



CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

JANUARY 2011

MONTHLY MISSION NEWS

DOMESTIC MISSION CONGREGATION SERIES

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Vernon, British Columbia

Now the Work of Christmas

Begins

It is the week after Christmas as I am writing this article. While the message of the angel is still ringing in our ears and giving joy to our heart, I am reminded of the song by Howard Thurman, "Now the work of Christmas begins." It says, "When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with the flocks, then the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal those broken in spirit, to feed the hungry, to release the oppressed, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all peoples, to make a little music with the heart... And to radiate the Light of Christ, every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say. Then the work of Christmas begins."

Howard Thurman was a civil rights leader, so he was probably thinking of these words in connection with the work of promoting civil rights, but they certainly have a message for us if we think about

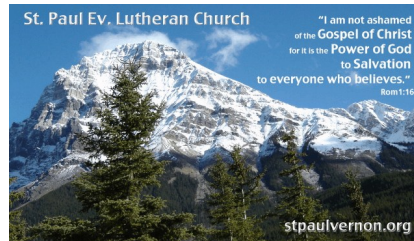
the work of spreading the gospel. Jesus wasn't born so that we could have a nice celebration once a year and then get back to our daily routine. He came to save all people from their sins. Now comes the work of Christmas. Jesus had the difficult work of redeeming us. We have been given the joyous work of proclaiming His salvation to the world. As you read this, we will be fully into the Epiphany Season. Epiphany is all about God revealing His Son to the world as the Savior of the world. God has chosen us to be a part of that work.

Here at St. Paul in Vernon, B.C., we are eager to get to work. We have a number of things in the works in our effort to get the message of salvation out to lost souls. We are trying something new in the area of advertising. We are printing business style cards with a picture and the name of the church on the front with a bible passage and our web address. On the back is our service and contact information. This is intended for members to give to people that inquire about what church they go to.

We are also printing inspirational photos about the size of a coaster. They have a scenic photo with a bible passage and our web address at the bottom. These will be left around in coffee shops and other places in hopes of drawing attention to our web site. We are also working to develop our web site to make it more welcoming, including a welcome video, and information about our salvation in Christ.

Our big focus right now is to prepare for a public presentation. We plan to hold a series of seminar type presentations at a public place with advertising inviting the public. The first in the series will be, "Is there Really a God? How can I know for sure?" It will be followed up by further seminars on other questions like, "How can I be sure the Bible is God's word?" These presentations will also be video taped and put on our web site and made available in DVD format for members to give to people who may be wondering about these questions. Please pray for us and for God's blessings on all our efforts as we continue the work of Christmas in central British Columbia.

- Pastor David Reim



EAST AFRICA VISITATION TRIP

Visitation Report:

“All things work together for good, for those who love God.”

Because of Missionary Mayhew's Aug/Sept visit to East Africa, instead of the normal November visit, the Lord led me to Africa again, so we, the CLC, could have person to person contact twice this year. It was especially needed with the trouble at Himo, with the seminary building, and a yearning in my heart to visit and support the people there. Also I would be able to visit Pastor Mike Gurath at Mois Bridge. A few days before I left, the Lord made it possible for my son, Loren, to go with me and help me. We were able to separate several times while there, to cover more places. He can speak Swahili, which helps greatly in dealing with the local people. Probably our biggest task was the registration of the Church with the Kenyan government, so that the Kinship school at Etago could register their school before their 8th grade students graduate in November of 2011.

In Nairobi, Kenya we met with Charles about the registration, and visited the government offices dealing with the registration. Crossing over to Tanzania, in Arusha, we visited two Maasi groups with Pastor Jeremiah. We also spent a day visiting the temporary seminary and training, where Loren presented a paper, “All Glory to God”.

In the Moshi/Himo area we made ourselves available

to testify at a court hearing on the seminary building. We brought receipts and other papers from the U.S. dealing with the matter. The case was postponed.



On Sunday morning, Loren attended church at Himo, while I went to Machame. What a blessing it was to sit with them and worship our Lord!

Back in Nairobi, we collected the boxes of books, and Kinship cards from Charles that were to go to Etago and Chutaroro. We also checked again with the government office on the registration process.

Arriving back in Kiisi we met with Pastor Mike Gurath, since this was his week to teach at the seminary. We attended one day with Pastor Mike. Loren again presented his paper to the seminary students. Next we went to Etago to gather information. The following day we started distri-



buting the Kinship cards and gifts to pupils and teachers. In the middle of the process, a government representative showed up about the school registration. All the school officials and Loren left to look into the registration, leaving me as the sole audience for the singing and dancing of 173 students. I was worried they would exhaust themselves, as one dance lasted what seemed like a half hour.

Loren and Joshua left again for Nairobi to process the school registration. Mike left for Kiisi, but I had the privilege of staying in Etago with Pastor Enosh's family. The next day Pastor Enosh and I went to Chutaroro for another day of seminary training.

After this Pastor Mike and I left for Mois Bridge to meet up with Loren. The next day we visited the Sagalas and got a tour of their farm, and had a fine meal. The day after we attended church at Mois Bridge. Loren again presented his paper. Afterwards we ate at a café with the Sagalas, and got to say goodbye. What a blessing for us to have fellow Christians in Africa!

“O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, and His mercy endures forever.”

Yours in Christ,
Larry Hansen