

Mueller Email Prayer Letter – December 2006, Volume 2, No. 7

“And the shepherds said, ‘Let us go now and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they went quickly and found Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus, lying in the manger.” The Christmas story in a nutshell. The salvation story in miniature. The best news any one person could hear or know or tell. And all of us have that privilege – of hearing, knowing, AND telling. This letter is to share that Good News with you and encourage you to share it with others.

Since the last update, we feel we have moved back to the states! We have been in America since early November involved in meetings, sharing the story, and working with others to move God’s mission along in effective and appropriate ways.

Joy has been meeting with World Mission and World Relief personnel in order to coordinate the two ministries in Africa. Often, in Africa (and in our own congregations) we do many good things but forget to connect the proclamation of Jesus with it. In addition, we sometimes focus on sharing Jesus and overlook the pressing daily needs of people. One should not be present without the other in order that ultimately, Jesus’ name is not only seen but heard.



A Lutheran wedding service in Nigeria

Paul has been busy visiting many people, congregations, mission societies, and districts as they struggle with the challenge of appropriately connecting their passion for mission work with the many opportunities in Africa. National churches are in need of resources – people and funds – without a doubt. But often we begin our contacts and ministry with resources rather than beginning with a solid relationship centered in Christ out of which emerges opportunities to share our resources. It is a challenge we in the west struggle with in Africa since the needs seem so overwhelming, and our hearts beg to quickly share the gifts we have.



Any electricians interested in a job in Lagos, Nigeria?

However, opportunities exist even now. Attached to this email is a way you can say “Merry Christmas” in the traditional American way – by gift giving. These opportunities were developed by the National Church leadership throughout Africa. They are strategic and visionary and will move the mission ministry forward in powerful and effective ways. If any of these gift-giving opportunities “strike your fancy”, simply follow the instructions on the list. Your gift will be a gift of “mission” accomplished in God’s harvest field.

Again, we send our thanks to all of you for your prayers and support. Here is the prayer list:

1. Safe travel as we head back to Nairobi, our home. We intend on arriving December 30th.
2. Safe travel as we move across the continent and visit with the National leadership and churches.
3. Wise and Christ-filled leadership in the churches that are established and emerging. This precious gift to the church is a most important ingredient in Africa.
4. Funding for the missionaries, their projects, and the projects which support the National Churches.

If you wish to financially support our work in Africa, send your 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: Paul.Mueller@LCMS.org. Joy’s email: Joy.Mueller@LCMS.org. Our snail mail address is P.O. Box 22, Karen, 00502, Kenya, E. AFRICA.

May your Christmas be filled with the most precious gift found in the salvation brought by Christ our King. The heavens rejoice when one finds that gift in his or her faith filled life.