



MONTHLY MISSION NEWS

AUGUST 2012

CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



2012 Mission Helper Trip to East Africa

On July 8th, fourteen Mission Helpers from several CLC congregations and Pastor Todd Ohlmann left for East Africa to proclaim the Gospel of Christ for three and a half weeks. These fifteen ambassadors of Christ were divided up into three teams: Etago Team, Moi's Bridge Team, and Tanzania Team.

The **Etago Team** was made up of Loren Hansen, Matthew Kranz, Christiana Schreyer, Jennifer Grabow, and Gretchen Eichstadt. This team devoted themselves to delivering their Bible lessons at St. David's KINSHIP Academy (also known as the AIDS Orphan school) in Etago, Kenya. They also traveled to Chotororo, which is where the CLC sponsored seminary is located. Traveling between the two locations, the team was blessed with the opportunity of teaching the children at our school in Etago and those in Chotororo.

The **Moi's Bridge Team** consisted of Pastor Michael Gurath, Kirsten Gullerud, Kate Oster, Jordan Horrillo, and Thomas Naumann. This team shared the Word of God with 169 children of the Holy Cross Lutheran School - a school Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Phoenix, Arizona helped to start. The team was also given the opportunity to teach the saving Word of God to large numbers of children in area public schools.

The **Tanzania Team** had in its group Pastor Todd Ohlmann, Ashley Elliott, Lucas Brown, Jessica Ohlmann, and Randy Wittorp. This team covered more areas than the other two, as they visited several congregations, schools, and villages in Arusha, Moshi, Makanya, Korogwe, and Tanga in Tanzania, as well as Kajaido in Kenya. In two instances the team taught

children in Maasai villages. There were 200 children in a village west of Arusha and 196 children of a "public school" in Nanja, Tanzania. The head-master of that school is a member of the Lutheran congregation and teaches the Bible in the school.



Before making the trip to East Africa, Pastor Ohlmann anticipated that the Mission Helper teams would teach upwards of 1500 children. Through the working of God the teams reached out to children well in excess of this estimate. One team reported presenting their Bible lessons on one day to over 2000 children in various area schools. Another team wrote of being given full access to all the schools in a certain area. They taught upwards of 500 children. It is truly amazing that in Kenya and Tanzania our Mission Helper teams not only had the privilege of teaching the children in our sister congregations and schools, but also in many public schools in East Africa.

Like as with other Mission Helper trips, both those who shared the Word of God and those who received it experienced the blessings of God. Unbelievers heard of their Savior for the first time. Among our fellow believers the bond of Christian fellowship and love was strengthened. And the Mission Helpers' appreciation for the work of the Holy Spirit was increased. May their mission work bear abundant fruit.

God be praised and thanked for the open door of opportunity to do mission work in East Africa by our Mission Helper teams, and for watching over and keeping them safe.

Read of the first hand experiences at <http://2012clcmhteastafrica.blogspot.com/>

New Church/School Building Needed in Etago, Kenya

During the time one of our Mission Helper teams was at Etago, Kenya, it was quite apparent to them that the building which houses the church and school known as St. David's KINSHIP Academy is sorely in need of being replaced. (The school has been receiving financial support from KINSHIP.) Loren Hansen, who headed up the Mission Helper team, wrote in the Mission Helper blog, "I know that Christiana already said something about this, but the church they have here is literally about to collapse. The walls are made out of wooden frame and soil, and termites

ate the bottom of the frame. And because the church is on a hill, whenever it rains, the soil erodes and piles up on one side and drags the wall away on the other side. Today we literally saw a chunk of the wall just fall off all by itself."

In response to this urgent need, the Board of Missions and the KINSHIP Committee decided to send \$10,000 this month (\$5,000 from MDF and \$5,000 from KINSHIP) to reconstruct this building. It was hoped that while Loren was there, he could help with the preliminary work on this project.

Trip to Jiri, Nepal

Raju Bhitrakoti, who is planning to attend ILC this fall to begin seminary training, reports making a recent 8 hour trip with his brother Rajan and two other Christian brethren to Jiri north of Kathmandu. At Jiri they attended a wedding service where the Gospel of Christ was proclaimed to many nonChristians. The following day they were at the bridegroom's village where they were given the opportunity to share the Gospel with 120 people, many of whom were hearing the good news of their Savior for the first time.

We thank God for making it possible for the Gospel of Christ to be proclaimed on such a happy occasion. We also pray for the Lord's blessings on the preparations of Raju's coming to ILC.

"New" Used Van Purchased for TVBS

The old van for the Traveling Vacation Bible School which transported VBS flyer distributors and VBS teachers to congregations across our country was in need of replacement. It had over 250,000 miles on it and showing major wear. The TVBS Committee found a 2005 extended passenger van in good condition. It was purchased with \$14,000 from the Mission Development Fund (MDF) and \$4,000 from the TVBS Committee built up by offerings from various CLC members and groups. The new van may be used for one of the TVBS trips this summer. We thank and praise the Lord for this blessing.



Missed Opportunity for Visit to U.S.A.

In the month of June, Pastor Thang Kham, the Secretary of the CLCM in Myanmar, was planning a trip to our country in order to attend our synod convention and also visit some of our congregations. Since he was unable to obtain a visa in time, the visit did not materialize. Pastor Kham is hoping to come next summer for the CLC General Pastoral Conference and visit CLC congregations.



It was back in 2008 that correspondence began with this group in Myanmar which led them to declare themselves in agreement with our confessions and change the name of their church body to the CLCM. At the 2010 CLC Convention, the CLCM was officially declared in fellowship with our synod. Since that time the CLC has assisted the CLCM by conducting seminars, providing religious materials, and supplying them with funds (\$17,000) from the Mission Development Fund (MDF) to purchase land where they will build their headquarters.

A visitation trip by Missionary David Koenig and Larry Hansen, member of the Board of Missions, is being planned for early next year. It is also our prayer that Mark Bohde will be able to accompany them.