



Walking with the risen Lord: An Easter devotion

based on Luke 24:13–35

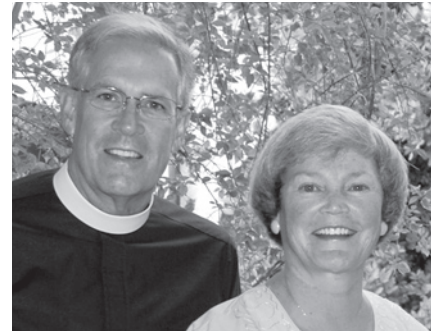
The stranger had a lot of explaining to do, so it's good that the walk to Emmaus was a long one. No wonder the stranger (actually, the resurrected Lord Jesus) was unrecognizable to the other two who walked with him! To them, nothing looked the same. Everything was lost. Three days earlier, in Jerusalem, their leader was whipped, stripped, humiliated, and left to die on the wretched cross. Was this stranger the only one who had not yet heard? From grief's disorienting mixture of confusion, regret, and shame, one of the two—Cleopas—finally voiced their lament, "and we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel" (Luke 24:21).

Only Luke tells this story of Jesus' tender patience: "Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures" (Luke 24:27). Later, their eyes were opened when Jesus blessed, broke, and gave the bread.

We have not yet walked the road to Emmaus, but we, and the people we serve, have walked plenty of stony roads in and around Jerusalem. Daily, we walk through 3,000 years of biblical history. At the same time, we participate in some of the pivotal events that will be reported in tomorrow's international media.

We walk with people who grieve the loss of their precious homeland and now endure the incessant humiliations of occupation. We join in the struggle for peace and justice in a climate often simmering with vengeance and retribution. Most of all, in faith, we walk with the risen Lord who continues to be revealed when scripture is opened and bread broken. He is the one who brings life and sets us free.

– The Rev. Mark Holman



The Rev. Mark and Marcia Holman are ELCA missionaries. Pastor Mark serves as pastor of the English-speaking congregation at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in the Old City of Jerusalem. Marcia serves to strengthen community life among the women and men called to serve in Palestine.

Mount of Olives Housing Project promotes a shared Jerusalem



Without efforts like the Mount of Olives Housing Project (MOHP) to support the local Christians and to help them stay in Jerusalem, the goal of Jerusalem as a city of peace, as a shared city between Jews, Christians, and Muslims, will never be achieved.

It appears that in the coming decades there could be virtually no Palestinian Christians living in Jerusalem. In 1946, there were 31,400 Christians in Jerusalem. Today, while the Jewish and Muslim populations increase dramatically, less than 10,000 Christians remain. The shortage of affordable housing in Jerusalem is a key factor contributing to the departure of many Christians.

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), and the Kaiserin Auguste Victoria Foundation (KAVF) are addressing the need for housing through the construction of 84 apartments on the LWF property on the Mount of Olives. The hope is to break ground in 2010.

The total capital investment needed for the project is approximately \$8.4 million. About half of the ELCA's \$2 million commitment for project construction has been raised. The Church of Sweden has pledged 30 million Swedish Kroner, and there are positive signs for additional support from Norway, Germany, Finland, and other countries.

Visit www.elca.org/globalmission/mtofoliveshousing to learn more.

The Rev. Mark Brown, an ELCA pastor, serves as The Lutheran World Federation regional representative in Jerusalem.

3 answers

1. 247

2. 49

3. \$70,000

Find the questions on the reverse side.

A useful URL

Visit www.elca.org/companionprofiles to find updated Companion Profiles (formerly Country Packets).



Find this issue online at www.elca.org/missionarysponsorship

Visit the Hand in Hand blog digest at <http://blogs.elca.org/handinhand>

From the GMS director

And, the one who sat on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5).

Christ is Risen! Peace to you! In these days of Easter, we rejoice in the new life and hope which is ours in Christ.

Global Mission Support is celebrating newness in multiple ways!

- I hope you enjoy this first issue of *Hand in Hand*, and pray that each issue will offer you information and inspiration.
- I am pleased to introduce you to our new Global Mission Support team. Sue Edison-Swift joined the team as assistant director for Global Mission Support and Kathleen West began her service as Global Mission Support coordinator. Never hesitate to contact the team with your questions.
- We began a new fiscal year thankful for your generous support. In 2008, Global Mission Support gifts totaled \$7.2 million, exceeding 2007 gifts by \$300,000.

It is not "new" or even "news" to report that 2009 fiscal realities are challenging. Increased costs and decreased income have forced difficult decisions throughout this church, including Global Mission. Your sustained and generous giving to ELCA Missionary Sponsorship is especially needed during "such a time as this." As ELCA missionary sponsors, we accompany each other when those who can do more, and others do what they can. In this way, together with companions around the globe, we make a world of difference.

The Rev. Twila Schock is ELCA director for Global Mission Support.



The global mission support team: The Rev. Twila Schock, director (left), Kathleen West, coordinator, and Sue Edison-Swift, assistant director. (Photo by Michael D. Watson)

How to

Give to ELCA Missionary Sponsorship:

1. Give through your congregation. Write "ELCA Missionary Sponsorship" on the memo line of your check.
2. With a credit card, give online (www.elca.org/giving) or call 800-638-3522.
3. Make your check out to "ELCA Missionary Sponsorship" and mail directly to:
ELCA Missionary Sponsorship
8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631-4101

Contact the Global Mission Support team at the address above, or call 800-638-3522, ext. 2657. E-mail us at globalmissionsupport@elca.org.

3 questions

1. How many ELCA Mission Personnel are there (as of February 2009)?
2. In how many countries do ELCA mission personnel serve (as of February 2009)?
3. What is the average yearly cost of a single missionary's training, salary, benefits, and in-country support?

Find the answers on the reverse side.

A handy idea

Share "**A Day in the Life of a Missionary**" with your congregation. This six-minute video presentation offers a glimpse into the daily life, work, joys and challenges of nine ELCA missionaries. Find it online at www.elca.org/missionarysponsorship or contact the GMS team and request a free copy of the DVD.



Christiana Metzger, a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Baltimore, Md., is a two-year missionary serving the Diakonia AIDS Ministry, a program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Africa – Central Diocese. Christiana will complete her service in June 2009.

