

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne For the Life of the World

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Into ALL the World

By Jeffrey H. Pulse

Lutheranism in Mud Huts: The Rise of the Burkinabé Lutheran Church

By Heath A. Trampe

Reemergence of the Lutheran Church in Spain

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Into All the

The Prophet Isaiah writes, “It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths.’” (Isaiah 2:2-3a ESV)

CTS has established relationships all around the globe with other church bodies and their seminaries. The faculty is frequently in the air and on the road teaching and preaching in Madagascar, Tanzania, Kenya, Argentina, South Africa, Latvia, Siberia, India, Latin America and more. We are active in helping various seminaries establish credible theological libraries with which to train their students, and we are reaching out to deaconess programs around the world as well.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:18b-20a ESV)

Strong words of encouragement from noteworthy and excellent sources, therefore and thus, Concordia Theological Seminary heeds the call to be about the work of reaching, teaching and caring for the world with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ—ALL the world! However, when we hear these words our minds tend to draw boundaries, determine parameters and distinguish one harvest field over another. We are endeavoring that this not be so among us here at CTS!

There are so many opportunities in this wide world of ours, so many harvest fields and so many lost souls, that we have only begun to scratch the surface of the enormity of the task, but we are still scratching and still seriously considering the words of our LORD from both Testaments. Who are these peoples streaming to the holy mountain of

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Vicar Justin Massey serves the Lord through the LCMS as a GEO (globally engaged in outreach) missionary in the Dominican Republic. In his role as a vicar, Justin provides spiritual care and pastoral support for other missionaries serving in this region. He also teaches, preaches and visits the homes of members of the surrounding community in which he lives and serves. In addition to these pastoral duties, Justin tracks LCMS missionaries and pastors serving in Latin America and aids in starting new churches and ministries in the community. (www.lcms.org/Massey)

Deaconess Sandra Rhein (CTS 2010) had the opportunity to travel to Tanzania August 15–31, 2013. *“Witchcraft remains strong in parts of East Africa. It has a particularly strong hold in northwest Tanzania. Another unique aspect of this area is the high incidence of albinism. Being an albino in Tanzania can be a death sentence. The lack of pigment in their skin, hair and eyes makes people look different and so it is assumed that they must be cursed. Witch doctors use their blood and body parts for their ‘magic potions,’ and will pay large sums of money for their capture. Children, of course, are especially vulnerable.*

“While the children clearly suffer from a plethora of health issues and live in startlingly austere living conditions, they were lively and cheerful. An older child, serving as a spokesman for the others, thanked us for coming and expressed his thanks to God for His many blessings. Lord, have mercy on these dear children.”



the LORD as prophesied by Isaiah? What does “ALL the World” mean in the words of Jesus?

These are the questions and the challenges we engage each and every day of our existence as a seminary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. However, this is far more than a simple academic discussion for us. It is a discussion which presupposes action. These are questions and challenges that must not only be engaged, they are our opportunities to be faithful to the LORD’s bidding...and so we are about the task!

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While exciting and rewarding, it is the planting of the “missionary culture” in our students which bears the most fruit. Not only are the students encouraged to participate in mission trips to places like South Africa, Latvia, Kenya, India and Madagascar, they are also challenged to see the mission field in their own backyard. Currently we have expanded our urban mission training with “teaching modules” that include inner city Baltimore and New Jersey. We also have the unique opportunity of bringing in students from around the world to

study side by side with the American students. We have served students from Ghana, Spain, Mexico, India, Philippines, Kenya, South Africa, Germany, Sweden and others. This helps develop an international culture at CTS as well as give our students a taste of the global scene of Christianity.

Another exciting area that is expanding is the assignments and placements of students and candidates to the foreign mission field. This past year we assigned a vicar to the Dominican Republic and a deaconess intern to Peru, South America. This is only the beginning as we have more and more students interested in pursuing placement in mission settings.

However, “ALL the world” includes those nearest and dearest to us as well. Ironically and amazingly, the foreign mission field is growing most rapidly in the United States. CTS has assigned a vicar to plant Chinese speaking churches in Bloomington and Columbus, Ind. We placed three pastors from last year’s class to help maintain and establish Spanish speaking congregations in California, Indiana and Iowa. We have field workers and other students assisting with outreach to the Burmese population in Fort Wayne. More and more the mission field is coming to us!

These are amazing and challenging times for the LCMS. Everywhere we look the field is ripe for the harvest and CTS continues to provide workers for the harvest field. And what a field it is! Broad and wide, high and deep and we are immersed in its midst and engaged in the LORD’s work to be about the harvest. Not only do we want to establish a “mission culture” for our students, we also desire that they develop a sense of urgency.

Consider the words of St. John in his Revelation: “After this I looked and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’” (Revelation 7:9-10 ESV)

St. John paints quite a picture and reminds us of the challenge that surrounds us. 🏠

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Deaconess Lorraine Roach (CTS 2012) served as part of a Mercy Medical Team that provided medical care and food supplies to rural villages in the Madagascar highlands, August 1-12. The trip was coordinated through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Mercy Medical Teams Program, the Malagasy Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Hospital in Antsirabe, Madagascar.

“We were able to treat more than 830 people, including many children, and we filled 1,650 prescriptions for medications that are not easily obtainable in areas with little access to health care other than a local midwife,” shared Deaconess Roach. “Most homes in rural Madagascar have no electricity or indoor plumbing. It was winter in the southern hemisphere, so we saw many cases of colds and flu, but also malaria, giardia, gastrointestinal issues, skin ailments, infections, high blood pressure, diabetes and other chronic conditions. One infant had severe respiratory distress and likely would have died without the treatment she received at the clinic.

“As one of the ten most impoverished nations on earth, there are few public social services. Most of the care for individuals who cannot care for themselves is handled by the churches—the way it was done for centuries after Christianity began 2,000 years ago. We were grateful for the opportunity to show Christ’s love and mercy to our Malagasy neighbors.”