



Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

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God's Work in Every Corner of the World



Justified by Faith

Quite a few of our wonderful students have been introduced to you in our monthly newsletters. This time, you get to meet another diploma student, Johnson Ainomugisha, from Uganda's Kampala district. He shares, "I have a wife, two children, and living with us we also have my brother, for whom I am responsible. I have attended Lutheran church for about five years now but was brought up Anglican. What interested me in joining the Lutheran church is the doctrine of justification through faith. My friend, who is a Lutheran pastor, nurtured me in the faith. He shared what Lutherans teach and told me about the Reformation and how the Lutheran church was

formed. I did my own research as well. He used to call me and invite me to visit him. He showed me his books, and we kept on reading and reading. I see how the Holy Spirit enlightened me through all this and brought me into Lutheran faith."

Go and Evangelize

"Our Lutheran congregation is still growing and faces challenges. We have only a few congregants, and the income to support the church is not steady. However, we have managed to build the church building, and we have a roof above our heads. The lack of finances affects me as a pastoral student with a family; I struggle to balance studying and managing my family, as the church cannot provide for them. During school breaks, I mostly have to find opportunities to work to sustain my family. I



teach agriculture and science to vocational school students or primary school upper classes. I also work on fields. That is how we survive."

"In our church, I help in different activities, organize meetings, and read the Scriptures. I also evangelize people. Because I have been an active member of the church, I think that caused the pastor and the congregants to consider me as a competent candidate for pastoral training. Therefore, I was recommended for the studies here at the LST. I believe that, ultimately, my call is from God. That is why I persist in my studies even when facing challenges. I am to finish and go and evangelize the people with the Gospel! No matter how long time is required to obtain a diploma and be qualified to serve as a pastor, I have to obey the call. Right now, it is difficult, but once I finish my studies, I will be in a better position to carry the responsibility of my family."

Called to Be Witnesses



"Reverend Schulz's class, the Revelation course, has been interesting. As future pastors, we are called to be witnesses to the Word. Likewise, the apostles who were with Jesus and other disciples who came after were called. It is important to hear the Word of God. We cannot see Jesus as the apostles saw him. We live by hearing, not seeing. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit works in us, enlightening us to know the truth."

"We have also been discussing baptism in the Book of Revelation. Pastor Schulz invited me and a couple

of other students to accompany him to a local Maasai primary school where our LST professors teach religion classes every Friday. I got an opportunity to teach the children what we had learned about baptism in the class. This experience to teach was a good practice in how to explain the symbolic language of Revelation to others."

Keep the Candle of Gospel Burning

"Since God has called me to his ministry, after I finish my studies, I want to plant a church. That is why we are here: to keep the candle of the Gospel burning. If we finish and do not work in the Church, we have only wasted a lot of time. We would entirely defeat the purpose of why we even came here in the first place. Our purpose is to acquire knowledge and then go and apply that knowledge in our teaching. I know it will be somewhat difficult to plant a church, but God is there; if He wills it, He will see it through. I want to fight against the false teachings. People are being led astray in Uganda because anyone without any knowledge or training can decide to start a church. The devil is active, causing false teachings to prosper and spread. He is active even in my life, causing challenges and making me question and worry about things. However, God knows the future. From my part, I will trust him, try and fulfill my obligations, and not complain."

*"How clear is our vocation, Lord,
When once we heed Your call:
To live according to Your Word
And daily learn, refreshed, restored,
That You are Lord of all
And will not let us fall."*

LSB 853:1

Fred Pratt Green

Time for Every Matter

Two years ago, Dr. Harold Ristau and his family were preparing to move to Kenya. At that time, Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, ON, agreed to deploy Ristau, their associate professor, to Lutherans in Africa. The timing was perfect for the Ristau family to leave Canada as they were facing

persecution from both church and state for speaking against lockdowns and publicly protesting government overreach into families and churches. The family began to experience problems simply living as Christians in their home country.



During his time in Kenya, Dr. Ristau has served as academic dean at the Lutheran School of Theology. He has traveled to several African countries - Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia, South Sudan - and different areas of Kenya as a LIA representative, teaching seminars and attending ordinations while building connections with various African Lutheran churches. The whole Ristau family has played a pivotal role in the LST community, organizing regular activities for the student body and the staff, beautifying the grounds with huge gardening efforts, working, playing, and worshipping together, and the list goes on.

Now, Dr. Ristau has been called and officially accepted to serve as President of Luther Classical College (LCC), in Casper, Wyoming. He will begin in this new post in April. We greatly appreciate and are thankful for all that the Ristau family has done to help Lutherans in Africa community. We were blessed to have them for these two years and pray for every blessing and success in their upcoming work and life in Casper. God be with you always!

If you would like to read more about Ristaus' life experiences, Dr. Ristau's new call, and about Luther Classical College, you can find The Federalist article on those topics in the following link:

www.lutheransinafrica.com

<https://thefederalist.com/2024/02/08/u-s-classical-college-brings-back-from-exile-pastor-threatened-for-praying-at-trucker-convoy/>

"As the Director of Lutherans in Africa, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to Rev. Dr. Harold Ristau for his work with Lutherans in Africa. He and his family took a tremendous leap of faith and made many sacrifices by moving to Kenya to serve the LORD and the Lutheran School of Theology. In particular, I am grateful for his knowledge and experience with the accreditation process. For several years we have desired yet struggled to attain this official status which will help the students as they pursue further theological studies. I am also grateful for his wife, Elise, who became a dear friend to my wife, Tiina, as well as for the friendships of kids who have often been quite lonely on the mission field.

The work in the Lord's harvest is needed in every corner of the world. I wish you well, Harold. May God bless you and His work through you as you continue reaching the lost and strengthening the faith of believers who are entrusted in your care as you fulfill the call of President of Luther Classical College."

~Rev. James May



Dr. Ristau is not the only one moving from LIA to LCC. Rev. Dr. Tim Rossow with his wife, Phyllis, have also accepted new posts working for LCC. Rev. Rossow has tirelessly worked as LIA's development director and Phyllis as financial secretary for the last

seven years. Their work vastly broadened LIA awareness and the support base in the USA. Rev. Rossow's efforts for the building project of the LST campus have lasted for years and, by the grace of God, have flourished: the LST has several of its buildings completed and the school is fully functional with high quality accommodations, dining, and learning spaces.

The entire LIA community wishes the Rossows God's blessing as they embark on their new phase of life and service in the Lord's work. With much appreciation we commend you, Rev. Rossow and Phyllis, into the good care of our Heavenly Father.

Change of LIA Address

LIA was blessed to find a new financial secretary. We pray for Mrs. Jolene Devine of Mayer MN as she takes on Phyllis's tasks. The change of LIA's address is effective immediately.

LIA's new mailing address:
Lutherans in Africa
7140 Tacoma Avenue
Mayer, MN 55360

Support the work of Lutherans in Africa

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- **By mail:** Checks may be sent to
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 7140 Tacoma Ave, Mayer MN 55360
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 Shepparton, Victoria, 3630
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Canada

- **By mail:** Send a cheque, payable to "Concordia Lutheran Mission Society" and with the memo line "2118 Lutherans in Africa", to
 Concordia Lutheran Mission Society, P.O. Box 455, Water Valley, AB T0M 2E0

- **Online:** through Canada Helps: visit the link below and apply your donation to project "2118 Lutherans in Africa" – <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/concordia-lutheran-mission-society/>

