



Tigawane

ELCM Sharing

News

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Companions from North West Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA to visit Malawi

Walking Together in the Light of the Lord is such an important instrument, which is strengthening the companionship between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi and North West Synod of Wisconsin. The companions are praying for one another in peace and in time. Exchanging of visits is another aspect that is improving the partnership of the companionship.

ELCM welcomed four visitors in January 2005 who had an opportunity to visit parishes in the North, Central and South. It will be in September again when the group of nine people led by

Diane Kaufmann will be in the country. They are expected to touch the soil of Malawi on 22nd September and leave for United States of America on 12th October 2005.

The eight included in the group are Lynn and Katie Johnson, John and Vicky Grasskamp, Rev Curt and LaMae Rohland and Randy Ellis. The companions will visit Nkhotakota, Salima, Lake Chilwa, Zomba and Dowa Parishes. One attractive area, which they will visit, is sailing to Chisi Island surrounded by Lake Chilwa where the name Lake Chilwa Parish is taken.

Hunger Situation in Malawi - Status of Current Situation

Malawi, a country in the southern part of Africa, is facing difficult challenges this year. Many people are suffering due to different calamities such as HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis, other chronic diseases, and especially hunger.

In the 2001 to 2002 growing season, Malawi lost many people due to acute hunger, which affected the whole country. Many people died, leaving growing crops before harvest. The history of hunger is also repeating this growing season of 2005 to 2006. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network, funded by the US Agency for International Development, has issued a Food Security Warning for Malawi. Nearly all districts of the country, especially the southern region, are running short of food, far sooner than normal. People haven't enough money to buy food (maize), as its price has doubled within the past two months.

The local newspapers are now full of stories about hunger, with stories about people who are eating wild fruits, many of which are poisonous. Early this year eight people of the same family died in Mangochi district after eating the fruits.

Almost ninety percent of the people of Malawi live in rural areas. During the last session of Parliament, the National Assembly

approved the budget because the Government indicated it would subsidize fertilizer for the planting season that will soon begin with the first rains. But now the subsidized fertilizer is offered to few people. Only the needy will be able to buy upon production of coupons given through chiefs. Many living in rural areas don't have enough money and are sometimes assisted by relatives living in town. How will it be possible for the poor to buy fertilizer by themselves when they cannot afford to buy food for the day?

Current Situation

Local market prices continue to rise, forcing many households to resort to ADMARC Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation (ADMARC) markets to buy subsidized maize. Unfortunately, ADMARC does not have sufficient maize, and this has given rise to rationing.

Many ADMARC markets in the southern region are experiencing long queues of people wanting to buy maize as market demand for maize increases. This is unusual for this time of the year, and even earlier than the serious 2001/2002 growing season.

Although there has been adequate advance warning about the impending food crisis, the response appears to be slow and inadequate. Following the recent 11% increase in fuel prices, the food security situation is likely to deteriorate further. The food security in the country is worsening as the number of households running out of food increases. Consequently, market demand for maize has increased, resulting in high local market prices. This has forced ADMARC to ration maize sales to 25kg per person and sometimes as low as 10kg depending on demand and supply. This development illustrates the seriousness of the food security situation in the country this season. The fact that it is happening when food distribution is underway implies that the volume of food aid being provided is not adequate. Even in the so-called bad years in the past, these circumstances only appeared at the peak of the hungry season in January and February. Even in the 2001/02 seasons, the situation did not begin to deteriorate until December and January. In many parts of the country, therefore, households are likely to be worse off than in the 2001/02 season.

Based on this information, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi is appealing to companions partners and friends to assist people in Malawi. The ELCM has many members in the rural areas who are suffering due to the current hunger situation, which is only getting worse. Many people will die this year with simple hunger related illnesses. The ELCM has increased the number of feeding centers for the risk children from 118 to over 125, but even this is not enough to meet the needs of hungry children. Donations to the Diakonia Services, a Ministry of hope and healing, which serves those at risk from hunger, are greatly appreciated.

*Reported By: Mphatso Thole
Information Officer*

Beneficiary of ELCM Bursary thanks the church

Paying school school to orphans is one of the programmes Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi is doing the benefited most youths in secondary schools and in tertiary education. Others are working in high positions in many organizations, some in civil service and in civil societies.

On 13th August 2005, Peries Sonjera, one of beneficiaries from Zomba Parish, introduced himself to Bishop Dr Joseph Bvumbwe thanking him for the support the church has rendered to his education. The student scored with highest points this year that he has a chance to go to University or attending any course.

The Bishop said that this is very important to him and the country since he will contribute to the development of the nation.



Amayi Bishop assists the Aged at Chisi Island

One thing which is fearful to many people is sailing at Lake Chilwa and visit Chisi Island. It takes someone to think twice before visiting the place. It was on 12th August 2005 when Amayi Bishop Bvumbwe sailed a 30 minutes in engine boat to assist the aged and orphans at this beautiful Island of the lake.

Amayi Bishop said that she was very happy to have the chance of chatting with people at Chisi

and was impressed to see the land and assist the marginalized at the congregation, which is under Lake Chilwa.

Before Chisi Amayi Bishop with Mrs Mabel Madinga, the Administrative secretary of ELCM who is also the Chairlady of National Committee of Women Guild assisted the aged on 9th August 2005 at Walani Congregation of Mpenda Congregation. They also visited Namitembe Congregation of January Parish on 10th August for the same mission.

*By: Mphatso Thole
Information Officer*

Bishop Bvumbwe installs Rev Brunotte as Pastor of Bvumbwe and Mikolongwe Parishes

Rev Utz Brunotte from Germany has been in Malawi for almost one year one. Since his arrival to Malawi, he has been serving in three parishes of Mpenda, Bvumbwe and Mikolongwe. Brunotte is one of active pastors in Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi.

It was on 7th August 2005, when Bishop Dr Joseph Bvumbwe installed Rev Brunotte to be the pastor of two parishes of Mikolongwe and Bvumbwe. He will also serve as the pastor of Mpenda up to October this year when the new pastor will be appointed to work in the parish. The Bishop told members of these parishes to support him in any endeavor as he came to Malawi to preach the word of God for salvation.

Brunotte said time of waiting has gone and was happy to be installed. He thanked Pastor Mofolo for guiding him. He also asked Christians to

closely work with him as he cannot be Sheppard without sheep.

*Reported by:
Mphatso Thole*

ELCM Bids Farewell to Dr Meena

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi bid farewell to Dr Elliaony Meena former Director for the Evangelical Lutheran Development Program, which will be called Evangelical Lutheran Development Services from 1st August 2005. Dr Meena started working with ELDP on 2nd February 1997 and left Malawi on 20th July 2005.

Through the good work of Dr Meena ELDP has achieved in its different activities. He was like the father of ELDP and a good steward for the organization according to Rev Spencer

Mngongonda the HIV/AIDS and Gender Coordinator. He was a committed Christian and a good role model. He taught the staff to be humble before authority.

In his remarks Bishop Dr Joseph Bvumbwe said that the Director faced difficult challenges. He asked ELDP to write a Newsletter like report concerning what the organization has done from 1997 to date. Dr Meena will come again to

Malawi for three months as a consultant in ELDS.

Dr Meena thanked the staff, the church and Church Council for preparing him the farewell party. He also thanked the Bishop for supporting him during his period in Malawi.

Mphatso Thole
Information Officer

Bishop Dr Joseph Bvumbwe Officially Opens Madisi Clinic



Malawi, a country in the southern part of Africa is one of those countries faced with difficult challenges. HIV/AIDS pandemic, Tuberculosis, Malaria and many more chronic illnesses are taking most lives. Hunger is also contributing to the suffering of many people especially orphans, widows and the aged.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi takes an orphan as one of the most marginalized person in the society. It is in this case that the Church through the leadership of Bishop Dr Joseph Bvumbwe introduced Department for Diakonia Ministry to take care of orphans in Feeding Centres. About 6,000 orphans are enjoying the introduction of this Ministry. The children eat Likuni Phala and sometimes receive clothes. The church also assists its members when there is acute hunger in the country by providing maize flour to the needy. The aged are also another vulnerable group, which is also benefiting from the introduction of this service.

The Health Delivery Service is one big problem that the country has especially in the rural areas, because of this the Church proposed to build a clinic at Madisi Vocational Lay Training Centre. With assistance from Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa, ELCM has managed to furnish this health clinic to the required standard. People around Madisi will be benefiting from the project including others far from the centre. It will be also a place where HIV/AIDS counseling and Blood Testing will be done and the administration of ARVs will be provided to those who may be tested and come openly for assistance.

Bishop Dr Joseph Bvumbwe who was the guest of honour did the official opening of the clinic on 20th August 2005. Members of press from Malawi Broadcasting Cooperation, Malawi Television and Daily Times, the notable local Print Media covered the event.

In his speech, Bishop Bvumbwe said that although it is a small Health Clinic but will assist and supplement the already existing Roman Catholic Hospital at Madisi. He thanked LUCSA and Bishop Ambrose Moyo the LUCSA Executive Director for supporting the completion and furnishing of the clinic. He dedicated three vehicles that will be used as ambulances for the Mobile Clinic. The Bishop announced the great support from LUCSA, Lutheran World Federation and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the huge crowd that gathered at the occasion. He thanked Ishmael Noko, General Secretary of LWF in Geneva for the two vehicles. He also extended many thanks to Mark Hansen, the Presiding Bishop of ELCA for the third vehicle, which was dedicated on this day. He said he appreciates what Rev Benyam Kassahun does to ELCM, his assistance in many ways contributes to the growth of the church in Malawi.



The event was witnessed by Traditional Authority Chakhaza and invited guests from Malawi Council of Churches, the umbrella body of Christian Churches in the country and Health personnel from Madisi Hospital.

Reported by: Mphatso Thole
Information Officer of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi

A Tale

This tale describes more about African anthropology (A tale that describes of Human Rights in Africa)

By: Mphatso Thole

When the gods shall speak

When the gods shall speak, beggars will get the rare time to smile, for they will no longer live in the sideline of humanity as dehumanized beings. Desperate job seekers will cease to hear the civil language of corruption. They will be forced to find their way to jobs no longer.

The ruled will cease to be baton-charged in city streets. Calling for a better life will no longer be a crime for there once closed lips will open to tell tales, tales of a desired destiny of aspirations and of hope. And there will be none to suppress what is right for human. The gods will then care.

ELCM Introduces HIV/AIDS Desk

The meeting of this year's Church Assembly brought more goodies one of it was announcing the introduction of new desk of HIV/AIDS, which was first run by Department for Diakonic Services.

Bishop Dr Joseph Bvumbwe the leader of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi announced this during the Assembly of 2005. The desk, which will be coordinated by Stella Nyasulu who went to LUCSA Office in South Africa, has already started the activities of this department.

This means that all duties for all HIV/AIDS activities and Gender will be run under this department and Feeding Programs and Mobile Clinic will be supervised under Diakonia.

Minnesota Group Visits Malawi

A group of eight women Glen Lutheran Church, New Life from Minnesota and St Steven Lutheran Church in Colorado visited Malawi from 20th to 30th October 2005. Glen Cary Lutheran is in partnership with Chamasowa of Nang'ombe Parish.

The team was blessed with the accompanying of Dr Helen Strand who is ninety-six years old flying from America to Malawi. The group of all women visited Madisi, Balaka, Phalombe and Chamasowa in Nang'ombe Parish.

Sussan Rettke led the women and included were Helen Erickson, Pamela Breyen and Susan Jacobus from Glen Cary. Tamara Sitts and Brenda Anderson from New Life while Cathy Hein was from St Steven Lutheran of Colorado.

Six Deaneries introduced in Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi

Within twenty-three years of its existence, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi has grown so rapidly that it has covered almost the whole country. Hence the Church needs proper and immediate supervision.

With this development the Church during its Church Assembly from 21st to 25th September 2005 accepted and approved the introduction of Deaneries. The six Deaneries are Karonga covering parishes of far north, Mzuzu to the south of Northern Region, Lilongwe in the Central part of the country. The other Deaneries include Lake Shore, Blantyre covering the central and far south and Phalome to the east of the country.

Six Deans were chosen and these are Pastors; Justin Mofolo, Naboth Fungo, Joseph Banda, Henry Makawa, Pearson Kadzako Banda and D R Sitima. Among these deans two have already been installed in their deaneries and these are Dean D R Sitima and N W Fungo.

ELCM AIDS Day

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi will hold its AIDS Day on 18th December 2005. The event will take place at Madisi Lay Training Centre. There will be different activities like Candle Lighting,

Sunday Service and other presentations to celebrate the day.

The Church holds special prayers to people who died of HIV/Aids. Lighting of candles is a reminder to their death and that although they are gone but God shines wherever they are. During services of this kind, people remember and pray for all the infected and affected with HIV/AIDS.

Comfort and encouragement is given to all infected, affected and even those infected or affected. It is a moment of prayer, meditation and a moment of sensitizing and reminding people about this killer pandemic. ELCM AIDS Day is commemorated one every year.

ELCM 2005 Church Assembly

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi celebrated its Church Assembly from 21st to 25th September 2005. Representatives of all ELCM Parishes gathered at Lilongwe Cathedral. There was also Women's Assembly from 18th to 21st September.

Bishop Dr Joseph Bvumbwe officially closed the Assembly on 25th September. On 24th of the same month the church launched first album of the Cathedral Choir. This is also the first kind of songs produced by Lutheran Church in the country. The event was graced by the presence of companions from North West Synod of Wisconsin.

It was also the same day when Rev Rolf Froehlich bid farewell to Lutherans of Malawi. Froehlich was the Dean of Cathedral until the date he said bye to Malawians. He expressed vote of thanks to Bishop of ELCM and the Church for accepting him to be in Malawi for the period of twelve years serving people of God in Malawi.

The Dean left Malawi for Germany his home country on 2nd October 2005.

Representative of Slovakia Ecumenical Council of Churches and Journalist from Slovakia TV paid a visit to Malawi

Barely two months after Bishop Dr Joseph Bvumbwe and a group of seven people visited Slovakia, Olga Slovakia Ecumenical Council of Churches and



Ondrej Sebesta the TV Photo Journalist visited Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi from 20th to 28th November 2005.

The main aim of their visit was to have interviews with people in Malawi finding out about the problems the country is facing. The group visited Chimbowa, Mwenda and Matsimbe Feeding Centres of Lilongwe Rural Parish. They also visited Chitenje and Mtawa of Mponela Parish.

During her visit Olga saw that Malawi is facing difficult challenges including lack of good water and food. The visitors had many interviews and made videos to show people on Slovakia Television.

They are both members of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Slovakia.

Bishop Dr J P Bvumbwe donates Toyota Double Cabin to Kuunika Media Ministry

Evanglical Lutheran Church in Malawi through its leader Bishop Dr J P Bvumbwe donated a Toyota Double Cabin to Kuunika Ministry, the organization of the church that evangelizes the word of God through introduction of new preaching places of ELCM and teaching people the word of God through Bible Correspondence Course and outreach. The event took place on Sunday 11th December 2005 at Lilongwe ELCM Cathedral.

Tigawane – ELCM Sharing News

In his speech Bishop Bvumbwe said that Kuunika Media Ministry, which is called Lutheran Hour Ministry through Rev

Elliam Mazengera, has done so much to the growth of the Church in Malawi. He thanked the evangelism body for the great job in the country that is taking people closer to Jesus Christ.

Mr Mwakasungula, the Board Chairperson of the organization thanked the Bishop for the wonderful assistance, which will boost the good operation of Kuunika. He asked other people to assist the organization as the Bishop has given an example.

The leader of the church also donated cheque worth K25,000.00 to assist Kuunika run its operations.

Kuunika is doing recommendable job in the country. People of different religions receive Jesus Christ through studying the lessons of its BCC.

Reported by: Mphatso Thole - Information Officer

Publicizing the Choir Tour in USA

The excitement will be high on April 18th when the Cathedral Choir of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM) arrives in the NW Synod of Wisconsin. The Cathedral Choir began in 1994, comprised of both men and women. The ELCM Cathedral Choir is the mother and indeed the backbone of all choirs in the ELCM. It is also a tool for evangelism activities and a model for all ELCM choirs. The choir often joins Bishop Dr Joseph Bvumbwe on his travels to various parishes in the country during the Bishop's

parish visitations every year. Travel in Wisconsin will be a different experience for the choir; they normally travel on an open flatbed truck when they accompany the Bishop.

The ELCM Cathedral Choir is based in Lilongwe, and has a membership of forty-six. The choir is considered a traditional choir, using drums and traditional instruments. Andrew Majuni is the Director of the choir and Bishop Bvumbwe is the patron of the group. Members include Bishop Bvumbwe's wife Maria, four pastors' wives, and one pastor.

After a very deliberative process, 20 choir members, 13 women and 7 men, were chosen to bring their ministry of song to the Synod. Also accompanying the choir will be four officials of the ELCM: Dean Justen Mofolo, Blantyre Parish, Dean Darison R. Sitima, Karonga Parish, Mr. Kaitano, a Church Council member, and Rev. Faston M. Phiri, Training Coordinator and representing the head office of the ELCM.

The group has recently released an album called *PADZIKO TIKHALA* (The World in Which We Live) and it is enjoying airtime on Malawian Radio Stations. It will make its US debut during the choir tour and will be for sale at each concert.

The concert tour will take the choir to every conference in the Synod, with two concerts scheduled for each conference. To see a concert schedule, visit <http://www.nwsynod-wisconsin.org/>. Can't wait to hear the choir? Listen to a sample!

<http://www.synodresourcecenter.org/wma/music/choral/malawi/index.html>.

The witness of faith through the music and voices of the choir will bless us beyond measure. You don't have to travel to Malawi to hear the singing that the ELCM is famous for - it's coming to a church near you!

Written By:

Diane Kaufmann – *Companion Coordinator*

Three Nurses to start working on 2nd January 2006

Three Nurses who were recruited, one for Madisi Clinic and two in two Mobile Clinics will report for duties on 2nd January 2006 after successfully passed interviews.

The two nurses will be responsible for mobile clinics of Evangelical Lutheran Church in all Feeding Centres giving support to orphans and needy people. One nurse will be based at Madisi where the church built its clinic.

TIGAWANE is produced by **Information Office** of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi.

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