



## A tribute to Bette McCrandall: "The Mother Teresa of the ELCA"

Three months before Leymah Gbowe, life-long Liberian Lutheran and ELCA scholarship recipient, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, another woman was recognized for her quiet, yet exemplary, service in Liberia.

Bette McCrandall, after nearly 30 years of service as an ELCA missionary, was heralded "the Mother Teresa of the ELCA" by the Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla at the Summer Missionary Conference recognition banquet. During the bloody Liberian civil war, when missionaries were being evacuated, Bette McCrandall opted to stay and walk alongside global companions in the Lutheran Church of Liberia and others.

Bette served as surrogate mother to countless Liberian youth, carried victims' bodies from St. Peter's Church after its bloody massacre, and helped the Liberian Lutheran church rebuild and strengthen its education ministry.

Together, we say "thank you" to Bette for exemplary service. And, I say "thank you" to you, supporters of ELCA missionaries! Your support helps to make "a world of difference."

*Twila*

The Rev. Twila Schock is director for ELCA Missionary Sponsorship and Global Appeals.

P.S. View a video of Bette, along with vignettes of other ELCA missionaries, at the Hand in Hand blog digest: <http://blogs.elca.org/handinhand>.



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