

GLOBAL MISSION REPORT

The Global Mission Committee focused upon the enabling of congregations to proclaim Christ throughout the world by way of Companion Synod relationships, advocacy for peace in the Middle East, missionary support, participation in the ELCA Malaria Campaign and the Metro DC Synod's Gifts of Hope.

COMPANION SYNODS

A. Namibia – Kathryn Tobias & Mark Victorson, Chairs

A Companion Synods Consultation was held at ELCA headquarters in Chicago on 6 through 7 November 2014. Rev. Benyam Kassahun, Area Director, Southern Africa and Rev. Barbara Berry-Bailey, in charge of programs for Eastern and Southern Africa presided. All four synods partnering with Namibian synods were represented. In addition to Kathy Tobias and Mark Victorson, the DC Metro Synod was also represented by Rev. Elijah Mwitanti, Pastor at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Woodbridge. His insights were especially helpful during the meeting.

We again addressed the possibility of support the visit of a Namibian missionary pastor to our synods this year. A committee was established to explore the options. Whether we will have the time and the funds to put together a mission visit this year remains to be seen.

There had been discussion during telephone conferences throughout the past year of partnering with non-synodical organizations in working with Namibia, and Mark suggested that Friends of Namibian Children (FNC) would make a good partner, since it is on the ground there and is a fine example of how we want to walk with our Namibian counterparts, rather than to seem to be telling them what we think is best for them. The representatives were generally supportive, although there was concern the FNC is not a Lutheran organization. Rev. Berry-Bailey is going to look into ELCA rulings on this subject.

Thanks to Pastor Bob Allard, Chair Mark Victorson received a \$1800 donation to Friends of Namibian Children (FNC) from the Woodbridge Rotary Club. Janet Wenk, CEO, FNC, reports that the "Grow the Gardens" program to establish a garden at each hostel has set up micro-drip irrigation gardens at ten of the hostels, and there are hopes to provide the gardens to the remaining nine hostels in the near future. These systems use very little water, and vegetables grow in black plastic bags to minimize the evaporation in the arid climate. These gardens will provide the children fresh vegetables and will enable them to sell produce for income for the hostels.

Some of FNC Board of Directors held a working meeting on 2 January 2015, and it was reported that 900 Bibles have been delivered to the International Book Project (IBP). The 96 Children's Story Bibles should be delivered after the new year. If IBP can match shipping funds, FNC will supply \$1,400 toward the shipping costs. Hostel Director

Engelhardt Unaeb will be contacted to find out if he can present the Bibles at each youth hostel.

It was also reported that the tentative dates for the mission trips with Hope4Kids in 2015 are 13-26 February and 6-19 October. Hope4Kids provides teams to do maintenance and repair work at the hostels. Plumbing repair is one area in need of work. FNC is looking into non-profits, which provide toilets and septic systems. One such organization is World Toilet Organization (WTO). FNC is also researching on bio-latrines, a new kind of toilet being developed jointly by Kohler and Cal Tech.

Pastor Allard and Mark Victorson are now members of the eastern branch of the FNC Board of Directors, as is Rachel Schmidt, who attended our last meeting and who served for FNC in the Hostel's Director's office for three years.

In 2017 the Lutheran World Federation will meet in Namibia.

B. El Salvador – Kelly Baugh & Phil Loar, Chairs

In 2014, the companion synod relationship between the Metro-DC Synod and the Lutheran Church in El Salvador was strengthened. As migration from the Northern Triangle (El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala) was in the news, the El Salvador Committee worked with the church in El Salvador. Through visits to our synod by leaders from the Church in El Salvador, and to El Salvador by a delegation from our synod, the committee learned about the causes of migration and ways we can support the vulnerable. We worked to support Salvadorans both here in our area, and in El Salvador.

January 2014 – The committee hosted a visit by Bishop Gomez to our Synod. Although the polar vortex and snow complicated our plans, the bishop was able to visit congregations and forums around the synod. The trip strengthened our synod's relationship with the synod in El Salvador.

King of Kings Lutheran Church in Fairfax hosted a visit by Pastor Guadalupe Cortez, pastor of Nueva Esperanza in April.

A delegation of 11 people from 7 congregations traveled in August to El Salvador. As part of the visit, the group met with leaders from the church in El Salvador, Lutheran World Federation, and the government in El Salvador. The issue of migration was discussed in every community visited. The church in El Salvador is working ecumenically and with the government to create a safe environment where the "Salvadoran dream" can flourish. The group was accompanied by Stephen Deal, ELCA missionary to Central America.

Hundreds of migrants were returned to El Salvador each week with little more than the clothing on their backs. By establishing a Gift of Hope, we were able to provide many of them an emergency food package.

Upon returning from El Salvador, the delegation began working to advocate for immigrant rights. The team developed a Sunday School series with Folabi Olagbaju from LIRS.

Delegation members wrote newspaper articles and blogs with reflections from the trip.

A group of delegates visited their representatives on Capitol Hill to advocate for immigration reform.

The committee has begun working with CASA de Virginia to support its newly established branch in Virginia.

The El Salvador Committee has worked with the newly established synod Immigration Committee.

C. Slovakia – Rosemary Burton, Chair

On January 18, 2014, a report on the companion synod relationship with Slovakia was provided to the Synod Council. A history of the visits between the two synods was presented along with a brief discussion of Slovakia's unique place in the early history of the Lutheran church.

On April 6, 2014 and May 14, 2014, I represented the Global Mission Committee at the Gifts of Hope at two annual meetings. Slovakia received from the Washington D.C. Metro Synod of the ELCA a gift totaling \$4722.00 for Church refurbishing in Tornala. The gift idea for 2014 suggested by the Slovak church office is helping to refurbish the church tower in Kamenany pictured below. Gifts of \$100 were suggested.



This year, I worked on a proposal for a Lutheran preschool idea exchange. I worked with Bishop Klatik and Bishop Graham to achieve permission to begin this initiative. I was given the names of four preschools in Slovakia who were interested in beginning an exchange program. I contacted five preschools in the Washington area to determine interest. Three of these preschools have responded positively and work is underway to begin an email communication between the schools. Preschools will begin by emailing each other, sharing a little about their schools. Children's work will be shared as well as methods of teaching. Children will have the opportunity to see pictures and videos of each other's schools and country. The hope is that a long term

relationship will develop where the two schools can continue to learn from each other at multiple levels. Long term plans might include visits by teachers to each other's schools.

On Saturday, September 27, 2014, a meeting with Bishop Graham, Paul and Ellen Hinlicky of Roanoke College, Bob and Elsa Allard, and I was conducted at the Allard's home to talk about the Slovakia companion synod relationship. At this meeting, the following was discussed:

- Development of a pre-school education exchange program between the Metropolitan Washington, DC Synod and the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia and the Center for Christian Education in Martin, Slovakia.
- Provide opportunity for college students who want to do church-related youth work to spend a semester studying at the University of Zilina combined with an internship/practicum at the Center for Christian Education in Martin, Slovakia.
- Provide opportunity for pastors and parish workers to participate in an English-language Ph.D program at the Evangelical (Lutheran) Seminary at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia.

These ideas were received positively by all at the meeting.

Bob Allard and I created a Sunday School curriculum for Slovakia in honor of Companion Synod Sunday. The curriculum included Sunday School lessons for each age group from Preschool through Adult. Most lessons were themed around the historic articular churches in Slovakia. These lessons were published on the Synod website.



At the end of 2014, talk was begun to arrange for a Slovak youth to attend the 2015 National Youth Gathering in Detroit. Working with the church office in Bratislava, I arranged for a young man named Filip Menky to represent Slovakia at the Gathering as the International Representative from that country. Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church youth group in Lake Ridge, Virginia will be hosting the youth and accompanying him to the gathering.

MIDDLE EAST WORKING GROUP – Nathan Rich, Chair

Participants in 2014 included Paul Verduin, Jean Martensen, Rev. Ray Ranker, Nathan Rich, Anne Lipe, Kathy Tobias, Rev. Michael Wilker, Ellie Wegener, Heidi Eickstadt, Laurin-Whitney Galbraith, Rev. Philip Anderson.

The MEWG met 1/26/14 at Reformation and 4/17/14 at the home of Jean and Dan Martensen.

MEWG expenditure in 2014: \$88 for 10 copies for congregational use of “Zionism Unsettled: A Congregational Study Guide” published by PCUSA Israel Palestine Mission Network. Discussion continued on a destination for the Dora Johnson Memorial fund, which saw at least one donation in 2014.

Mar 21 there was a **Peace Not Walls gathering** at the Crystal City Doubletree Hotel in conjunction with Ecumenical Advocacy Days. Metro DC attendees included Nathan Rich, Paul Verduin, Ellie Wegener, Heidi Eickstadt.

Apr 12 was the **Sabeel DC spring workshop** at Rockville United Church. It’s focus was the new IPMN study guide for congregations: **"Zionism Unsettled"** (order from PCUSA online store). Synod attendees included Steve Corbin (Living Faith - Rockville), Nathan Rich (All Saints - Bowie), Paul Verduin (organizer, Reformation - DC), Jean Martensen (Good Shepherd - Gaithersburg).

Dr. Alice Rothchild visited various venues in DC area in May and again in November to present her new film, “Voices Across the Divide” which shares the voices of Palestinian families affected by the Nakba.

In **June 2014**, Karin Brown (ELCA Peace Not Walls Coordinator) and Pr. Ray Ranker led a **trip called "Walking with Christians in the Holy Land"**. The inter-generation group of 18 included clergy and lay people from both the Metro DC and Delaware/Maryland synods. The trip sought to not just literally walk in the steps of Jesus but to walk in the way of Jesus by building relationships with local Lutheran Christians and other Christians, Muslims and Jews who are working with the poor and oppressed and advocating for peace and justice in the Holy Land.

July 12, Laurin-Whitney Galbraith represented ELCA Peace Not Walls and our MEWG at the First Annual **Holy Land Festival at Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land**, 1400 Quincy St NE, DC.

Nov. 1, was the **Sabeel DC Fall Forum “Jews and Christians, Palestine and Israel: A Call for a New Conversation”** with Rabbi Brant Rosen, Rabbi Geoff Basik, Allan Brownfeld of American Council for Judaism, Susan Landau and Rev. Judith Beck of Christian-Jewish Allies of Greater Philadelphia; at **Ravensworth Baptist Church**, in Annandale, Va. Several MEWG members participated.

Sat. Dec. 20, was the 8th ANNUAL BETHLEHEM PRAYER SERVICE at Washington National Cathedral in D.C. Bishop Graham presented the message at this simulcast Christmas service with the people of Bethlehem. Prayers, readings and hymns alternate between locations via the Internet, bringing together people of different lands, languages and ethnic backgrounds in celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace. More information and live streaming at <http://www.nationalcathedral.org/events/ChristmasBethlehem2014.shtml>.

The 24th of each month has been designated by the ACT Palestine Forum as a monthly vigil to pray for the Christian communities in Palestine and Israel, for all those who are suffering in the Holy Land, for Palestinians and Israelis, and for peace in the Middle East and the world. See <http://actpalestineforum.org/vigil/>. This is an opportunity to organize ecumenically and to spread the program around the synod.

METRO DC SYNOD MALARIA CAMPAIGN – Dorothy Sorrell, Chair

The Metropolitan Washington, DC Synod's generous participation in the ELCA Malaria Campaign has helped in the education, prevention and treatment of malaria. As of March 1, 2015, (when this report was completed) the Synod had contributed over \$400,000, and nearly 70% of our congregations have participated in the Campaign.

The ELCA Malaria Campaign is moving into the last year of its four year Campaign. At the conclusion of the Malaria Campaign, malaria work will continue through the ELCA World Hunger Program. At this time total giving has reached more than \$13.5 million. It is expected that the \$15 million goal will be reached during the 2015 synod assemblies' season, and synods are encouraged to celebrate that success at their assemblies. As the Malaria Campaign moves to its conclusion, there are changes in the administrative staff. Jessica Nipp-Hacker will move to an ELCA mission funding team, and Allison Beebe will continue with the Malaria Campaign through 2015.

During 2014 ELCA Malaria work was able to begin in Namibia, one of our Synod's Companion Synods. This brings us to a total of thirteen African countries in which the ELCA is working with Lutheran church bodies to fight this curable and preventable disease.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported the reduction in malaria incidence and mortality, despite civil unrest and other fatal diseases that exist in some of these countries. Mortality rates among children under five years of age have fallen by 58% since 2000, and the number of malaria infections has fallen dramatically.

The success of this Campaign is the result of members of the ELCA's willingness to listen to Jesus' words that we love and serve one another. We will mark the end of the Campaign, but not the good that has and will continue to come from it.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES AND MISSIONARY SUPPORT

A. Congregation Covenants

St. Luke Lutheran Silver Spring, Md.	Stephen Deal	\$2,500
Trinity Lutheran No. Bethesda, Md.	Stephen Deal Andrew & Barbara Hinderlie	\$2,000 \$2,000
Holy Cross Lutheran Herndon, Va.	Young Adults in Rwanda	\$18,000
King of Kings Fairfax, Va.	Stephen Deal	\$1,000
St. Matthew Lutheran Woodbridge, VA	Molly Beyer	\$2,000
All Saints Lutheran Bowie, Md.	Stephen Deal	\$1,500
Good Shepherd Lutheran Alexandria, Va.	Stephen Deal	\$2,000
Grace Lutheran Bowie, Md.		\$1,500
Lord of Life Lutheran Fairfax, Va.	Clair McElaney Kanika Staten	\$1,500 \$5,500
Holy Trinity Lutheran Falls Church, Va.	Stephen Deal	\$4,000
First Trinity Lutheran Washington, DC	Stephen Deal	\$1,000
St. Nicholas Lutheran Huntingtown, Md.	Philip Knutson	\$1,500
John Stewart Washington, DC	Stephen Deal	\$400

B. Congregation Gifts

Epiphany Lutheran Burtonsville, MD	Global Ministries General Latin America/Caribbean Support	\$250 \$25
First Trinity Lutheran Washington, DC	Stephen Deal	\$1000
Good Samaritan Lutheran Lanham, Md.	Global Ministries General	\$197.34
Good Shepherd Lutheran Alexandria, Va.	Stephen Deal	\$2,000
Grace Lutheran Bowie, Md.	Stephen Deal	\$1,500
Holy Cross Lutheran	Emily Bishop Jacob Sprang Lars Meisner Luke Hanson Ryan Bose Sarah Brock	\$3,000 \$3,000 \$3,000 \$3,000 \$3,000 \$3,000
Holy Trinity Lutheran Falls Church, Va.	Stephen Deal Stephen Deal Stephen Deal	\$1,250 \$1,262.50 \$1,262.50
King of Kings Lutheran Fairfax, Va.	Stephen Deal Global Ministries general	\$1,000 \$389
Lord of Life Lutheran Fairfax, Va.	Claire McElaney	\$7,000
Metro Washington, DC SWO Manassas, Va.	Maddie Tallman	\$500
St. John Lutheran Rockville, Md.	Maija Mikkelsen Eric & Wendolyn Trozzo	\$3,326 \$2,000
St. Luke Lutheran Silver Spring, Md.	Stephen Deal	\$2,500

St. Matthew Lutheran Woodbridge, Va.	Molly Beyer	\$2,000
Trinity Lutheran No. Bethesda, Md.	Andrew & Barbara Hinderlie	\$2,000
	Stephen Deal	\$2,000
	Andrew & Barbara Hinderlie	\$2,000
	Stephen Deal	\$2,000

GIFTS OF HOPE

• Namibia		
	Drip Irrigation Gardens (ELCRN)	\$1,258.38
	Retired Pastors Fund (ELCIN)	6,554.64
	Book for Seminary Library	1,570.00
• El Salvador		
	Humanitarian Assistance for Deported Migrants	\$3,620.63
	Salary Support for Pastors	2,323.07
• Slovakia		
	Church Building Repairs	\$4,222.50
	Total Gifts of Hope	\$19,549.22

Metro DC Synod Global Mission Committee

Pastor Bob Allard, Chair
 Barbara O'Keefe, Secretary
 Rosemary Burton, Slovakia Companion Synod Committee Chair
 Mark Victorson & Kathy Tobias, Namibia Companion Synod Committee Chairpersons
 Kelly Baugh & Phil Loar, El Salvador Companion Synod Committee Chairpersons
 Nathan rich, Middle East Working Group Chair
 Dorothy Sorrell, Malaria Campaign Chair
 Phil Anderson
 Ann Foltz
 Rhoda Klug
 Ruth Manchester
 Elijah Mwitanti
 Ralph Neeper