 2012 will be the first year that residential deaconess training for women will take place.

### Assisting with the New Programs

LCMS World Mission has never before tried to give pastoral training at the college level in Africa. It was not feasible because of a variety of challenges throughout the continent. LCMS World Mission has sent African students to U.S. seminaries for master's degrees, but the fundamental college Bachelor's degree has never been supported.

However, now the

Lutherans in South Africa have taken the steps necessary for an academic partnership with the University of Pretoria. Moreover, the Lutherans in South Africa have organized to set up residential deaconess training in Africa.

Though it could not initiate these new programs itself, LCMS World Mission heartily supports these new leadership training endeavors of our partners in Africa and that is the basis of Carl and Deborah's calls. Through their studies and work in Christian higher education as well as service in LCMS congregations and missionary work, God has prepared Carl and Deborah to assist LTS with these new tasks.



*Carl is scheduled to represent LCMS World Mission at the LHM Regional Outreach Conference in Orlando on January 13-14. Say hello to him there...he plans to leave for South Africa three days later!*

## Funding and Departure Date

As of December 29<sup>th</sup>, \$127,500 of the \$147,000 needed to move to South Africa has been reported to us.

Many individual donors and several congregations have generously given us their support. Thank you so very much!

We do need to continue to build up our donor base for both immediate budget

needs as well as long-term work. **Please share our newsletters with others who may be interested!**

How to give support:

To donate by phone call: **1-800-433-3954** (Designate your gift "for the Rockrohrs.")

You can find the links for online giving at: **[www.lcms.org/rockrohr](http://www.lcms.org/rockrohr)**

Or, 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**



## LCMS Missionary Support

In 2007, LCMS World Mission initiated the Network Supported Missionaries (NSM) program. This program separates out all missionary budgets from the general synod budget. Thus, if there is a decline in donations to the synod it does not affect the missionary budgets, which are their own restricted accounts and can only be used for expenses of the designated missionary.

Missionary budgets are not set by the missionary but by the budgeting procedures both in LCMS International Center and the missionary field authority. All salaries, benefits and expenses follow the protocol of LCMS Human Resource policies.

### **Missionary Support**

Raising and maintaining support for his/her own

missionary budget is the responsibility of each missionary. This responsibility is written right into the details of the call documents. It is expected that up to 25% of the missionary's ministry time will be spent on raising and maintaining support.

If more donations are given than needed for a missionary's budget year, the donations stay with that missionary for the next budget year and are not used for anything else. If donations fall short, the missionary may need to return to the U.S. to do full-time fund-raising to make up the shortfall. Of course, an unscheduled return to the U.S. to raise support takes away weeks of ministry time.

Although the NSM program is a rather new procedure for missionary

budgets in LCMS World Mission, it is the model used by many missionary agencies such as Lutheran Bible Translators. Also, some donors did not like giving to a general synod budget because they never knew how the money would be used. With the NSM program it is certain that 100% of their donations go to and stay with a specific missionary's work.

### **Immediate and Long-Term Support**

When a missionary starts new with LCMS World Mission (like Carl and Deborah), there are two needs:

1. Raise the immediate budget needs to get to the field.
2. Raise and maintain relationships with long-term donors who will  
(Continued on page 4)

### **What makes up a missionary's budget?**

- *Missionary Support: salary and benefits*

- *Housing, Communications: housing, utilities, field transportation*

- *Travel & Personnel Care: training, retreats, meetings*

- *Field Travel: to support area assignments and projects*

- *Missionary Care: logistics and personal support*

- *Supplies & Equipment: general supplies and computer equipment*

- *Education: language study, cultural learning, family education*

- *Insurance: medical, evacuation, travel coverage*

*The amounts of these line items are not set by the missionary. They are set by the annual budgeting procedures of LCMS World Mission.*

## Newsletter Help Requested

Carl and Deborah have managed all aspects of newsletter publication and distribution until now.

With their move to South Africa, they need a congregation or group to take up the task of printing

and mailing copies of the newsletter to about 165 addresses.

Carl and Deborah will continue to write the newsletter and then send it by email to those who have email access. The

newsletter is published once a month and is usually two pages long.

If you are interested in assisting with this vital part of their missionary work, please email:

carl.rockrohr@lcmsintl.org



*Family News: On December 17<sup>th</sup> our second son, Jim, graduated with a B.A. from Concordia University Wisconsin.*

*Congratulations, Jim!!*

**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.rockrohr.net](http://www.rockrohr.net)**  
**and**  
**[www.lcms.org/rockrohr](http://www.lcms.org/rockrohr)**

*One last amazing fact... There are now more Lutherans per capita in the continent of Africa than in North America (USA, Canada, Mexico)*

*Lutherans in Africa = 1.89% of the population*

*Lutherans in North America = 1.66%*

## LCMS Missionary Support (cont.)

*(from page 3)*  
 support the work for a number of years.

Of course, without the long-term donor support, a missionary cannot stay in the field. Though not yet in South Africa, Carl and Deborah are also focused on long-term supporters since the next budget year starts in July 2012.

### Ways to Support the Work

1. Specific gifts from congregations and individuals.
2. *Senders* program for individual donors. The *Senders* program is set up for individuals who would like to be part of the ongoing support network of a specific missionary. Generally speaking, ongoing pledges (monthly, quarterly, annually) are

automatically assigned to this program.

3. *Together In Mission (TIM)* program for congregations. In this program a congregation makes a pledge to annually support a specific missionary. The \$6,000 level is often given as the standard pledge level in the TIM program. At this level the missionary is guaranteed to personally visit the congregation once every two years. Congregations may pledge a smaller amount, though without a guarantee for a personal visit. (As much as a missionary would like, it would be hard to visit every congregation that makes a \$500 and \$1000 donation.)

### Carl and Deborah's Specific Situation

As of this writing on

December 29, it has been reported to us that \$127,500 of the \$147,000 needed to leave for the field has been raised.

*Thank you to many who have given generous one-time donations or pledged ongoing support for our work!*

At this time we have a great need for congregations to consider on-going support for our work through the Together in Mission (TIM) program. As your congregational budget-planning takes place, we ask you to prayerfully consider adopting us as your TIM missionaries. Details on the TIM program are available through Debbie Feenstra in LCMS World Mission.

(Debra.Feenstra@lcms.org or 1-800-433-3954 Ext. 1651).

## Information Resources

This newsletter shared a lot of information. Here are some of the sources:

- Statistics of African Christianity:

<http://www.gordonconwell.edu/resources/documents/StatusOfGlobalMission.pdf>

- Statistics of Lutheran churches  
<http://www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/LWF-Statistics-2010.pdf>

- Quote from Dr. Michael Rodewald:

<http://blog.lcmsworldmission.org/2011/12/16/south-africa-seminary-graduates-two-pastoral-candidates-for-uganda/>

And as always...  
[www.rockrohr.net](http://www.rockrohr.net) !