

A light in Linguere

A young woman, Fatimata, had shown interest in Christianity after working for a Fulani Christian couple in Linguere, Senegal. The Linguere parish of the Lutheran Church of Senegal is the first parish to be predominantly Fulani. The Fulani are a semi-nomadic people spread throughout West Africa who traditionally identify with Islam. Fatimata came to church, Bible study, and prayer regularly, and took baptismal classes with Oumar Diallo, an evangelist of the Lutheran Church of Senegal. Oumar also contacted her family, helping them understand the new faith Fatimata was exploring and beginning to live. Some of her family even came on Easter to witness and learn more about the baptismal rite of others. Fatimata was baptized seven weeks later, during the Pentecost service.



Pastor Dirk Stadlander baptizes Fatimata Ba at the Linguere parish's Pentecost worship service. As she was welcomed into the community with song, Aminata Ba danced with the beautiful wooden baptismal bowl, a traditional milk pail within Fulani culture.

It is exciting and uplifting to see the people of the Linguere parish reaching out and living as witnesses to their Muslim neighbors, friends and family. Pastor Dirk Stadlander, an ELCA missionary working with the Lutheran Church of Senegal, serves as pastor in the Linguere parish where he lives with his wife, Sarah, and their two children. The Stadlanders pray that events like Fatimata's baptism will encourage the Fulani Christians to continue to let their light shine in Linguere. They also pray that those new to the faith, like Fatimata, will be strengthened in their walk and encouraged by the community into which they have entered.



Pastor Dirk and Sarah Stadlander are ELCA missionaries working in Senegal, where Dirk serves as pastor to the Pulaar-speaking congregation of the Lutheran Church of Senegal.

Five hundred years: The reform continues

The year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. A religious, political, social and economic movement, it began when Martin Luther posted his ninety-five theses at the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Through these theses, he proposed the theological discussion of the nature of God's infinite grace and the forgiveness of sins. Wittenberg is often referred to as the cradle of the Reformation. In the German language it is known as the "city of Luther" or Lutherstadt-Wittenberg. Unfortunately, 40 years of communism and oppression of Christians took its toll on the church in East Germany. Today, one in five people in Wittenberg claims to be Christian. Martin Luther, for some, is simply the statue of the man who stands on a pedestal in the city's market square.



Pastor Arden Haug, ELCA missionary in Europe, addresses Wittenberg church leaders at the fifth anniversary celebration of the ELCA Wittenberg Center.

In preparation for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the German churches are inviting Pastor Arden Haug to accompany the Lutheran Church in Wittenberg. He will be working with The Lutheran World Federation in creating a welcoming place for Lutherans from around the world to renew their faith through visit, study and worship. He will also have oversight of the activities of the ELCA Wittenberg Center.

Part of Pastor Haug's work will also be to introduce the city of Wittenberg and the work of Martin Luther to the ELCA. Resources will be available soon making it possible to glimpse the activities of a city reclaiming the heritage of the Lutheran tradition. Check the ELCA Wittenberg Center website for resources for Reformation Sunday, October 30.

From the Director for Missionary Sponsorship



ELCA missionary Barbara Hinderlie meets with Ralaivao Luc Robel, the accountant for the Malagasy Lutheran Church. Hinderlie and her husband, the Rev. Andrew Hinderlie, have recently moved to Tanzania where they serve as ELCA Regional Representatives for Eastern Africa.

“Today,” reflected Barbara, “I stand on the successful ministries of our predecessor missionaries.” An ELCA missionary in Madagascar, Barbara Hinderlie has served with the Malagasy Lutheran Church in Madagascar. She has assisted the church with strategic planning, self-reliance and the monitoring and evaluation of existing ministries.

A chemical engineer by training, Barbara chuckled, “I don’t do engineering calculations, and I am grateful for that! But all of my analytical skills have been needed as, together with the church, we have prepared for the next era in the life of this church.” She observed that the Malagasy church is filled with hope and eager to reach its full potential.

As Barbara’s family recently prepared to leave Madagascar for new missionary responsibilities in Tanzania, she felt privileged to have helped prepare the Malagasy Lutheran Church for the next generation of missionaries. She notes that the “next missionaries

will assist with bridge-building for the long-term relationships of the church. They will be called to fill a gap identified by the local church and their work will be done in coordination with a Malagasy counterpart.”

“As a member of the ELCA, it has been exciting to serve in one of the fastest growing churches in The Lutheran World Federation,” concluded Barbara.

Through your support of ELCA missionaries you, too, can help to equip the church for mission! Thank you! Your gifts make a lasting world of difference.

The Rev. Twila Schock is director for ELCA Missionary Sponsorship and Global Appeals.

How to give

1. To give through your congregation, write “ELCA Missionary Sponsorship” on the check’s memo line.
2. To give online, visit www.elca.org/4missionaries.
3. To donate directly, make your check out to “ELCA Missionary Sponsorship” and mail to:
ELCA Missionary Sponsorship, PO Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764.
4. Give a gift that says “you mean the world to me.” Call 800-638-3522 to donate and to request an ELCA Missionary Sponsorship gift card (“Thanking,” “Celebrating,” “Honoring” or “Remembering”).
5. For assistance including ELCA Missionary Sponsorship in your will or estate plan, contact the Rev. Twila Schock by emailing missionarysponsorship@elca.org or calling 800-638-3522, ext. 2641.

Join hands

Soon ELCA Global Mission will begin seeking long-term and two-year contract missionaries for 2012. Missionaries will be recruited to serve in



- Madagascar
- Slovakia
- Egypt
- Senegal
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Southeast Asia
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Central African Republic
- Cameroon
- Malaysia

Your support is needed to ensure that newly called missionaries can preach, teach, heal, build and serve alongside our global neighbors. Take advantage of one of the giving opportunities listed in the left column. Give now. Give generously. Hand in hand, we make a world of difference!

