

THE CHANGING ROLE OF THE MISSIONARY

Most missionaries today are ordinary people serving the world through an extraordinary array of skills and talents—lay people called to serve the local church and its institutions as teachers, university professors, medical workers, librarians, or financial administrators. Only 30 percent of our mission personnel are clergy. Why?

Because our evangelistic efforts of the past have been successful, national churches now have competent ministers of their own who are far more adept than outsiders at evangelizing and witnessing among their own people. Instead of issuing calls to outsiders to do what they themselves can do best, they call mission personnel to assist in developing leadership skills for pastors, medical workers, and educators, to affirm the role of women, to support ministries of reconciliation, and to respond to international disasters.

Rosella Kameo, ELCA missionary in Indonesia



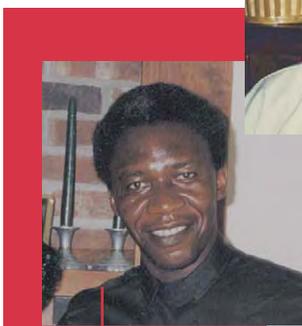
Rosella Kameo teaches English language and cross-cultural skills at Satya Wacana Christian University in Indonesia, where her husband Daniel (right, rear) is director of the Graduate School and lecturer for the Faculty of Economics.



Through the faithfulness of missionaries, the church of Jesus Christ is being proclaimed throughout the world. This resource explains how ELCA international mission personnel work and witness today, particularly in places where local Lutheran churches take responsibility for Christ's mission. ■



President Horacio Castillo presides over the small but growing Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala.



Rev. Dr. Thomas Nyiwe is president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon.



Regional Representatives Mytch (center) and Louis (right) Dorvilier provide a ministry of accompaniment to Lutheran churches in West Africa. In New York City, they met with Paul Badji, Senegalese Ambassador to the U.S.

One hundred years ago was a time of planting...

"One hundred years ago was a time of planting...You faithfully sent missionary doctors, nurses, pastors throughout the whole past century....Caring for their physical needs through your gifts and prayers, you responded to Christ's command. Now we all have the privilege of dealing with the harvest, with the teaching, discipline of many...who want to know Christ personally."

Stan Quanbeck, former ELCA missionary in Madagascar, in a letter to sponsoring congregations.



Born in Madagascar, Dr. Stan Quanbeck and his wife Kathie served in Madagascar for 40 years, from 1965 to 2005.

MISSIONARY WORK: YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Tanzania, Indonesia, Madagascar. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, thousands of Lutheran missionaries devoted their lives to establishing and nurturing new churches in these countries and many others.

While missionaries preached sermons and taught confirmation, they knew that the new churches could not grow if they did all the work themselves. They made a priority of training indigenous evangelists and pastors.

As Regional Representative to Central America, Steve Deal accompanies five Lutheran church bodies and often introduces visiting ELCA members to the Central American context.



Today, the churches that European and North American missionaries helped found are independent and self-governing. These companion churches run their own seminaries, provide their own evangelists and pastors, and administer their own social programs.

The Protestant Christian Batak Church in Indonesia (HKBP) is a good example. The HKBP became independent in 1930, and has worked since then to minister to Indonesia's rural poor. Today it has over 3 million members in 2200 congregations, served by 413 pastors, 259 teacher-preachers, and 30 deaconesses.

While local leaders have replaced missionaries in

many areas of work, ELCA mission personnel still serve in Indonesia. The HKBP and other companion churches often invite people with particular areas of expertise to help train others. The ELCA responds by calling lay or ordained mission personnel who can serve as theological educators, specialized medical personnel, development workers, and teachers of English, science, math, and computers in assignments around the world. ■

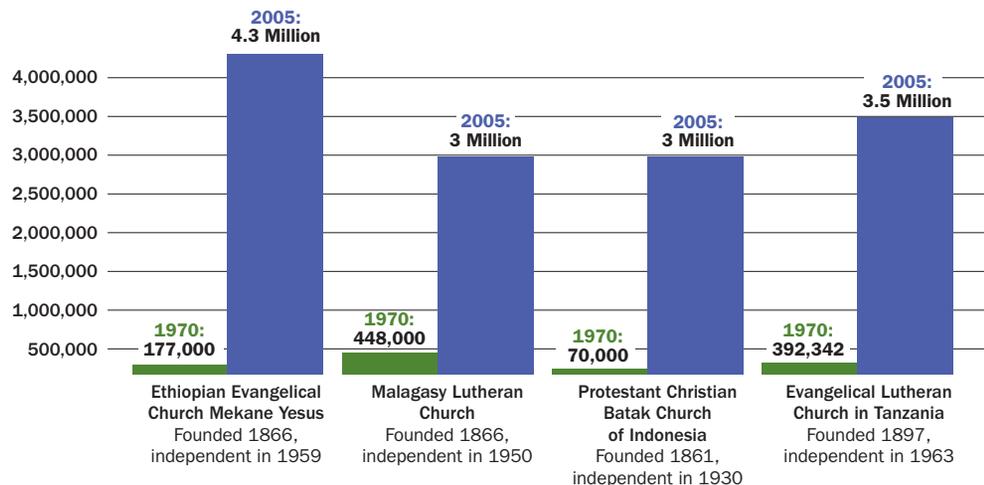


Anne and Willie Langdji are based in Linguère, Senegal, where they work with a variety of projects in local health promotion and development, education, and agriculture.



As assistant to the Internal Auditor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELC-PNG), Cristal Churchill helps local church financial leaders and ministries polish bookkeeping and accounting skills and keep records up-to-date. She and ELC-PNG Bishop Wesley Kigasung are visiting St. John's Lutheran Church in Lae, Papua New Guinea.

Companion Churches Growing Quickly



Source: Lutheran World Federation Directory; Barrett, *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 2nd edition, volume 1; Bachmann, *Lutheran Churches in the World*

EVANGELISM—EVERYONE’S RESPONSIBILITY

Today, 70 percent of ELCA mission personnel are lay people. Most clergy teach at training institutions or serve in international congregations.

All ELCA mission personnel are called to witness to the good news of Jesus Christ through their work. Some witness by developing and establishing communities of faith. Others witness by assisting and supporting local churches in their outreach programs or engaging in dialogues with people of other faiths.



Young Adults in Global Mission participants at their orientation. In this one-year international service opportunity, ELCA members ages 19-30 serve in a wide range of ministries in eight countries.

HOW THE ELCA WITNESSES TO EMERGING AREAS

In areas new to Christianity, like Vietnam’s Mekong Delta, new churches are being built from the ground up by indigenous pastors and evangelists who know the local language, culture, and beliefs. The ELCA supports those efforts by providing grants to train leaders equipped to nurture new believers.

ELCA mission personnel are present in Senegal, where they support a very small Christian community that is taking root in an overwhelmingly Muslim context. In Bangladesh, ELCA mission personnel witness through health care among their Muslim and Christian neighbors. ■

Continued on page 6

In interfaith settings or in countries where overt evangelism is forbidden, missionaries witness through their relationships, as Rosella Kameo explains.

Indonesia, the most populous Muslim country in the world, does not allow foreigners to come with the purpose of converting people to Christianity. How do we witness then when we are called to be university lecturers and librarians and are not allowed to evangelize? We witness as you do, through our daily lives, through the way in which we deal with our Indonesian superiors and subordinates, through the integrity we show to our students, and through the time and dedication we put into our work.

Secondly, we witness by being a Christian university in a Muslim society. We support the witness of the Indonesian church when we help it to prepare strong Christian leaders... Also, even though Christians are not allowed to attend Muslim schools, around 30 percent of our students are Muslim, drawn to the university by its high academic standards and its reputation among Muslim alumni for non-discriminatory practices. ■



Former missionary Bobbi Cyr and other teachers in Japan share their English-language skills and their faith with students attending high schools of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church.



Missionaries taught early Bible classes, but local leaders quickly assumed responsibility for teaching and baptizing new believers.



Sponsor an ELCA Missionary

ELCA international mission personnel—

- Proclaim the gospel through their work and personal lives
- Serve through holistic ministries of health, education, evangelism, community development, and advocacy
- Accompany Christians in their spiritual journey
- Receive the gifts of colleagues and neighbors

How to Participate in the Missionary Sponsorship Program

1. Missionary Covenant Program

Through this program, congregations or individuals partner with—

- An ELCA missionary or missionary family
- An international scholarship student attending an ELCA college or seminary
- A “south-south” missionary (For example, a missionary from Madagascar who serves the Lutheran church in Papua New Guinea and is supported by ELCA gifts)

As a sponsor, you support your missionary through prayer, correspondence, and financial support ranging from \$1000 to \$84,000 a year. Your relationship begins when you sign a Missionary Sponsorship Covenant (a sample form is shown on the next page) and receive photos, contact and background information on your missionary. It continues as you exchange letters or arrange visits, when possible. Contact Rev. Twila Schock at (800) 638-3522, ext. 2641 or Twila.Schock@elca.org for names of students or missionaries awaiting sponsorship.

2. The 365 Club

Ideal for families, individuals, and groups who want to support ELCA missionaries. For \$1 a day you may support ELCA missionaries around the globe. You will receive regular updates on the work of our missionary community as they serve on your behalf.

To become a member of the 365 Club, fill out the form below, together with your financial gift, and mail to:

ELCA Global Mission 365 Club
Attn: The Rev. Twila Schock
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago IL 60631

Yes I would like to become a member of the 365 Club and support ELCA missionaries with a minimum gift this year of \$365 (\$1 a day)

Payment method: One-time payment (\$365) Monthly payments (\$30.50)
 Quarterly payments (\$91.25) Semi-annual payments (\$182.50)

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Missionary Sponsorship Covenant



Recognizing our common partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ and our commitment to the proclamation of that gospel, _____

Name of congregation

of _____

City

State

Zip Code

commits itself to God's on-going global mission through the Missionary Sponsorship program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in the following ways:

FINANCIAL: \$ _____, for 20 _____

RELATIONSHIPS:

A. As a sponsoring congregation, we will covenant with _____, serving in _____, to: _____
Country Missionary's Name(s)

1. pray for our missionary;
2. tell the story of our missionary's work and ministry to the congregation and community by sharing letters and news items within the congregation, the local newspaper and synod;
3. maintain a relationship with our missionary by writing letters and telling about our congregation's ministry and mission; and
4. remember our missionary at special times (birthday, Christmas, anniversary, Easter, etc.) with cards, letters, and remembrances.

B. As the Global Mission unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we will covenant to:

1. link your congregation with a missionary;
2. assist you in developing a relationship with your missionary;
3. provide educational materials that will expand your understanding of global mission; and
4. pray for your congregation's ministry.

Chairperson of the Congregation

Jwila Schock

Director, Global Mission Support

Pastor of the Congregation

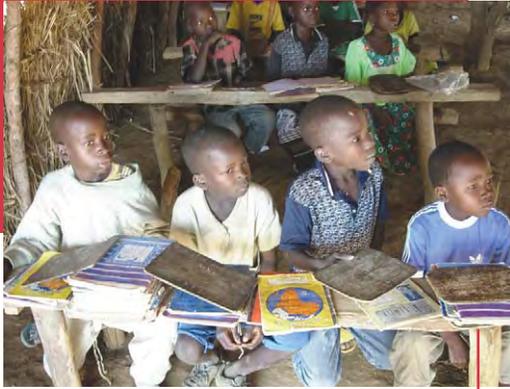
Date received in GM _____

Date signed

Please return one copy
of this covenant to:

ELCA/Global Mission
Office of Global Mission Support
8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631

Church's, pastor's or member's e-mail address



The Village Education Project of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic seeks to help parents establish and maintain their own village primary schools.

Rev. John Peterson with colleagues from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong.



MABOKO NA MABOKO, “HAND IN HAND”

ELCA mission personnel live and work in a model called accompaniment—a mutual relationship between companion churches. In accompaniment, churches walk together in service in God’s mission, with each church having primary responsibility for its area.

Central Africans have their own expression for accompaniment: *maboko na maboko*, which means “hand in hand.”

ELCA mission personnel know that accompaniment takes two hands. They serve at the invitation of and under the supervision of the local church, and they focus their efforts on equipping and supporting local Christians in their tasks. Former ELCA missionary Karon Harden tells how accompaniment works for her project:

We ELCA personnel are guests, here to accompany our Central African colleagues. Our help, though welcome, is not meant to generate dependency. The Village Schools Project is first and foremost their project for the benefit of their children, and for it to have the most profound and most durable effect, they must own and maintain it themselves... We stress the training of local personnel, and require the beneficiaries of our aid to prepare for their own long-term administrative and financial sustainability. ■

ELCA Africa Desk Director Gaylord Thomas (left) and Regional Rep Rev. Sally Roach (right) worship with Bishop Thomas Laizer of the Arusha Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.



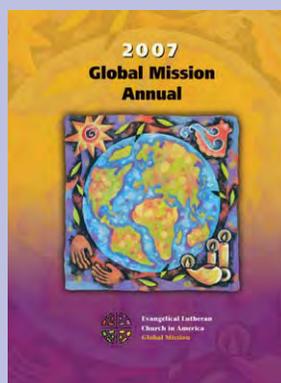
Two ways to learn more about accompaniment and global mission

Global Mission Annual

Where do ELCA missionaries work? What do they do? Find out in the *Global Mission Annual*, which showcases ELCA global mission work around the world. Learn more about:

- How ELCA funds support international proclamation, service, and accompaniment
- The mission model of accompaniment
- ELCA strategies for each continent
- Companion churches like the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania
- How you can serve as a missionary
- How to connect to global mission and Companion Synods activities in your synod.

Order this 60-page annual at no cost by calling Augsburg Fortress at (800) 328-4648, and requesting item 978-6-0002-1880-5.



Global Mission Event

Enjoy an opportunity to explore and celebrate global mission at a Global Mission Event. Blending global culture, learning, and fun, these exciting multigenerational events are a premiere source of global formation and skill building for ELCA members engaged in Companion Synod relationships, short-term mission trips, or other global ministries. Find complete program details at www.elca.org/gme

