

For the **Life of the World**

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

July 2010, Volume Fourteen, Number Two



**The Seminary Library:
A Servant of Christ and His People** By Dr. Dean O. Wenthe

Forming Servants into the Future By Rev. Brian M. Mosemann

Reaching Out Via Technology By Rev. William S. Johnson

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Volume Fourteen, Number Two



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PUBLISHED BY
Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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FEATURES

6 The Seminary Library— A Servant of Christ and His People By Dr. Dean O. Wenthe

One need not reflect very long to embrace and to support the treasure of good, even God-given blessings that a seminary library generously provides for its students and also for the entire Church. From commentaries on Sacred Scripture to exposition of the creeds and confessions to the most practical and concrete guides for the Christian life, the seminary library is a priceless source of knowledge.

12 Forming Servants into the Future By Rev. Brian M. Mosemann

Hands-on experience is a key part of forming servants at CTS. During formation students have access to a diverse range of practical placements, evangelistic opportunities and church settings to develop new skills and sharpen old ones. The residential context is an environment where collaborative service and teamwork are encouraged. As adult disciples learning together, we seek to share our experiences, skills and insights with each other, all the while speaking words of our Lord of peace, comfort and joy to one another.

14 Reaching Out Via Technology By Rev. William S. Johnson

The rapid cultural change that comes with the dynamic nature of technology can present significant challenges to the Church, but it can offer us exciting opportunities as well. The message of the Cross is as relevant today as it has always been. By faithfully using new technologies to communicate our timeless message to address eternal needs, we can continue to reflect the light of Christ to a world in search of hope.

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Reaching out in the Sudan

By Kristin Hodge

The road was long, dusty and filled with holes that would devour the car that I drive in America. The endless holes on the endless road reminded me of a roller coaster ride that I would pay for at home. It didn't just last three minutes either; it was a 12-hour journey through the jungle of southern Sudan to the city of Wau. What drew me to this place? People, that is, my sisters and brothers of the Evangelical Church in Sudan.



Pastor Elinama Jacob Bisi, first in back row, Kris Hodge with church council and church members



I began this second mission trip to Yambio, Sudan, with Deaconess Pat Nuffer just as I did last year. I love going to this area to do mission work. Dcs. Nuffer has a Hands of Mercy training center for people with disabilities. I love helping in the training center and also helping the seminary students of Concordia Lutheran Institute of Holy Ministry Seminary. I work with the students on their English and help them with their papers. This has become a great part of my life.

Sudan has been in a civil war for many years. Only in the past five years has the country had any semblance of peace. Because of all of the upheaval of families moving from place to place to try to survive, the formal education of most

has been a struggle or even nonexistent. Most people now in the tenuous peace are trying to make up for lost time by soaking up any bits of education. Because of this, you can find 16-year-olds in primary grade four. Their thirst for learning is daunting and a stark reminder of what I take for granted. These people have a very strong constitution and a will-do-it attitude that is remarkable.

Armed with three packages of tuna, a bag of dried fruit, three hard boiled eggs and 12 small bottles of water for five adults, we took off down the road to Wau. The government is working on constructing the road, so there are parts of the jungle that have been cleared and are being worked on as well as parts that are little more than a washed out path through a woods. Many hours later, at one of the several police checkpoints, I was reminded of the freedom I also take for granted. We had to have official paperwork to show why we were moving from one location to another. Just when my American impatience would begin to show through, one of the Africans would let me know that this is the way it is and it was going to be fine. What a lesson for me! Here I had come to help them and I was the one learning.

In Wau, a seminarian named Thomas Gaaniko introduced me to his pastor, Rev. Elinama Jacob Bisi, and the church council. We spent the next day visiting the two plots of land that the church has been given. I was taken to see the other local churches in the area and, of course, the very large mosque. The population is roughly 75 percent Muslim. After a full day of seeing what was in Wau, I met with the church council in the yard of the house that the church rents from a Muslim woman. Their request to me was plain, simple and heart-wrenching. Their question was if I could somehow help them build a church building in which to worship. Each of the church council members had a chance to speak to me about their thoughts. What brought me to

Concordia Theological Seminary Haiti Relief Trip

my knees was just their simple desire to have a permanent building to worship our Lord and Savior. They have been renting different houses in Wau for the last four years. They have been asked to move four times in four years. It is very hard to grow when you don't have a permanent location. They now have the land, but did I believe in them enough to help them with this simple yet beautiful dream? The answer from me was an overwhelming yes! I will be working on this project until these, my sisters and brothers in Christ, have a church home to go to when they are weary and tired and are in need of all that only our Lord and Savior can give.

My heart has always been a deaconess heart, I think. I lacked the formal education that really helps with the issues that you encounter trying to serve people. I thank God that CTS started the distance-learning deaconess program. There were reasons that I couldn't be the traditional on-campus student, but the distance-learning program was just the fit for me and others like me. I look forward to serving the LCMS for many years to come both here and in the mission field. ▲

Kris Hodge is enrolled in the Master of Arts in Deaconess Studies at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. If you would like to have her come to your congregation to speak about her trip to Sudan, please contact her at Kristin.Hodge@ctsfw.edu.

Kris Hodge holds Abu...he is one of the many reasons she makes these trips to the Sudan.



During the second week in June, a relief team of nine students and professors is scheduled leave for a ten-day mercy mission to Haiti. The International Studies Department at Concordia Theological Seminary has extensive experience in organizing international study abroad trips and also mission trips that include humanitarian care components. In recent years, CTS students and professors have traveled to Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Russia and South America.

CTS began planning a student mission trip to Haiti months before the earthquake struck Haiti on January 12, 2010. The massive earthquake makes the trip even more necessary and urgent. Because of the horrendous conditions in Haiti, the seminary determined it prudent to work with LCMS World Relief and Human Care. The Synod's Board of World Relief and Human Care has vast experience in international disaster relief. The board's personnel were among the first to arrive in Haiti following the earthquake.

Rev. Markey Kessa, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti (ELCH), is eager to have the CTS relief team come and is taking an active role in organizing the group's itinerary and activities. At the request of President Kessa, the CTS team will focus its relief work in the city of Tommassique where they will clear and prepare land on which the ELCH hopes to build a church to meet the spiritual needs of local residents and thousands of refugees who have moved to the area from Port au Prince. Funds that have been donated to CTS since the earthquake will help pay for the construction of the church building. The team will also assemble temporary shelters for people who have lost their homes. The specially designed prefabricated homes were built by Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas, and the CORE Alliance, thanks to a grant provided by the LCMS World Relief and Human Care.

The trip will also include a visit to Port au Prince and Leogane, the area hardest hit by the earthquake. The seminarians will observe the work being done by the ELCH and also offer spiritual care to those who have lost family members, friends and homes.

The team includes CTS professor Dr. Timothy Quill; Rev. Geoffrey Robinson, Director of Congregational Outreach for LCMS Indiana District; and seminarians Ryan Cramer, Chris Gerdes, Joe Hoem, Elisha Lietzau, Lannon Martin, Chad Schopp and Matthew Zickler. CTS is grateful for the excellent orientation and logistical support provided by Rev. Glenn Merritt and Dr. Albert Collver, both with LCMS World Relief and Human Care.

Those interested may donate online by going to restorehaiti.ctsfw.edu. Donations may also be sent to: Concordia Theological Seminary, 6600 N. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46825, earmarked "Support Haiti."



Dr. Quill meets with the seminarians who will be going to Haiti.