



“I need to polish the swan!” exclaims Helloues Aveloo, as I show her my photo of the swan on the Paulus church gate in Lelydorp, Suriname. Baptized 85 years ago as a Lutheran, Helloues is part of the revitalization the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname (ELKS).

ELCA missionary in Suriname, the Rev. Kevin Jacobson, speaks about church renewal in the ELKS. Upon his arrival, church members were overwhelmed with the job of strengthening this small Caribbean church. He saw that “the potential was all here.”

“I reminded them that when the big things are collapsing, it’s in the little things that you find life. So, do one thing! Paint the wall. Plant a hibiscus bush. Fix the sink. Polish a cross.” Helloues Aveloo decided to polish the swan.

Much can be learned about the “do one thing” approach to revitalizing parish life from Pastor Jacobson and the ELKS.

Sponsors often report that the personal and global focus of ELCA missionary sponsorship renews the local congregation. Through daily prayer, frequent communication and the occasional “missionary visit,” we share one another’s joys, burdens, gifts and stories. Missionaries are our “hand in hand” link with both ELCA and global church companions. The result is strengthened ministry around the corner and around the world.

I invite you to “do one thing” that will make a world of difference: become an ELCA missionary covenant sponsor. Visit www.elca.org/missionarysponsorship to learn more.

In 2010, the Rev. Twila Schock, director ELCA Global Mission Support, visited ELCA missionaries serving in Suriname, Guyana and Jamaica.



Paulus church gate, Lelydorp, Suriname



“I need to polish the swan!” exclaims Helloues Aveloo, as I show her my photo of the swan on the Paulus church gate in Lelydorp, Suriname. Baptized 85 years ago as a Lutheran, Helloues is part of the revitalization the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname (ELKS).

ELCA missionary in Suriname, the Rev. Kevin Jacobson, speaks about church renewal in the ELKS. Upon his arrival, church members were overwhelmed with the job of strengthening this small Caribbean church. He saw that “the potential was all here.”

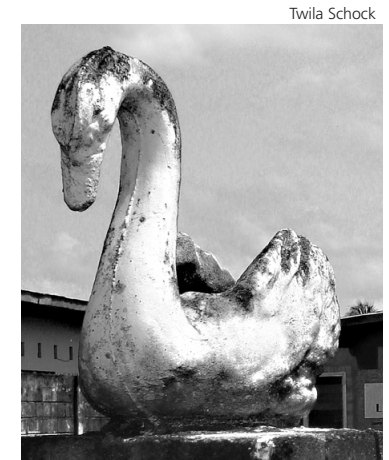
“I reminded them that when the big things are collapsing, it’s in the little things that you find life. So, do one thing! Paint the wall. Plant a hibiscus bush. Fix the sink. Polish a cross.” Helloues Aveloo decided to polish the swan.

Much can be learned about the “do one thing” approach to revitalizing parish life from Pastor Jacobson and the ELKS.

Sponsors often report that the personal and global focus of ELCA missionary sponsorship renews the local congregation. Through daily prayer, frequent communication and the occasional “missionary visit,” we share one another’s joys, burdens, gifts and stories. Missionaries are our “hand in hand” link with both ELCA and global church companions. The result is strengthened ministry around the corner and around the world.

I invite you to “do one thing” that will make a world of difference: become an ELCA missionary covenant sponsor. Visit www.elca.org/missionarysponsorship to learn more.

In 2010, the Rev. Twila Schock, director ELCA Global Mission Support, visited ELCA missionaries serving in Suriname, Guyana and Jamaica.



Paulus church gate, Lelydorp, Suriname