



# Rockrohr News and Notes

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## Ministry Information

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## All Africa LCMS Mission Retreat

LCMS missionaries working in Africa met April 1-5 at a seaside resort in Mombasa, Kenya for four days of Bible study, meetings, prayer, rest, and fellowship. We were joined by the Rev. Dr. Albert Collver, Asst. to the LCMS President for Church Relations and Director of Regional Operations for LCMS Office of International Mission. Many of us met each other for the first time. Rev. David Erber, in his 27th year of missionary service (Nigeria and Ghana) commented that this was only the second all-Africa missionary retreat he had attended.

At the retreat we said goodbye to Dr. Mike Rodewald, Regional Director for Africa, and his wife Cindy, Volunteer Coordinator; and to Rev. Tim and Beth Heiney, missionaries in Guinea. Mike and Cindy are moving back to the US, and Mike will soon start his new work as Executive Director for Lutheran Bible Transla-



**City landmark in Mombasa, Kenya. Our taxi driver made a point of taking a route through the city that led us under the giant elephant tusks on our way to the resort.**

tors. Tim and Beth are retiring after 30 years of LCMS missionary service in multiple West African countries, although we understand they may not be quite ready to leave Africa for good. They are exploring options for returning to West Africa in new roles with a different organization.

Our time with all of the missionaries was special because we had the opportunity to renew friendships and make new friends. Perhaps the most poignant moments, for us, were spent with Tim and

Beth Heiney, as we recalled our short time together in Ghana, their first field of service. They had been in Ghana for 9 years when we joined them in 1993 so that Carl could assist Tim with the evangelistic work in northern Ghana.

In 1994, after just nine months together, Heineys had returned to the US briefly when a tribal war broke out and they were unable to return. They subsequently were relocated to other work in a different West Africa

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**Support ...**

We invite you to share our newsletter with others who may be interested in learning about our work.

**To support our work financially**, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

**LCMS  
P.O. Box 790089  
St. Louis, MO 63179-0089**

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.  
*Sign check memo "Support of Rockrohr Family."*

Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at [www.lcms.org/Rockrohr](http://www.lcms.org/Rockrohr).

**Retreat and Reflections**

*(Continued from page 1)*

country, and Carl strategized with the local lay church leaders how to carry on. Nearly twenty years later, as we talked we put the pieces of the story together.

At that time Tim was going by motorcycle to many market classes and remote villages, preaching and training lay leaders. About 90-100 villages had some contact with the gospel at that point. When Carl joined Tim, Carl said, "This is too difficult, we need to bring the church leaders together at a training center, and



Rev. Dr. Al Collver leads the LCMS Africa mission team in Bible study at the retreat. In the room were 22 missionaries, ranging from 2 months to 33 years and 4 months Africa experience; ages 22-61. Total years of Africa service: 237+.

they can teach in the markets and villages, instead of going out to all the markets and villages all the time." Tim and Carl made a plan during their 9 months together, but then the war broke out. The Heineys were out of the country just then and they could not return to continue the work in Ghana.

After the war when we were able to return to northern Ghana, Sampoga, Beth's house worker, came to Carl and said, "Pastor, when will you come to my village to baptize the people? Many are ready." "How many are there?" "About 50." Carl later asked the church leaders, "How many villages are like this?" "Very many," they replied. That answer led to a new plan to quickly review basic

catechism instruction in many villages, and bring the gift of baptism to these people. About 8 months later more than 1200 people were baptized in 10 special services. This was the Lord's harvest after nine years of planting done by Tim and others; Tim and Beth first heard these details of the baptism services at the retreat 20 years later.

Tim told us when they moved to Guinea there were already many church lay leaders working in multiple villages. Tim said to himself, "This is too difficult, we need to bring the church leaders together to train them, instead of me going out to all of these villages." Tim told us, "I implemented the plan we made together in Ghana."

To God be the Glory!



The retreat was the first time that Rev. Tim and Beth Heiney and Deborah and Carl had a chance to reflect on the work they shared in Ghana 20 years ago.

*What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. 1 Corinthians 3:5-9*

## Helpers Near and Far

### Thank you!

- For your continued prayers for our health and safety.
- To our continuing supporting congregations and individuals.
- To our friends at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills, MI and Concordia Lutheran School who monthly find new volunteers to stuff, label and stamp the envelopes for this newsletter.
- To our Ethiopian colleagues who continue to support us daily in countless ways.



**Beautiful Work:** Meet our gardener, Jurenya, who keeps our yard looking great. Flowers bloom year-round in Addis Ababa and also in our yard!

**Speedy Work:** The April newsletter was folded, stuffed and stamped by the Wednesday morning Bible study group at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills, MI. These ladies' fingers are so nimble that when Pastor Becker went to snap their photo just a few minutes after they started, they were already done!



This large mosaic of Jesus is on the front wall of the seminary chapel.



## JULY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Wedding of James Rockrohr & Megan Frisque
6 Pilgrim, West Bend WI (Bible Class)	7 Travel Day	8	9 Meetings at LCMS; travel to CO	10 Family Day	11 Family Day	12 Available in Denver area
13 Shepherd of the Hills, Centennial CO (am)	14 Available pm, in Denver/CO Springs area	15 Available am or pm Denver/CO Springs area	16 Faith, Woodland Park CO (pm)	17 Available am or pm Denver/CO Springs area	18 Travel Day	19 Available am or pm, Milwaukee WI area
20 Our Redeemer, Wauwatosa WI (am)	21 Available am or pm, Milwaukee WI area	22 Available am or pm, Milwaukee WI area	23 Covenant, Milwaukee WI (pm)	24 Available am or pm south WI	25 Available am or pm south WI	26 St Paul's, Farmington Hills, MI
27 St Paul's, Farmington Hills, MI	28 Travel Day	29 Available am or pm St Louis/south-east MO	30 Available am or pm St Louis/south-east MO	31 Available am or pm St Louis/south-east MO		

**NOTE: Please contact us if you would like to be added to the schedule. We would like to visit as many people as possible; small groups are ok. Sundays are already full. See available days for morning, afternoon, or evening presentations. Email us to request a visit. [carl.rockrohr@lcmsintl.org](mailto:carl.rockrohr@lcmsintl.org)**

## AUGUST 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Available am or pm St Louis/south-east MO	2 Travel Day
3 Trinity, Columbia MO (am)	4 Trinity, Columbia MO (pm)	5 Travel Day	6 Hope, St. Louis MO (pm)	7 Available St Louis or south-east MO area	8 Travel Day	9 Travel Day
10 Christ, Milford MI (am)	11 Available am or pm MI, IN or north-west OH	12 Available am or pm MI, IN or north-west OH	13 Available am or pm MI, IN or north-west OH	14 Available am or pm MI, IN or north-west OH	15 Available am or pm MI, IN or north-west OH	16 Travel Day
17 Trinity, Minden City, MI (am)	18 Travel; End of available dates for visits	19	20	21	22	23

## Your LCMS Africa Missionaries



LCMS Missionaries from South Africa, Ghana, Togo, Kenya, Guinea, and Ethiopia; and Rev. Dr. Collver. Not pictured: Missionary Phil Jaseph of Kenya took the picture.

Read more about  
our work online:  
[www.rockrohr.net](http://www.rockrohr.net)

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Prayers for the seminary staff and students as the school year draws to a close in June.
- Prayers for all LCMS missionaries in Africa as there are many changes on the field this spring.
- Prayers for a safe delivery and healthy baby for daughter Becky and Scott, at the end of May.
- Thanksgiving for Scott's (son-in-law) first call as a pastor, to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Hillsdale, MI.

## Mt. Kilimanjaro



Post-Retreat Treat: Our return flight from Mombasa took us past Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. The pilot gave us a heads up, and Carl was able to snap this photo from the window by our seat on the plane. Mt. Kilimanjaro is 19,341 feet high, the highest mountain in Africa and the highest free standing mountain in the world.