

A photograph of a man wearing a brown hat, a light blue checkered shirt, and dark suspenders. He is kneeling on the ground, smiling, and interacting with a group of children. The children are in a dusty, outdoor environment. One child is holding a small object, possibly a piece of candy or a toy. The background shows other people and a dirt path.

For the Life of the World

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

April 2008, Volume Twelve, Number Two



Out of Africa

Rev. Dr Arthur Just

There and Back Again

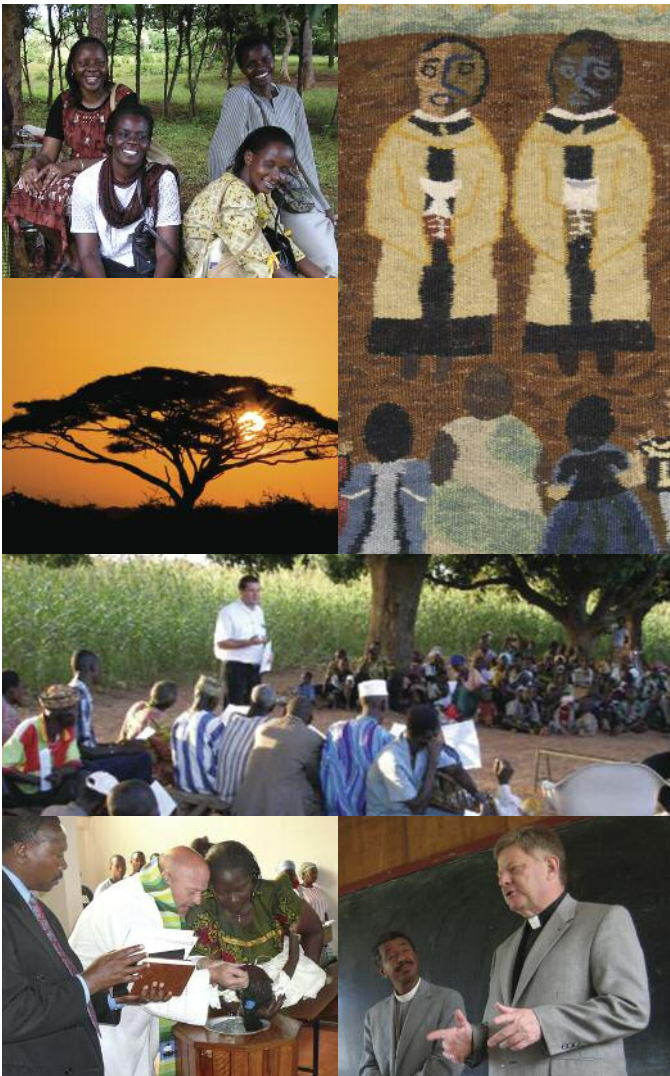
Rev. Prof. Robert Roethemeyer

Starving for the Gospel

Rev. James May

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For the Life of the World

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By The Reverend Dr. Arthur Just

The Concordia Theological Seminary deaconess program has been privileged to learn and receive mercy from the deaconesses in the ELCK. One of their leaders, Lorna Meeker, studied to be a deaconess at our seminary and now serves alongside her husband Dennis at a church in the Kibera slums of Nairobi that suffered much from the post-election violence.

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By The Reverend Prof. Robert Roethemeyer

Dr. Weber wanted this to be an investigative visit. "Come, Robert, and tell me what your eyes see and your mind thinks," he said. During what was the last two weeks of their summer holiday, I did just that. I sought to understand and then to provide options and models and solutions for a wide range of library, technology, accreditation, and utilization of space issues.

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By The Reverend James May

In the capital of an African country, a white person stands out. Very frequently, people come up and say, "My friend, how are you?" The questions nearly always lead to, "Who are you, and why are you here?" I respond, "I am a Lutheran pastor, and I have been sent to teach the Word of God."

20 God Is Right There in Our Midst

By Adriane Dorr

In a country where poverty and deadly diseases are rampant, "what speaks the loudest to the people of Kenya is love. . . acts of love and mercy speak loudly and clearly," states Meeker. "It becomes an opportunity to proclaim Law and Gospel, to introduce them to Baptism, and confirm them in the gifts of the Eternal Feast of Victory."



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Heartened by the Lord's Gifts

By The Reverend Walter Obare



Four leaders of Lutheran churches in Africa, all partner churches to the LCMS. From left to right: Bishop Obare (Kenya), President Essiong E. Ekanem (Nigeria), President Kofi Finn (Ghana), and Bishop Tswaedi (South Africa)

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK), founded by a revival mission society from Sweden called Bibel Troгна Vana (Bible True Friends), was founded in 1948 in a distant part of western Kenya in Kisii. As a mission field, the work continued until 1963 when it was registered as a church body in Kenya.

The church has extended her mission work to all parts of Kenya. The mission work is manned by one hundred forty pastors, over three hundred evangelists, and sixty deaconesses.

Following the founding mission society, ELCK is among the few African churches that still remain friend to the Scripture and among few Lutheran churches on the continent that still strives to remain confessional. The call to reach many parts of Kenya with the Gospel is enormous, but the capacity to meet the call is a challenge.

Our mission is holistic as we sponsor schools and medical clinics and show care to the orphaned children left behind due the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The catastrophe that befell Kenya due to the December 2007 elections, which has left over one thousand people dead and over six hundred thousand people homeless, has affected many of our members. They have lost their family members, property, possessions, and much more properties. ELCK is involved in relief and human care to the affected across the ethnic and religious divide. The problem

has increased the need for the Gospel.

Regrettably, the fracas over the president election has also seen eight of our churches burned as well as a clinic in Kibera and a number of schools. In spite of all this, we see the church of God growing, and many souls are converted to Christ. The church in Kenya is heartened by her Lord's gifts as she sees herself reflected in Scripture: "And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved" (Acts 2:46-47). ▲

The Reverend Walter Obare is Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya.