

Mission Partner Adoption Agreement with Zambia, Africa *Chipata missionary*

FAST FACTS

About the LCCA (based on 2003-04 budget year)

- ♦ Baptized members: 10,168
- ♦ Confirmed members: 4,920
- ♦ Congregations: 103
- ♦ Preaching Stations: 29

As of 2005, there are:

- ♦ 16 national pastors
- ♦ 8 missionaries
- ♦ 1 Kingdom Worker couple
- ♦ 2 medical mission personnel

DESCRIPTION OF COUNTRY

Halfway between the equator and the southern-most tip of the African continent lies the country of Zambia. Approximately 11 million people live in this land the size of Texas. Zambia is bordered by eight countries and boasts part “ownership” of one of the seven wonders of the world: Victoria Falls. The mild climate, friendly people and laid-back lifestyle appeal to both citizens and visitors alike.



WELS' MISSION IN AFRICA

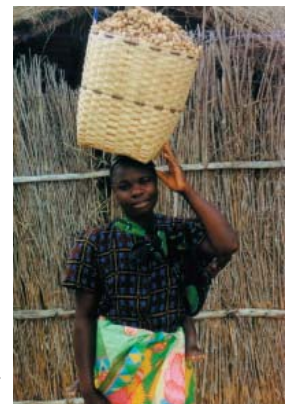
WELS missionaries first came to this peaceful country in 1953, when it was known as Northern Rhodesia. What started with gospel seeds and a prayer has grown to be a ripe harvest of over 10,000 members. Since 1962, this church body has been known by the name, the Lutheran Church of Central Africa – Zambia Conference, or LCCA – ZC.

In 1963, the Lord of the Church provided a mission opportunity into the neighboring country of Malawi. By God's grace and through the work of the LCCA, a “sister” was born and named the Lutheran Church of Central Africa – Malawi Conference, or LCCA – MC. Though separated by a border, the LCCA members living in these two countries are one in faith and purpose. These two conferences cooperate in the worker training program of the LCCA.



Work in Chipata

Though we live in the “city” of Chipata, much of my ministry takes me into “the bush.” These congregations are in rural settings nestled in the Eastern Province of Zambia. Most of these Lutheran members are farmers. Although each year cries are heard of either too much or too little rain, our good and gracious Lord provides the amount He wants us to have. From the bounties of their fields, our members give harvest offerings of maize (corn), cotton and groundnuts (peanuts).



The people of Zambia are hungry for the Word of God. Simply placing a Bible into their hands, however, is not the only answer. Many in our congregations can't read the Scriptures—even in their own language! Illiteracy poses problems. Consequently, most of their

learning is through oral teaching.

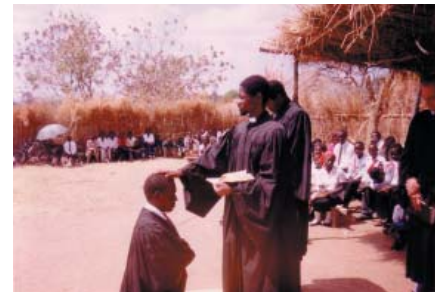
An exciting challenge to all of our WELS missionaries in Zambia has been to bring God's Word to God's people in the local tongue. Although there are many languages spoken in Zambia, I mainly work in Chi-Nyanja and Chi-Nsenga.

God has promised that His Word, like the snow and the rains, will not return empty, but accomplish what He desires. As preachers and teachers, we are praying and trusting that the Word of God take root and bear fruit in the hearts and lives of the Zambian people. We are counting upon God to bring us to the day when these congregations are strong and organized enough to be able to call and support their own national pastor.

Speaking of national pastors, currently we have 16. They are being supported 100% by the local congregations they serve! What a wonderful blessing! In June of 2005, five students will graduate from our seminary and begin their practical training as vicars. After one year, these five vicars will be eligible for a call.

As of 2005, there are a total of three LCCA national pastors and two WELS missionaries working in the Eastern Province. Because of the large number of congregations (over 40, including preaching stations) and the vast territory, we pray that the Lord will bless us with more national called workers to help us carry the load.

However, the load may be shifting in the near future. As of now, most of the WELS missionaries in Zambia are involved with rural ministries. Recently, though, a new goal has been set: to redirect the work of the WELS missionaries into the urban areas of Zambia. These times of planning and growth really demand our full and undivided attention on God's Word for guidance and faith.



About Your Missionary

John Holtz

I graduated from Northwestern College, Watertown, WI in 1985 and from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 1989. On "Call Day" I was assigned to Mount Olive in Iron Mountain, Michigan where I served until the Call to Zambia came in 1997.

My wife Mindy graduated as a Medical Technologist from Michigan Tech in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. May I take this time to thank God for my high cholesterol? Because I have it, my Iron Mountain doctor advised me to increase my aerobic activity. I joined an aerobics class and met Mindy! We married in July 1994 and she's been monitoring my cholesterol ever since!

When our two children, Rachel (8 years old) and Heather (7 years old) grow up, they want to work with animals. There's not a creature in our garden that escapes their curious eyes or helping hands. Patches and Shadow, our two playful cats, receive lots of love and attention.

Mindy and I enjoy—and treasure—the family time we have. Whether it's pizza time, devotion time, bed time or supper time, we make it family time. Even my most memorable hunting safari has been when my family went with me!

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I/We hereby agree to support Zambia, Africa—Chipata missionary, Project # WEL920.5019 with a total of \$_____ during the next _____ years.

My/Our gift will be sent \$_____ monthly \$_____ quarterly \$_____ semi-annually \$_____ annually

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____.

_____ **Bill my credit or check card \$_____.**

_____ MasterCard _____ Visa _____ Discover _____ American Express

Acct # _____ Exp date: _____

Signature: _____

_____ I want the convenience of **Electronic Funds Transfer**. Please include a voided check. Date for automated transfer is the 20th of the month.

Please make checks payable to WELS.

Send to: WELS Ministry of Planned Giving, 2929 N Mayfair Rd, Milwaukee, WI 53222

Name: _____ Spouse's first name: _____

Address: _____ Date: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Congregation name: _____ Congregation city: _____

Note: Gifts given to Mission Partners will be credited to your congregation's mission offerings without indicating your name unless you request otherwise.