2013 GLOBAL MISSION REPORT

Enabling the congregations of the Metro Washington, D.C. Synod to proclaim Jesus Christ throughout the world is the focus of efforts by the Global Mission Committee. This is done through strengthening Companion Synod relationship, advocacy for peace in the Middle East, supporting Missionaries, forming Sister Congregations, offering Gifts of Hope and caring for people in need worldwide.

Companion Synods

A. Namibia – Mark Victorson & Kathy Tobias, Co-Chair

1. Companion Synods Consultation in Chicago – November 11-12, 2013

- Northeastern Iowa and DC Metro Synods attended along with Ann Sponberg Peterson of Luther College. Southwest Washington and New Jersey Synods did not have representatives present.
- Bishop Ernest // Gamxamub replaced the retiring Bishop Kameeta as Bishop of the ELCRN during a consecration ceremony on November 3, 2013, attended by about 2000 people, to include Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson, ELCA Global Mission. In the ELCIN Bishop Shanghala of the western diocese is retiring, Bishop Lambala in the East is remaining. Bishop Hertel of the German Synod is also retiring.
- The Namibian church’s resources continue to be limited, and the Paulinum Seminary is struggling financially. I do have good news about the hostels, which I’ll impart shortly.
- We discussed strategies for making the Companion Synod Network effective in a period of austere budgets. The ELCA staff advised that we place the emphasis on Church family-to-Church family relations, rather than on sister parish relations, which tend to reward the individual Namibian parishes with connections to sister American parishes. Sister parishes might wish to practice reciprocal prayers on topics exchanged between the parishes.
- We agreed to a series of quarterly telephone conferences to augment the annual meetings.

2. Missionary Pastor 2014

- We began discussion on the possibility of support of the visit of a Namibian missionary pastor to our synods this year.
- Rev. Rhea Evanson, Chair of the Northeastern Iowa Synod’s Companion Synod Committee, volunteered to be the coordinator for the visit.
Upon returning home, I combed Pastor Lowell Knauff’s files for information and provided to Rev. Evanson an itemized listing of expenses for the visit of two pastors in 2011 and the letter of instruction Lowell sent to one of the pastors laying out the ground rules and the itinerary for the trip. Whether we will have the time and the funds to put together a mission visit this year remains to be seen.

3. Children’s Hostels

- Thanks to Pastor Allard, I once again had the honor of receiving a $1,700 donation to Friends of Namibian Children from the Woodbridge Rotary Club.
- For Janet Wenk, President and Founder, FNC, I reported to the Rotarians: 
  - Through FNC’s partnership with Hope4Kids International, 117 children in two hostels are now sponsored and communicating with American families and 34 volunteers traveled to Namibia on two mission trips to repair bathrooms and do other work in the two hostels.
  - 271,000 meals for the children in all the 19 youth hostels were sent in the form of Manna Paks from Feed My Starving Children, while FNC paid $11,000 from generous donations to ship the container. This shipment arrived in mid-November and will provide each child with one nutritious meal each day for 6 months.
  - In 2013 FNC sent $7,000 in support to the hosts and will soon forward another $5,000 from donations received this year. It has also collected $3,085 in support of the “Grow the Gardens” efforts to establish a garden at each hostel. These gardens will provide the children fresh vegetables and will enable them to sell produce for income for the hostels.
  - The Namibian government’s Ministry of Education has provided a new stipend amount, which raises the support for hostel children to a daily allowance almost double from their previous allowance. Hostels will now receive N$22 per pupil – a N$10 increase from the current N$12 per head allocated to each pupil.

4. Lutheran World Federation Gather in Namibia 2017

- 2015 – There will be celebrations of the first Christian missions in Tanzania.
- 2017 – Lutheran World Federation will meet in Namibia.

5. Sister Congregations

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<tr>
<th>Abiding Presence, Burke, VA</th>
<th>Onayena (ELCIN)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Christ the King, Great Falls, VA</td>
<td>Xhorixas (ELCRN)</td>
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Community, Sterling, VA  Swakopmund (ELCRN)
Covenant, Woodbridge, VA  Oshikali (ELCIN)
Emmanuel, Bethesda, MD  Onemanya (ELCRN)
Emmanuel, Vienna, VA  Soweto (ELCIN)
Faith, Arlington, VA  Immanuel Keetmamshoop (ELCRN)
Good Shepherd, Alexandria, VA  Onaingalo (ELCIN)
Holy Cross, Herndon, VA  Olulongo (ELCIN)
Holy Trinity, Falls Church, VA  Oshakatti (ELCIN)
Hope, Annandale, VA  Ongwadiva (ELCIN)
Hope, College Park, MD  Olupandu (ELCIN)
King of Kings, Fairfax, VA  Ondobe (ELCIN)
Our Redeemer, Washington, DC  Eengolo (ELCIN)
Peace, Waldorf, MD  Epembe (ELCIN)
Reformation, Washington, DC  Martin Luther Komasdahl (ELCRN)
St. Andrew, Centreville, VA  Oniipa (ELCIN)
St. Luke, Silver Spring, MD  Mupini Parish
St. Johns, Rockville, MD  Ohaanda (ELCIN)
St. Matthews, Woodbridge, VA  Okahao (ELCIN)

B. El Salvador – Jane Hanlon & Kelly Baugh, Co-Chair

ON GOING

Gifts of Hope:
- The Endowment Fund continued as an option for Gift’s of Hope; additionally, an opportunity to give towards food/milk was again provided. Final numbers are not yet available.
Mission Trip:

- A group of 13 people traveled to El Salvador from King of Kings in Fairfax (the Hirsch family, Phuong Robinson, Jane Hanlon, Kelly & John Baugh, and the Akey family). They participated in the Savior of the World celebration and march, and spent time building a relationship with their sister parish, Nueva Esperanza.
- Plans are in the works for synod delegation trip for August 2-11, 2014.

Pastor Visitation to US

- **June – Pastor Norma Castillo:** Norma visited Emmanuel, King of Kings, St. Marks (San Marcos), Augustana (Santa Maria) and Rosario Hernandez’ ministry in Takoma Park. Phil Loar, Norma and Kelly Baugh visited community members with Rosario in the public housing in Takoma Park. It was a moving experience for all. Norma stayed with John Kidd for three nights, with Marion McInturff for several nights and with Kelly Baugh for two nights. She was able to visit LIRS, Luther Place, N Street Village, etc. She worshipped with the Latino congregations and strengthened the committee’s ties with those congregations.
- **November - Pastor Wilma Rodriguez:** A week in Gettysburg and a day of worship at King of Kings.
- **January – Bishop Gomez:** Plans were made in December for a January visit from Bishop Gomez (see attached schedule)

Companion Synod Sunday

- Pastor Margrethe Klieber has developed materials for use on Sunday, January 26. The materials were e-mailed out to pastors. Additionally, a message from Bishop Gomez is being video taped on Sunday, January 19 and will be placed on the ELCA Washington web page to be available for the Sunday services on the 26th.

Encuentro

- Phil Hirsch attended the meeting in Bogota, Columbia.

Welcoming Congregations Initiative: Skype Call on Oct. 21

- Report on Skype call with Mary Campbell and reps from other synods to discuss welcoming migrants to church:

  **Skype Call with Mary Campbell – October 21, 2013**

  **Topic:** Organizing “Welcoming Congregations’ for Migrants within Synods…Laying the Groundwork

Call members: Ruth Cruddas (Sierra Pacific), Alexis Salvatierra (special assistant to the bishop, Southwest California Synod), Marion McInturff (DC Metro Synod), Mary Campbell (ELC, Milwaukee), Anna Kari-Johnson, Maria Paiva
Southwest California synod has been working on this project for 9 months

- Developed a letter of introduction to congregations with guide book which includes names of welcoming churches and the services they provide
- Churches meet once/quarter for fellowship and support
- Target: Progressive and suburban churches which have not been involved with immigrant populations
- Synod council on this topic must do the following to present an aggressive outreach:
  - Identify key resources
  - Prepare an information packet
  - Visit church councils
  - Connect with a sister church

The process started when Bishop Gomez met with Latino congregations with immigrations as the focus. Then they steps were/are:

- Identify congregations that might be interested in becoming a Welcoming Congregation
- Bishop speaks about El Salvador at synod assembly/show Powerpoint presentation
- Synod task force divides congregations into subgroups and meets with interested people from those congregations
- At first meeting determine: The Vision, Immigrant needs, Obstacles, Needs of congregations
- Interesting Data: 300 people leave El Salvador every day for the U.S.

Speaking to congregations:

- Pair of synod task force members come with an introduction – one immigrant/one non-immigrant
- At least one person in a congregation needs to speak Spanish and be willing to publish his/her phone number as a contact person
- Be able to inform migrants about health, legal, and pastoral care in the area (booklet form)
- Synods need to form a task force to implement the process in order to make the November 2012 Bishops’ Agreement a reality.

El Salvador to be the pilot focus for this initiative. Other countries will follow. Guidebook must be created by small group of congregations. (Watsonville, CA, now has a sister-city with El Salvador)

There is a legal right to help undocumented people.
Regional Goal: build immigrant/non-immigrant congregational relationships

An exchange of passion and hope
Ultimate goal: Deal with public policy
Because the Earth is God’s Creation, no one in any part of the world is illegal

As Bishops, Pastors and Lay Leaders from four Synods (Greater Milwaukee, Southwest California, Sierra Pacific and the Sinodo Luterano Salvadoreno), we met the 9th and 10th of November in the city of San Salvador and reflected biblically and theologically on our common concern for the impact of the migration of Salvadoran citizens to the United States.

- We recognize that the theme of migration between our nations is complex, transcending the pastoral and diaconal work that we do in the churches. Regardless, we are called to reflect profoundly, ethically, morally, spiritually and pastorally, seeking alternative responses to the great needs of this sector.

- We recognize the intense efforts that others have made in this area, and the accomplishments that they have achieved in the arenas of organization and the respect for the urgency of the situation. However, much more is required in order to overcome the serious problems experienced by migrants before, during, and after they reach their destination. Our role needs to include orientation, accompaniment, education and the demand for holistic justice.

- We are sure that the problem of migration has its roots in the lack of real opportunities in the areas of employment, education, security and recreation that are aggravated by the poverty, misery and marginalization that characterizes the migrants’ countries of origin and that requires them to immigrate to the United States and other countries seeking the “American Dream”, too often at the cost of their own lives and their families, and saddest of all, without the certainty that they will achieve their goal.

- For this reason, we have come together in El Salvador, under the theme: “Because the earth is God’s creation, no one in any part of the world is illegal, in order to:

1. Create a Migrant Pastoral Ministry between the participating Synod that would take various actions, including the development of a Guide and workshops for those who are considering migration as well as the churches that will need to welcome them, and to educate all the congregations with the goal of enabling them to do the same.

2. Advocate for public policies that benefit potential immigrants in their countries of origin, as well as in the United States, such as immigration reform.

3. Develop and promote projects and services that benefit the economy and the people.


2012 Encuentro
C. Slovakia – Rosemary Burton, Chair

Gifts of Hope

This Year’s Gift Listing:
Church refurbishing 100

Many congregations in the mountainous Tornal’a area, served by the Lutheran Church of Slovakia, face difficult economic conditions and limited electricity, so church contents are deteriorating. This Gift will help congregations replace and repair worship space – providing for chairs, lighting, and heat – bringing comfort into a spiritual place.

Money sent for last two year’s gifts occurred in October 2013 for the amount of $3,896.14. The thank you letter from Bishop Klatik was received.

Wittenberg Study Trip

A collaborative church study trip had been planned in July of 2013 to go to Wittenberg to study a section of the writings of Martin Luther. It would have been combined with an exploration of the important sites in Wittenberg that are so important to the early Lutheran church. This trip was cancelled due to lack of sufficient registrations on the American side. Fifteen Slovak participants were registered as well as five American participants. All prospective registrants were notified and applicable registration fees were returned. The committee is still looking into a possible rescheduling of the trip.

Youth Service Project

A young 15 year old lady and her father, Paul Wengert, requested a church contact in Slovakia. They reached out to me through their Pastor, Yvette Schock, to help them connect with someone from the Lutheran Church in Slovakia. The young lady, Kelsey Wengert, was interested in doing a service project in connection with the Girl Scouts. They attend Faith Lutheran Church in Arlington. I met with them at their church and provided them with a powerpoint presentation on the Church in Slovakia. I then contacted Bishop Klatik’s liaison, Matus Kopca, who arranged for her to get into contact with chaplains Dano and Tatiana Benuch who run a youth ministry in Slovakia.

Plans for Early Childhood Education Information Exchange

A proposal was written to begin an initiative that would connect early childhood education teachers working in church programs in Slovakia with their counterparts in the Washington, DC Metro area. Approval is being
sought from both Bishops. This initiative would involve a sharing of e-mails, pictures, videos, and children's work between programs. The hope is that an opportunity for American teachers would eventually visit their counterparts in Slovakia and share teaching strategies and other mutual experiences in their work to educate young children.

**Middle East Working Group – Nathan Rich, Chair**

- In FY2013 the MEWG met in person Feb. 10, April 3 and Jan. 26
- June 7-17 – A group of young adults from Metro DC Synod traveled to the Holy Land to “walk with” Christians living there. This trip was led by Karin Brown and Ray Ranker.
- June 21 – At the metro DC Synod Assembly, MEWG sponsored a resolution called ACCOMPANIMENT, AWARENESS-RAISING, & ADVOCACY FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE HOLY LAND which was passed. Rev. Phil Anderson was the voting member sponsor. Anne Lipe represented MEWG with a table and materials at 2013 synod assembly ($150)
- Summer – Jean Martensen and Anne Lipe conducted a survey of congregational leaders from the Montgomery Conference (9 of 13 congregations) on attitudes toward and knowledge of Peace Not Walls and the Israel/Palestine situation.
- Sept. 13 – MEWG hosted dinner and conversation at First Trinity – DC with synod young adults who went on Holy Land trip in June 2013. About 25 attended (14 YA, 11 MEWG) ($127)
- Nov. 8-10 – Conference “Waging Peace in Palestine & Israel” @ Calvary Baptist Church, featuring Rev. Mitri Raheb, was sponsored by the Alliance of Baptists Justice in Palestine & Israel Community. John Scheffler attended.
- Nov. 9 – Meeting with Mitri Raheb to discuss investment in Palestine. Present: Mitri Rahaeb, Beth Nelson Chase (Vice President, Bright Stars of Bethlehem), Phil Anderson, Karin Brown, Michael Wilker, Kathy Tobias, Paul Verduin, Russ Siler, Paul Wee, Bob Francis. Avenues to pursue include ELCJHL, Oikocredit, example of Presbyterian Foundation/PCUSA.
- Dec. 21 – 7th annual Bethlehem simulcast service with Christmas Lutheran Church at Washington National Cathedral – Bishop Graham participated.
- MEWG is supporting boycott of Sodastream beverage carbonation products because they are manufactured in an illegal settlement in the West Bank. https://www.kairoresponse.org/Sodastream_Boycott.html. The DC Chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace is leading this initiative in our area.
- The MEWG is continuing to evaluate appropriate use for the Dora Johnson Memorial Fund of the synod.
Malaria Campaign – Dorothy Sorrell, Chair

The ELCA Malaria Campaign has received contributions of more than $11 million, and the Metro DC Synod has contributed almost $290,000 of that total (3/1/14). The ELCA has been able to increase its outreach because of these contributions, and is now working with thirteen Lutheran church companions to carry out work in Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia (Metro DC Companion Synod), Nigeria, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Lutheran churches in Africa are centers of community life, and the ELCA has long supported health care through these Lutheran church bodies. The focus of the Malaria Campaign is in education, prevention and treatment. Results to date include:

- 9,227 church leaders, program staff, health workers, community leaders and volunteers trained in malaria prevention and control
- 1,912,445 people reached through malaria programming
- 8,108 workshop or educational sessions held
- 22,056 nets distributed
- 60,788 educational pamphlets distributed
- 80 bicycles and bicycle ambulances distributed to community volunteers
- 100,304 people tested for malaria
- 19,336 people treated for malaria
- 32,179 pregnant women received pre-natal malaria care
- 4,429 people participated in community-based savings and self-help groups
- $107,311 in US dollars mobilized through community-based savings and self-help groups

The ELCA has produced many excellent resources regarding this work and ideas for congregations to promote awareness of the Malaria Campaign. The website is www.elca.org.malaria. Latest resources include a World Malaria Day Toolkit and Vacation Bible School Curriculum, both of which can be adapted for use at any time during the year.

Locally contact Dorothy J. Sorrell, Metro DC Synod Malaria Campaign Coordinator, for information about malaria resources and/or assistance with a Malaria Campaign in your congregation. djsorrell1@verizon.net or (703) 591-2236.

Gifts of Hope

- **Namibia**
  - Healthy Livestock (ELCIN) $5,419.74
  - Drip Irrigation System (ELCRN) 4,873.50
  - Book for Namibian Seminary Library 3,441.18

- **El Salvador**
  - Salary Support for Pastor $1,791.05
  - Food for a Family 3,256.34
• **Slovakia**
  
  Church Refurbishing  
  $4,685.00

**Missionary Support**

St. Luke  
Silver Spring, MD  
Stephen Deal  
$2,500.00

Trinity  
North Bethesda, MD  
Stephen Deal  
$2,000.00

Trinity  
North Bethesda, MD  
Andrew & Barbara Hinderlie  
$2,000.00

King of Kings  
Fairfax, VA  
Stephen Deal  
$1,000.00

All Saints  
Bowie, MD  
Stephen Deal  
$1,500.00

Good Shepherd  
Alexandria, VA  
Stephen Deal  
$2,000.00

Grace  
Bowie, MD  
Stephen Deal & Marta Giron  
$1,500.00

Holy Trinity  
Falls Church, VA  
Stephen Deal  
$4,000.00

First Trinity  
Washington, DC  
Stephen Deal  
$1,000.00

St. Nicholas  
Huntingtown, MD  
Phil Knutson  
$1,500.00

St. Stephen  
Silver Spring, MD  
Stephen Deal  
$200.00

**Metro D.C. Synod Global Mission Committee**

Pastor Bob Allard, Chair, Global Mission Committee  
Barbara O’Keefe, Secretary  
Rosemary Burton, Chair, Slovakia Companion Synod Task Force
Mark Victorson & Kathy Tobias, Co-Chair, Namibia Companion Synod Task Force
Jane Hanlon & Kelly Baugh, Co-Chair, El Salvador Companion Synod Task Force
Nathan Rich, Chair, Middle East Working Group
Dorothy Sorrell, Chair, Malaria Campaign

Phil Anderson
Ann Foltz
Rhoda Kluge
Barbara Piotter
Ruth Manchester
Paul Wee