



MISSION NEWSLETTER

JULY 2013

CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



West Africa Visitation Report

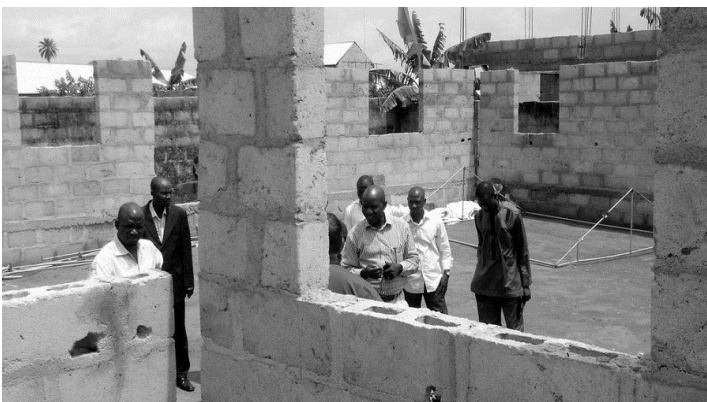
Earlier this year Pastor Patrick Udo from Nigeria finished his earthly struggle and was taken home by the Lord. Missionary Matthew Ude accompanied by Pastor Todd Ohlmann, chairman of the Board of Missions, flew to Nigeria at the end of June for the purpose of representing the CLC at Pastor Udo's funeral. It was unfortunate that there was some miscommunication between Patrick's family and the NCLC board, which resulted in the postponement of the funeral until mid June. Sadly, they were not able to attend the funeral, but did have a chance to meet with the family and express our sorrow, thankfulness, and joy for everything the Lord did and has now done for Patrick.

Pastor Udo is survived by his wife, an adult daughter Nsikan, and five young children: Ekemini (16), Daniel (14), Karen (12), Joann (7), and Jabez (3). In order to provide some assistance to the Udo family, a memorial fund was established in memory of Pastor Udo. \$5000 from the MDF was given in memorial to the family of Patrick Udo and his widow. The \$5000 will be used to help defray the funeral costs and provide roofing, doors, and windows for the house that is being constructed by the immediate Udo family for Patrick's widow and five children. Offerings for this memorial may be designated: CLC-MDF Patrick Udo Memorial.



On arrival in Nigeria, many of the Nigerian men were well remembered by Pastor Ohlmann, even as some of them remembered him. In particular, Todd remembered Pastor Godwyn. On his last visit, Godwyn made the comment to Pastor Ohlmann, "People come once and then never come again." They were both glad that this was not true in Pastor Ohlmann's case.

In Port Harcourt, a city known for its access to oil and its corruption, a small group of NCLC members have been trying to establish a permanent church for many years. Recently, the Lord granted them the opportunity to begin building on a small piece of land.



In the village of Efa, the American pastors were surprised to find four students studying at the Bible Institute where they only expected two. Joel Effiong Antai and Godwyn Friday Ndak both joined the school at the beginning of the year.

On their way to Nigeria, Pastor Ohlmann and Missionary Ude stopped in Togo. Here for the first time Pastor Ohlmann met face to face with Pastor Kossi Blewu. Although married both legally and according to Togolese custom, Kossi and his wife never had the



opportunity for a formal church wedding. Understanding the importance of God in a marriage, Kossi was eager to have a religious ceremony. So it was with great joy that the whole church at Valaparisio celebrated as Missionary Ude officiated at the wedding service. After the service, there was a celebratory banquet with noodles and salad. Kossi was eager for this opportunity not only for his own sake, but to be an example to his members and show them the importance of a wedding in the presence of God.

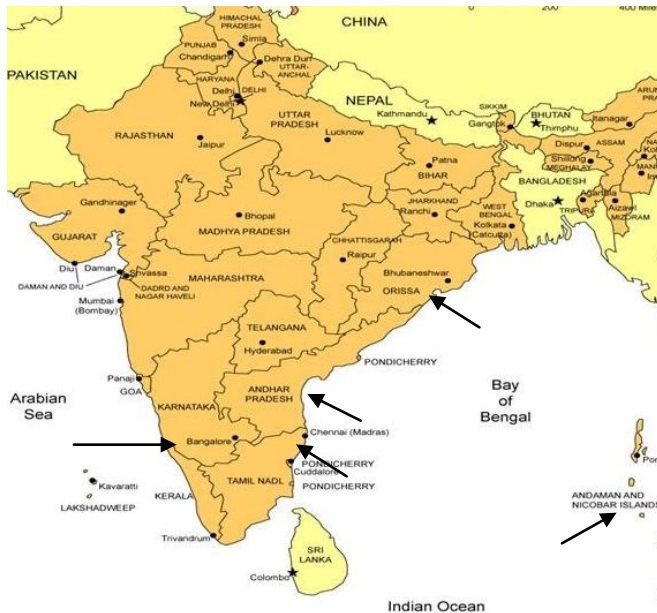
Over the next couple of days, Pastor Ohlmann and Missionary Ude were able to visit most of the four separate congregations, which Kossi has planted in Lome and in nearby villages. It was a great opportunity for Pastor Ohlmann who had read many reports but didn't understand the full extent of how much work Kossi is doing in Togo.

It is Kossi's sincerest wish to get to a point where he can quit his day job at a local school and dedicate his time and talents to the service of the Lord. For this purpose he would like us to remember him in our prayers.

The additional students, the progress on the building in Port Harcourt and the increasing work in Togo are all cause for thankful prayers to our Father. We rejoice in our prayers with these men and ask the Father where He has given He may yet give more, grace upon grace. We remember the family of Patrick Udo and pray that the Lord will give them strength and comfort, even as we ask that the Lord would remember the NCLC and provide it with strong faithful leaders.

- Missionary Matthew Ude

BELC Expansion in India



We thank the Lord and the representatives of the CLC in convention and the Board of Missions for the support of new outreach. With the increased budget approved by the Convention, 174 men are in studies with our seven district chairmen. Pastor Ude and I teach some in those new studies, though the responsibility of teaching those men that they might be in agreement with us and then in fellowship lies with the chairmen. It is a joy to be able to teach the Word to these men who are eager to learn. We offer a depth of teachings and a breadth that they cannot get otherwise. It is not because of any offer of money or other possible inducements that prompts these men. If any of them might have that in the back of their minds, they are promptly disabused of that notion. There will be some who will leave the studies, but if the past is any indication, most will continue and be in fellowship with us. After these men agree, our push will be to get the catechism (which they have to take examinations on) into their congregations in their own language.

Bangalore

Pastor Ude is in charge of the new study in the large city of Bangalore. Pastor Moses teaches there also. We pray that the 40 men in this study (which is beyond the 174 already mentioned) will become a new district, adding a 17th to the present 16. Bangalore is the electronics capital of India. It is in the state of Karnataka. We work so far in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and the territory of the Nicobar and Andaman Islands.

Odisha Work

Pastor Deepak and I work in the new area of Odisha State (formerly Orissa). What follows is from a recent report to the Board of Missions on our work there in February.

"Deepak arrived before my ten days and stayed after also to work there on contacts. I reiterate that we are not establishing any district up there, but only having the seminars to explore and see what might be done in the future.

I taught on: Jesus in the OT - Search the Scriptures (OT) for they testify of Him, Baptism - especially zeroing in above all on it being a means of grace with the power of God's Word, that little children should be baptized and that the three forms of applying water are permissible, The Position of Women in the Church, Certain Principles of Bible Interpretation. Baptism and Women... papers were translated by Deepak, printed and handed out with extra copies also. We had no arguments on anything. There was a good reception of our Bible-based positions and that this they do not get where they are. Deepak heard these kinds of comments from the men. All the men who attended were pastors or preachers except ten young men in one place who want to go for theological study to be pastors. Oh, for the chance to swoop them up and begin it with them!

Our attendance this year was down from last year (first number was last year followed by this year's): Bhubaneswar 104 - 51, Nuagaon 130 - 57, M. Rampur 111 - 65. One obvious possibility is that those who did not agree with us did not come. A factor for Bhubaneswar was that there was a two day state wide strike that may have prevented some men from coming a distance by public transport. Deepak said some men did not get notification as he had asked locals to get the word out. Several men did not come due to deaths in the congregations and a bus bringing some broke down. All told despite the devil's attempt's at stifling the Word it went forth. This year also the devil was inveigling some local officials to require bribes. It was not a problem at Bhubaneswar but was in the other two places. We were not violating the anti-conversion law that is in effect in Odisha state as we were not holding open air meetings, but meeting with pastors to teach them. Deepak and local pastors handled this situation. Greed is a mighty motive on the part of some local officials. In the next requisition there is the amount of \$200 for bribes.

Pastor Deepak is busy translating another couple pamphlets on our doctrinal positions to take for the men in the next seminar.

- Missionary David Koenig

Upcoming Newsletter:

- ◆ Introducing Pastor Edward Starkey, our foreign missionary elect to India.
- ◆ 2013 Mission Helper Trip to India.
- ◆ Pastor Michael Gurath's visitation trip to Africa.