

16 February 2009

Mission Glimpses

News from the Rodewalds serving through LCMS World Mission in Africa



“The new year has begun with a bang here in the Rodewald home!”

Dear Friends in Christ,

The new year has begun with a bang here in the Rodewald home! Mike is no longer interim Regional Director. At the beginning of the year he was offered the position of Regional Director of Africa and after much prayer and discussion, accepted. Mike will be spending the next six months visiting LCMS World Mission’s church partners and LCMS missionaries throughout Africa to introduce himself and better understand the different ministries and people with whom he will be working.

In January, Mike was back in Ethiopia traveling with East Africa Area facilitator, Rev. Claude Houge. They attended the annual partners meeting of the Ethiopian Lutheran Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) in Addis Ababa held on Jan 13-15. This church had suffered much division over the past 12 years and Mike and Claude witnessed a time of great joy in reconciliation during these meetings. LCMS World Mission has assisted a number of the districts (called synods) of the EECMY through mission training centers so Mike and Claude visited leaders at the Central Synod’s office and the seminary. The leaders they met expressed their gratitude to LCMS World Mission for the support that has enabled them to develop these training centers that teach the truth of God’s Word. It was an adventure traveling around Addis Ababa by public transport, a city of 3 million where very few people speak English and road signs are non-existent.

After Ethiopia Mike and Claude headed to Uganda where Mike led an African Management team meeting that included himself and the Africa Area Facilitators (Claude for East Africa, Rev. David Erber for West Africa and Rev. Fred Reinhardt for French speaking Africa). The meeting went well and Mike is excited about the team of these African-experienced and Godly men with whom he will be working. Mike also met with new missionaries Jacob and Michelle Gillard, who arrived in November, and vicar Shauen Trump and his wife Krista who had just arrived in Uganda the week before. These two couples will add much to the ministry in Uganda and we look forward to see how the Lord will be using them. Mike also met with several leaders involved in the Lutheran Church Mission in Uganda to introduce himself and to better understand some needs

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and concerns that they had regarding the training of their pastors.

From Uganda Mike and Claude and Fred Reinhardt continued on to Bujumbura, Burundi, to visit one Lutheran Church groups in Burundi and two in the Democratic Republic of Congo. These churches desire partnership with LCMS World Mission for mission outreach and Mike et al were met at the Bujumbura airport by representatives of all three churches. This was the first official meeting for LCMS with these churches and at each church they visited, there was much dancing and singing and celebration. What an experience to fellowship with churches that have developed much on their own with few trained pastors, who had built their buildings from tin, wooden poles and canvas and had suffered through war, yet they were growing and pleading for help to get further teaching in God's Word and a better understanding of what it means to be Lutheran. Mike along with Claude and Fred spent the three days traveling in Burundi, then to the DRC and through parts of Rwanda to visit these different churches.

A lot of travel and it continues. Mike is headed off February 17th for an International Management Team meeting with the other regional directors and Associate Executive Director for International Missions, Rev. David Birner. Then he and David go to Ghana for meetings with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana and its president, Rev. Dr. Paul Kofi Fynn. Keep Mike in your prayers as he travels and continues to meet church leaders across the continent working together with them for mission in Africa.



Leaders from three church bodies, one in Burundi and two from the Democratic Republic of Congo met Mike, Claude and Fred at the Bujumbura airport in Burundi. The Ev. Lutheran Church in Burundi has about 2000 members but no trained pastors. The Ev. Lutheran Church in Congo Manienga-Kivu Diocese has almost 20,000 members with 20 pastors and 54 evangelists. The Ev. Lutheran Church of East Congo has 10,000 members served by 9 pastors.

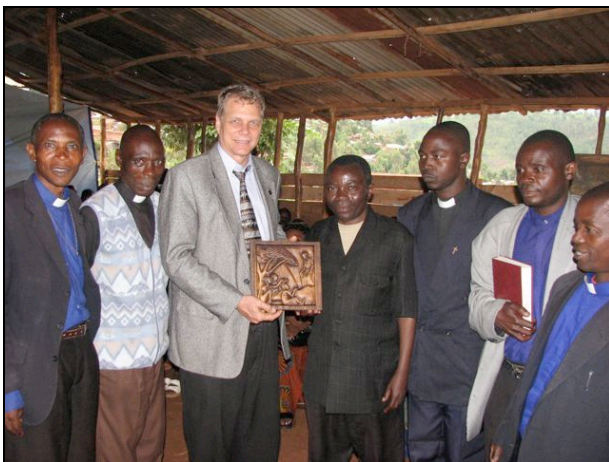
Prayer Requests

What do we need? Your continued prayers!

- Praise for Mike's new position with World Mission as Regional Director of Africa.
- Praise that Cindy and the boys are coping well while Mike is traveling.
- Praise that Mike's travels have gone well with minimum hassles.
- Praise for the opportunity for Mike to see and be a part of God's work through the church and its faithful servants here in Africa.
- In December we asked prayer for Bishop Andrew of the Evangelical Church in Sudan who was very ill. Bishop Andrew passed away in December. Please pray for the church in Sudan and Bishop Andrew's family as they cope with the loss of this Godly man.
- Please continue to pray for travel mercies and wisdom for Mike as he travels over the next few months.
- Please continue to pray for safety and provision for Cindy and the boys when Mike is away.
- Please continue to pray for Zimbabwe and the cholera epidemic that is also effecting areas in the north of South Africa.

We continue to appreciate your support and prayers for this work. You all make it possible for us to be in this ministry and to be encouraged and strengthened through your commitment to partnership with us. Thank you.

Jesus be with you, The Rodewalds



Mike was presented with a wooden carving by church leaders in Bukavu DRC. Under the picture is inscribed Acts 16:9.



Dancers during celebration service in Luvungi DRC

Support Offerings:

Designate as:
Missionary
Support –
Rodewald

Send to:

LCMS World
Mission
1333 S. Kirkwood
Rd
St. Louis MO
63122-7295

Personal and Prayer

Correspondence:

Mike & Cindy
Rodewald
46 Farmers Folly
Lynnwood Pretoria
0081
South Africa

Tel: +27 12 348
1379

Email:
rodewald@telkom
sa.net



Supporting us through Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod World Mission

Thank you for being there for us through your friendship, support and prayers. Support through offerings and individual gifts may be sent directly to LCMS World Mission designated for **Missionary Support: Rodewald**. Support can also be given electronically by accessing our projects page at www.lcms.org?12953. Gifts so designated will go directly to cover our budgeted expenses for living overseas as well as for the extensive travel that this new ministry will require. Assurances of prayer support for our family and work may also be sent to the same address, or to our Africa address. If you have any questions about helping to support us, feel free to ask by emailing us at rodewald@telkomsa.net or skype us at Cindy Rodewald or M. Rodewald. Note that we also remain associate missionaries with Lutheran Bible Translators and gifts sent to LBT at PO Box 2050, 303 N. Lake Street, Aurora IL 60507-2050 in our name will continue to support us serving with LCMS. Again thank you.