



Global Lutheran Outreach
from everywhere to everywhere

the **Talsmas**



In Jars of Clay

A GLObal Missionary Mobilization Newsletter

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us." 2 Cor 4:7

Jan 2013

As God leads, into 2013....



What lies ahead in the new year?

- Will the redeemed of the Lord say so?
- Will our global Lutheran churches do more to share Christ's redemption?
- Will you and I rededicate ourselves to the unfinished task of making disciples of all nations?

The extent of God's patient delay is not given to us to know, but TODAY is the day of salvation. We must be about the work which he has given us while it is day.

What's holding us back?

Doubt?

Fear?

Complacency?

Weak economy?

Which one of these excuses will convince the One who spared not His own Son, who promised to be always with us, to whom we owe everything we are and have?

*Lord God our Savior,
- and not of us alone, but of all the world - forgive us for complacency, doubt, fear. Grant us instead unselfish zeal, faith and boldness to love as you loved us. In Jesus' name. Amen*

In Christ,
Dale, Cheryl and Jason Talsma

Soccer!



Jason (in red), like his brothers, has loved this international sport...and we have loved all that athletic participation can offer, including the opportunity for making new friends.

"Family updates"

We enjoyed receiving again many family Christmas greetings with the once-a-year updates. It's always good to hear from people we love. Even better is to get to visit them.

My visits to several Lutheran churches in Africa in November was a kind of visit to 'extended Family', many who I met for the first time. And, Wow! We sure belong to a large, beautiful, diverse and loving family -- the Family of faith! How to briefly sum up so much? Let me try...



Visiting family in Africa --- Highlights



Nigeria

Seeing dear brothers and sisters of the Luth. Ch. of Nigeria I haven't seen for a long time! Feasting on new yam fufu in our home village Nwang! (Saam, Nne Besi!)

Received updates on ministry and missions of LCN and presented GLO in meetings with LCN head Archbishop C. Ekong, at LCN seminary with rector Dr. M. Adoga, with seminary students, etc.

Visited the new Lutheran School of Health Tech., Yala, with its plans for expansion and greater mission impact.



With Rev. Essien

Celebrated with LCN zonal convention the joy at reopening of LCN Ogoja church building (locked for 18(!) years due to a regrettable split dating back to our time there), including a 2-day free clinic, visit by Lutheran Malaria Initiative, worship, Bible study, evangelism, etc., etc.

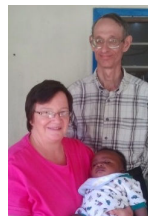
A chance to visit/interview/learn from LCN missionary to Jamaica (Rev. Obot Ite) and former LCN missionary to The Gambia (Rev. Samuel Essien).



Gbeanquois

Saw missionary friends Chuck and Karen Tessaro (and baby John David), Ivan Rasch, etc.

Interviewed a prospective missionary couple, Dixon (Liberian) and Christiana (Nigerian) Gbeanquois, as Dixon nears completion of theological studies in Jos, in anticipation of dedicating themselves to missionary service, with GLO's help.



Tessaros



South Africa & Botswana



Rev. C. Weber with dean of Botswana diocese Rev. Buka

Made first acquaintance with Family members of the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (LCSA). With South African mission director Rev. Christoph Weber, we toured mission opportunities in the country of Botswana, in the Johannesburg area, Mpumalanga province (eastern South Africa), and Durban area. Christoph indicated that, while they have identified several projects for evangelistic outreach and mission support, one restricting factor he often encounters is finding the missionary



LCSA mission outreach in Otse, Botswana

Jason's high school (Cardinal Gibbons) won district finals last night and begins regionals next week. (In Florida, as Guatemala, you can play soccer in winter!) Jason enjoys his familiar outside-mid position. We thank God for good sport, and Jason's good sport-ing. (Oh, ...and he's doing great in his studies too!)

Cheri's Class:

What will they be when they grow up?



I suppose school teachers often wonder what the future holds for the children whose lives and learning is entrusted to them for a school year.

What a privilege to be able to share God's love day in, day out with kids having so much potential! One of Cheri's biggest joys is that one of her students, Chloe, was baptized at Christmas! We thank God for the faithful of Shepherd of the Coast Luth. Ch. and School for this ministry that has brought another lost lamb home to her Savior!

Realizing the vision: from everywhere to everywhere

If, as God leads, you want to help:

- Please include this ministry in your prayers!
- Let us know if you have a gift or expertise you can share.
- Financial gifts:

Tax-deductible donations can be made to our ministry through GLO's website or by mail.

Checks can be mailed to:

Global Lutheran Outreach
6709 Ficus Drive
Miramar, FL 33023

To donate online, go to
www.globallutheranoutreach.com/Talsma

To Contact us:

Email or phone contact:
datalsma@gmail.com

Mobile ph: 260-804-8460

Check out our Blog at:
clayjargon.wordpress.com

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL NEWSLETTER:

Send us your email address and we will add it our mailing list. You will then receive automatically each newsletter with clickable links to online media, etc.

candidates. GLO hopes to help facilitate the sending of missionaries to assist our brothers and sisters in the LCSA.



Eric & Linda Funke with newly-elected Bishop Makala

Met up with GLO missionaries Eric and Linda Funke as they finished 11 weeks of formal Kiswahili language learning and moved with them to their place of serving for the next couple of years near Mwanza. Met and learned from "family" members serving the ELV diocese of Evang. Luth. Ch. of Tanzania, understanding more about their ministry, and sharing GLO's vision and services we can offer. Bishop A. Gulle said they are "very ready" to send missionaries if GLO can help make it happen.

A visa restriction blocked my visit to get to know Family members living/serving near Malakal with the Padang Lutheran Relief Society. Will make new plans to visit later, God willing.



Unplanned chance to meet some of our Family in Christ and see some of the valuable work Lutheran Heritage Foundation personnel are doing in this part of the world.



unleashing the potential

What I saw in my visit to Africa is great potential. The challenge? How to unleash it.

Consider that:

- 1) God **"wants all men to be saved** and come to a knowledge of the truth," and
- 2) "There is one God and **one mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tm 2:4-5)

"ALL men" - that means, EVERYONE.

"ONE mediator" - that means, NONE but JESUS.

So Paul said 'yes': "for this purpose I was appointed **a herald and an apostle** ... and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles." - 1 Tim. 2:7

Today, A LOT of people know Jesus and believe, but MOST people in the world do not.

1 / 23,571

--About 21,000 foreign missionaries sent by Africa's 495,000,000 Christians, which is only 1 missionary for every 23,571 Christians!

The Lutheran churches of Africa have a lot of potential that has yet to be unleashed. It is also true that the members of Lutheran churches in North America and elsewhere are blessed with lots of God-given potential still waiting to be dedicated to His service. God has filled His clay jars with great treasure! And He is still at work through them to bring good news to the poor and bind up the brokenhearted.

ALL men ... ONE mediator ... MUCH unleashed potential ...



GLO seeks to be a Spirit-guided instrument responsive to Christ's church EVERYWHERE as she takes up her privilege to be "herald and apostle" of the ONE Mediator for EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE ... while it is yet day

from everywhere to everywhere

Entrusting all into the Potter's hands, please join us in prayer for...

- Adjustment of Liska family (from Argentina) to new home and ministry in Chile.
- 8 people considering missionary service through GLO as they evaluate mission opportunities.
- Brent and Eugenie Friedrichs as they consider new service in Botswana.
- Identification of international Lutheran leaders to join GLO as board members.
- Opportunities to visit congregations to share the vision of GLO and our ministry.
- For Cheri, Liisa Tino, and the Lutheran school to love, guide, and effectively educate their kids.
- Jason's continued commitment and success in classes, sports, and especially, Christian living.

As we give God thanks for...

- God's provision for Africa trip and the dedicated service of those who assisted me in my visits.
- The dynamic extension of the Christian faith and salvation in Africa and elsewhere.
- Good beginnings for Eric and Linda Funke in Mwanza, Tanzania, in spite of difficulties.
- Those who have encouraged us with their notes, prayers and gifts!