

## **Mueller Email Prayer Letter – August 2006** **Volume 2, No. 4**

WOW!! We are here. What a trip – the time has gone by fast some days, slowly during others. There has been LOTS to do and then some time to catch our breath before the next deluge of activities. But, it has been GREAT!!!

First – thanks for all your prayers. They are coveted and needed in transitions as huge as ours. Second, thanks for the prayers for our children and grandchild back in the states. But most importantly, thanks for the prayers for the National Churches we partner with, the missionaries we work with, and of course, most importantly, those who still need to hear about Christ in this land called Africa.

Some updates and stories: don't know where to begin! We arrived on July 20<sup>th</sup>, and began moving in the 21<sup>st</sup>. It has taken until yesterday to finally get all the office things in order so that we can communicate with you, the missionaries, and the National Churches and leadership – a most important function of our job. We need to work closely with the vision of the churches in order to maximize their efforts and help to build their capacity.

A week after we arrived, President Kieschnick and a number of other leaders from St. Louis visited Africa to meet with the African Lutheran partners in Nairobi. It included a safari sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya. Believe me, St. Louis people got a real taste of African living in the travel to and from the safari site. Rain hampered our travel on roads which turned to ice – a 3 mile trip turned into a 2½ hour slip and slide! Normal for Africans – quite stressful for visitors. But all survived with no problems other than ruined shoes and muddy clothes. You just simply need to push!



Need to get there somehow!

The work with the churches is amazing. The leadership of the partner churches is visionary, accountable, and probably most exciting for us, MISSIONARY! They have plans in place to reach millions of people for Christ – not only telling them about Christ, but prayerfully adding them to the kingdom through faith. At the moment, LCMS WM works with Lutheran Churches in the following countries: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Togo, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, The Gambia, South Africa, and Botswana. In addition, there are others where contacts are just beginning. How can you help?



President Kieschnick, Terry his wife,  
Bishop Obare – ELCK, Dr. Nafzger,  
Janis his wife, and Joy

1. Prayer: vital
2. Resources for training
  - a. career people (let me know if you want to go!)
  - b. volunteers: long and short term – we need plenty of people willing to give 2 weeks, 1 month, or 6 months-2 years in ministries which fit the vision of the National Churches
  - c. financial support of projects proposed by the churches (money is always needed)
3. Coordination of stateside driven missionary endeavors with the National Churches and their vision through conversation with the leadership in the churches and missionaries on the ground

It is exciting to be a part of this African-wide *Ablaze!* movement. America can learn much from their passion and everyday evangelistic heartbeat.

One significant item since the last letter: Joy is now officially the Project Management Director – Africa, LCMS World Mission/World Relief/Human Care. She is responsible for all projects in Africa – coordinating them with the visions of the National Churches, monitoring them, receiving reports which get shared with supporters, and finding ways to maximize the support to reach the most people for Christ. It is a huge job, but she is excited. She has already presented a cow! Support from people in the states buys a cow for tent-making pastors who serve financially struggling congregations. It gives them income and food!



Handing off the cow!

A few prayer requests as we settle in to our new digs:

1. Pray for the church leadership in Africa – that they keep the flame burning brightly and find ways to teach others to fan the flame into a blazing fire.
2. Continue to pray for our family and our transition. There is still much to learn for both of us!
3. Pray for people to respond positively to the gentle urgings of the Spirit to consider working in Africa. The field is white for harvest.

If you wish to support our work in Africa, simply let us know. We could use your prayers! If you wish to support us with your gifts, you can send a gift to LCMS World Mission, 1333 South Kirkwood, St. Louis, MO, 63122-7295 and be certain to add that it is **for the work of Paul and Joy Mueller!**

Please keep in touch with us. Paul's email is the same: [Paul.Mueller@LCMS.org](mailto:Paul.Mueller@LCMS.org). **Joy's has changed.** It is [Joy.Mueller@LCMS.org](mailto:Joy.Mueller@LCMS.org). Our snail mail address is P.O. Box 22, Karen, 00502, Kenya, E. AFRICA.