



## Daily bread questions and challenges

based on John 6:1–21

Monday is “trash day” in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, the day residents place their garbage bags near the streets to be collected by municipality workers. As a result, it is also the day men, women, and children come out in massive numbers to search through the multitudes of containers before the trucks arrive.

They are looking for “daily bread.”

“How could someone do this? How would someone handle the filth and

stench?” I initially wondered. However, those first questions were soon replaced with better ones: “Why are people placed in such unjust situations? Why do billions of people struggle with extreme poverty in a world filled with abundant resources?”



ELCA missionaries the Rev. Brian and Kristen Konkol serve in South Africa as Young Adult Program Coordinators

**WHEN HE LOOKED UP AND SAW A LARGE CROWD COMING TOWARD HIM, JESUS SAID TO PHILIP, “WHERE ARE WE TO BUY BREAD FOR THESE PEOPLE TO EAT?” (John 6:5).**

Perhaps the feeding of the 5,000 account in John 6 is more about Jesus empowering the disciples to consider the material poverty of those around them, and the spiritual poverty within themselves, than it is about Jesus amazingly producing “miracle bread” out of thin air. Perhaps Jesus knew that the amount of bread was not the challenge, but rather, it is the fair distribution that needed to be confronted and transformed.

*Gracious God, Help us to see the spiritual and material poverty within us and throughout the world. Open our hearts and minds to receive the gifts of others, and teach us to put our faith into action by seeking justice and care for neighbors in need. Amen* – The Rev. Brian Konkol

## Training faithful servants of God’s word in Hong Kong

Those who study and serve at the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Hong Kong (LTS) know the importance of biblical education and training, “so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:17). Here are examples of how LTS builds theological proficiency and lives out its mission statement: “On the foundation of the Bible, training faithful servants of God’s word.”

- An Indonesian woman who came to work as a maid in Hong Kong was beaten and held captive for six months. She managed to run away and gratefully joined 30 other women in a small Christian shelter which serves as a home and surrogate family. An LTS student from Hong Kong helps organize this shelter.
- Another LTS student lived for 10 years in a refugee camp. When he returns home to Cambodia, he will visit remote country parishes on a motorcycle, witnessing to the deep reconciliation and healing made possible in Christ.



The Lutheran Theological Seminary of Hong Kong

### 3 answers

1. one-third
2. February 15
3. 113

Find the questions on the reverse side.

- A graduate student at LTS aims to help develop a culturally appropriate and dynamic program of interdenominational Bible study and outreach for congregations in Myanmar, where Christians are a tiny minority.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (ELCHK) operates the seminary ([www.lts.edu](http://www.lts.edu)). In its 50-year history, LTS has grown to be a primary center of theological education.

*The Rev. Christa von Zychlin is one of the ELCA missionaries serving with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (ELCHK). Learn more at [www.elca.org/companionprofile](http://www.elca.org/companionprofile).*

## A useful URL

Visit [www.elca.org/handinhand](http://www.elca.org/handinhand) and find links to Global Mission Support’s *Hand in Hand* newsletter and “Hand in Hand” blog digest.



Find this issue online at [www.elca.org/handinhand](http://www.elca.org/handinhand)

## From the GMS director

*"... for whenever I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor. 12:10).*

A pastor in Pennsylvania called to tell me the news. "We had to cut our budget," she said, "so the congregation decided to sponsor a missionary."

I wondered if I had heard her correctly.

"When we cut our budget," she explained, "we found that, in trimming the non-essentials, we actually had extra money for our priorities, our benevolence. And then we realized how important it would be for us to be involved in our church's global mission."

What a witness this congregation is to the power of the Holy Spirit! Scarcity yields abundance. Weakness becomes strength.

How grateful I am for the global mission support of this congregation and of each of you. Especially in these times we affirm the certainty of Paul's words to the Corinthians: *"... for whenever I am weak, then I am strong."*

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

## A handy idea

ELCA Missionary Sponsorship  
www.elca.org/globalmission/support

Envelope No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail or Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Give through your ELCA congregation or send directly to:  
ELCA Global Mission Support, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631-4101

Offering envelopes are available to help congregations and other groups gather gifts for a specific missionary or for "ELCA Missionary Sponsorship—where needed most." Include the envelopes in offering boxes, tuck them in bulletins and mailings, and distribute them at related events and programs. To order the envelopes, call 800-328-4648 and request ITEM000997 (Free; 1 pkg = 50 envelopes).

## 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](http://www.elca.org/giving)) or call 800-638-3522.
3. Make your check out to "ELCA Missionary Sponsorship" and mail 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](mailto:globalmissionsupport@elca.org).

## 3 questions

1. About how many ELCA missionaries are pastors?
2. What is the priority application deadline for Young Adults in Global Mission ([www.elca.org/globalservelyoungadults](http://www.elca.org/globalservelyoungadults))?
3. How many ELCA missionaries are anticipated to begin service this summer (2009)?

*Find the answers on the reverse side.*

Sponsors are needed for **the Rev. Andrea and Luke Roske-Metcalf**, ELCA missionaries in Mexico. Pastor Andrea coordinates the Young Adults in Global Mission—Mexico program and Luke works with Transformational Immersion Programs at the Lutheran Center in Mexico City. To minimize travel time and maximize effectiveness when the Roske-Metcalfes make visits, sponsors are especially needed from the **Grand Canyon Synod** and surrounding region. For more information about missionary sponsorship, e-mail [globalmissionsupport@elca.org](mailto:globalmissionsupport@elca.org) or call 800-638-3522, ext. 2657.

