

**From:** John and Mindy Holtz [mailto:jholtz@zamtel.zm]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 10, 2005 12:51 PM  
**To:** Panitzke, Pastor  
**Subject:** Mission Partner Communique - August 2005

Dear Peter,

Greetings in the name of the Lord who is so good!

Last month I suggested to you that I send you a communiqué in August re: the Vicar situation; instead, I'd like to offer something else for this month and then write about the vicars next month in September.

I've recently made a trip to Uganda to investigate a mission opportunity for both the WELS and the LCCA. I thought it might be interesting for St. Paul's and others to know about it.

If you'd rather not use this information, then I still can send something about our vicars. Otherwise I'll send the vicar information/pictures in September.

Thank you!

John

PS If you'd like more/other pictures taken in Uganda, please let me know!

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Back in 2002, a group of eight Lutheran Christians in Uganda (known as the Lutheran Church of East Africa of Uganda, or LCEA-U) began planting seeds. Not into soil, but into hearts; not seeds of corn but seeds of the gospel. Bible Studies were held, friends and relatives were invited and "the Lord added to the number those who were being saved!"

This gospel outreach began in the Uganda town of Jinja. Like a pebble dropped on calm waters, the gospel work rippled out and grew ever bigger. Now there are congregations of Christians gathering in three other locations besides Jinja: Kaato, Nawandyo and Kasambira.

The work grew bigger as the number of people grew larger. With only one pastor and 4 evangelists, they realized that help was needed. They also realized that they would like to have the fellowship with a Scripturally based Lutheran church body who confessed "By Faith Alone, By Scripture Alone, by Grace alone."

The LCEA-U contacted the WELS seminary (WLS). A WLS professor in turn contacted the leadership in the Lutheran Church of Central Africa - Zambia. Although it's taken more than two years, a trip to Uganda was finally made to investigate what is actually "on the ground." Our team of four was able to meet with the LCEA-U leadership and visit with the people in the congregations.

Our visit to Uganda was encouraging and inspiring. The Lord of the harvest seems to be opening a door for mission outreach.

But I can imagine some of you thinking...

*But with the budget cuts and missionary recalls - why even think about a mission opportunity in a country most of us can't even pronounce the names of the towns? Much less speak their language of Luganda and Lusoga?*

Because our outreach strategy for this particular location does not include that a WELS mission family live in Uganda! Our recommendation is that we simply continue discussions with the LCEA-U leadership, working towards a point where full fellowship as sister synods can be reached. This will obviously take time, training, visits and a whole lot of prayer! But we already know the answer to the following question: Is God's arm too short that He can't reach down and swing wide this door of opportunity?

What will this all bring? Will it lead to a sister synod? Will it open the door to more mission fields? Will it go nowhere? Only the Lord of the Harvest knows. However, it has already given something to me. It has given me a new set of eyes for a new group of people hungry for the Word. It's given me another exciting reminder that the work we put into gospel outreach is worth every dollar, Kwacha and Shilling. It's given me a joyful reminder that I'm here in Zambia doing the Lord's work because of people like you at St. Paul's and other WELS congregations who believe that what we are doing is thing we ought to be doing.

But mostly, it's given me yet another humble look at Jesus. Thanks to Him, I'm counted among the many who already have eternal life - and know it!

Your Mission Partner,

Missionary John Holtz  
Zambia, Africa



The investigation team from the Lutheran Church of Central Africa (LCCA) together with the Lutheran Church of East Africa - Uganda (LCEA- U) leadership.



Our meeting with the congregation at Nawandyo, Uganda.  
Note the "poles" holding up the tarp....banana stalks!