



NEW DIRECTIONS

When one contemplates traveling, no matter the destination, there is always a certain amount of planning that must happen and yet the experience holds the unknown too. Back in 1995 when LPGM was incorporated, point A was “here” and point B was “there,” literally. We didn’t have an itinerary. In fact, we weren’t certain of the mode of transportation either. Yet, stepping out in faith, we began to explore the world. Fifteen years later LPGM partners have seen the face of Christ and the work of God in ports of call in Argentina, the Central African Republic, the Holy Land, India, Slovakia, Madagascar, Tanzania, and here at home too.

LPGM founders Gordon & Betty Olson have decided it is time to let someone else take



over the daily work of the organization. They will continue to be involved in the organization but their exact role is yet to be determined. LPGM has engaged the expertise of The

Milestone Group to lead the transition from a founders-led organization to one with new executive leadership. We ask for your prayers as we discern this very important decision.

NOW IS THE TIME

In December of 2007, LPGM received a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The grant was not a handout but a challenge. We were thrilled to be chosen as a recipient because we wanted to learn from Thrivent experts how to cultivate intentional giving. Without a dedicated development staff person to accomplish the goals and grant requirements, we did what comes naturally—we stepped out in faith.

Kairos and Associates walked us through the process. Seraphim Communications helped us tell the visual and audio story. We have been overwhelmed by the response!

- We set out with an organizational growth, development and sustainability goal of \$500,000 and a goal of \$100,000 for an opportunity fund. The combined goal of \$600,000 has been exceeded through contributions and three-year pledges totaling \$614,094 to date.

- We hoped to increase the Gordon and Betty Olson Endowment Fund by \$3 million dollars. While LPGM has received end of life commitments, not all giving units are able to put a current value on their gift. A very conservative estimate is that partners will add \$1.5 million dollars to the endowment over time.

LPGM is very grateful to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, especially the Crossroads Group, for making this campaign possible ... for teaching us so much about asking, giving and receiving ... for its corporate commitment to assist us in our endeavors. If you are a Thrivent member, please tell your representative “thank you” from LPGM too.

And thank you for your part in the NOW IS THE TIME campaign. If you haven’t responded, there is always time to be a part of the renewed energy and momentum. Contact us at the office: 612.823.5058 or office@lutheranpartners.org.

**LPGM’s
Board of Directors**

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GOOD NEWS! ENERGY AND HOPE FOR C.A.R.

A NEW ERA FOR THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

For too long, the Central African Republic (CAR) has been at or near the bottom of lists that grade countries by economic and poverty levels. Now, with a more stable government and additional involvement of the international community, it seems that CAR is entering a new era with greater security within the country, more foreign aid and new development. Roads are being paved, communication towers (especially for cell

phones) are going up and there are many signs of progress in this nearly unknown country. Improved transportation and better communication will certainly make the country more accessible. In the future CAR may be able to attract more mission travelers and volunteers to see the church and its programs first hand and even stay there for a few weeks or months. This is good news indeed! Start planning for your trip now.



Children in a simple classroom.

EMMANUEL HEALTH CENTER IN GALLO DEDICATED

Over 2,000 people came out on January 19, 2010, for the dedication of the Emmanuel Health Center in the Central African Republic. The culmination of a 10+ year dream, concrete plans were initiated over five years ago for the health center to be built on the site of a former missionary compound using existing buildings. Extensive renovations, additions and rebuilding were done in 2009 (completed in February 2010) to create a clinic, complete with in-patient rooms, operating room, examination rooms and a dispensary. All this was done for about \$250,000. Thanks to Hope Lutheran in Fargo, North Dakota, and Our Savior's Lutheran in Austin, Minnesota, who gave the bulk of the money as a share of their capital campaigns, the basic building is paid

for. What began with a cooperative effort by Global Health Ministries, Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of CAR (EELRCA) now has more than 20 significant partners from all over the world, including the three ELCA companion synods. Given the difficulties in building in this country, the costs involved, and the complexity of starting a health center from scratch, its completion is truly a miracle. The health center was named in memory of Emmanuel Hamoa-Bayanga, Director of Health for the church, who died two years ago, and in praise of our Lord who was called Emmanuel (Matthew 1:23), "God with us." We praise God for providing the money, the gifted people and the security to make this wonderful health center a reality.

HEALTH CENTER TO PROVIDE MORE THAN TREATMENT

With the able leadership of Teresa Obwaya, Manager of the health center project and Dr. Christa von Oertzen, Medical Director, as well as President Andre Golike of the EELRCA and his health committee, the Emmanuel Health Center promises to be a catalyst for village based primary health care in the surrounding area and within the entire Lutheran church. In addition to treatment and curative services offered by the center, plans are being drawn up that include the use of existing institutions within

the church to provide health education to the people through women's groups, village schools, the seminary and Bible school, and congregations. The investment in this clinic includes buildings, equipment, and professional training. This promises to pay off in a big way by saving lives and improving the quality of life for people in this extremely poor country. The health center will serve as a model for this type of facility in Africa. The church has waited a long time for this!



Emmanuel Health Center



“Can you support one of the many children who need a sponsor?”

SANDRA'S CORNER



On my first trip to India we met a girl along the road. She greeted us and then ran to tell others we were coming. When we got

to the village she stood next to me with a handful of photographs showing a family near a Christmas tree, the family on a skiing adventure in the mountains, the kids with a dog and cat, the family in church, and the family on the dock at a lake. She told me this was her sponsor family and asked if I knew them. I did not. Yet, we looked at every picture together and she pointed out how the boy had grown and how silly the dog looked and all that amazing snow. What she was clearly telling me was how important her sponsor is to her, every day of her life.

We have **160** children who are waiting for a sponsor. Sponsors can be individuals or families, work groups, book clubs, Girl Scout or Boy Scout troops, Sunday schools, confirmation classes, garden clubs, bridge clubs, circles and on and on. If you know someone or some group who could sponsor a child, please encourage them.

If you can sponsor one, or perhaps one more, please give it prayerful thought.

THRIVENT GIVING PLUS BECOMES THRIVENT CHOICE

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans discontinued the program they called Giving Plus as of 12.31.09. They are rolling out a new program called Thrivent Choice. As we learn more about it and how you can help “vote” to direct dollars to LPGM, we will communicate that to you. This is a great reason to sign up for e-news so you get the information as soon as it is available. At the home page of the LPGM website, click on the JOIN OUR MAILING LIST button: <http://lutheranpartners.org/get-involved/join-the-mailing-list/>. It is quick and easy!

SPONSOR A CHILD



CHILD SPONSOR FORM

complete and cut along the dotted lines

Sign up for : Number of children I (we) wish to sponsor _____

I (we) agree to begin sponsorship in (month & year) _____

I (we) prefer:

I (we) prefer to pay:

- Girl(s)
- Boy(s)
- No preference

- Monthly (\$20 per child)
- Quarterly (\$60 / child)
- Semi-annual (\$120 / child)
- Annual (\$240 / child)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Your Church _____

Method of Payment:

- Check (enclosed)
- I will go to your website and pay online using my credit card, or checking/savings account. www.lutheranpartners.org



CLEAN WATER AT GALLO

For many years, women and children from the Gallo village have gathered at the spring on the missionary compound to get clean water for their families. As part of the development of the health center, a cement spring box was built to collect and provide fresh water for the center. The spring continues to provide plenty of water for the villagers, and pipes have been installed making it easier for people to fill their containers. The spring runs even through the dry season to provide water needs for hundreds of people every day. They are thankful for this wonderful source of clean water.



AMAZING ARRAY OF PARTNERS FOR CAR

Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry is proud to be a partner with the following organizations that have contributed significantly to the raising up of the Emmanuel Health Center and related facilities:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic
 Global Health Ministries
 ELCA Global Mission
 Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
 Western North Dakota Synod
 Eastern North Dakota Synod
 Hope Lutheran Church—Fargo, North Dakota (\$150,000)
 Our Savior's Lutheran Church—Austin, Minnesota (\$100,000)
 MSAADA Architects

Herman Miller Foundation (\$10,000)
 Mildred Monke (\$7,500 through the sale of her book)
 Evangelical Lutheran Mission—Germany (providing a doctor)
 CoLuREUM Lutheran Church—France (providing an administrator)
 MissionAfrika—Denmark
 Mercy Corps (US international development)
 ASOMESCA (an ecumenical medical organization in CAR)
 UN World Food Program
 UNICEF
 Catholic Mission (CAR)
 First Lutheran Church—Fargo, North Dakota (\$30,000 for HIV-AIDS building)
 Other congregations and individuals



Staff of Emmanuel Health Center

VIDEO WILL BE AVAILABLE

Bruce Sundeen, videographer from Fargo, North Dakota accompanied the most recent visitors to CAR to record the trip and tell the story of the Emmanuel Health Center in Gallo and other related church programs. Through interviews and footage of activities and celebrations, Bruce will create two videos for congregational and group use. One will be a 10-15 minute video centering on the

health center and its impact on the people of CAR that can be used for educational forums and discussion groups. A shorter 4-5 minute video can be used during worship. The videos will serve to introduce CAR to a greater audience and inspire and motivate people to become involved in this mission. The videos will be available in April of 2010 through LPGM.





JANUARY 2010 TRIP TO CAR

A group of nine travelers visited CAR in January led by LPGM Executive Director, Gordon Olson. The group included Pastors Paul Nynas (Hope—Fargo, North Dakota), Glen Monson (Our Savior’s—Austin, Minnesota), Joe Campeau (Christ—Valencia, California), and Chuck Slocum (Vinland Lutheran—Poulsbo, Washington), along with Rev. Tim Iverson (Global Health Ministries), Bruce Sundeen (Videographer), David Swartz and Matt Frandson (lay members of Christ Lutheran). The visit involved exposure to many of the ministries and people of the EELRCA as well as the dedication of the Emmanuel Health Center. This group

had the privilege of seeing firsthand the wonderful work of the church as well as the many needs and opportunities that exist to partner in ministry. How they respond to this life-changing trip remains to be seen, but one person wrote, “Basically, I’m contemplating a career switch, but I don’t even know where to start. The main thing is, I want to directly help people. After the trip I find myself desiring to be much closer to the people I’m trying to serve. I’m really inspired after the trip, and returning to my job has been a real struggle. Things seem so meaningless with all of the need out in the world . . .”



Central Temple - Bouar

MOTORCYCLES FOR PASTORS AND EVANGELISTS

Three Lutheran congregations (Our Savior’s—Rockford, Illinois; First—Fargo, North Dakota; and Christ—Valencia, California) provided funds for 10 motorcycles in 2008 and 2009 that are being used very effectively as a way for pastors and evangelists to get to their congregations in remote villages. President Golike has requested 16 more cycles at about \$2,000 each to help reach the villages more regularly and effectively as the church ministers to over 70,000 members in 400 congregations. Funds can be directed to Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry (www.lutheranpartners.org). What a great project for a smaller congregation or groups within congregations.



PRESIDENT GOLIKE HAS SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO THE USA

The President (Bishop) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of CAR traveled to the USA with the group who just returned from their 10-day visit to that country. This was President Andre Golike’s first trip to the United States and his first personal exposure to partners here who have invested in the work of his African church. The trip was non-stop and exhausting, but very beneficial to all. When asked what impressed him most about the visit he replied without hesitation – “the people.” He said he hadn’t realized how wonderful the people are who have partnered with his church, some for many years. We hope his trip results in many more knowing



about the work in Africa and responding by giving and/or going.

SIGN UP NOW!

Sign-up now to have the LPGM Partners newsletter delivered to your email address and you will be assured of getting some “good news” in full color every so often! We respect your privacy . . . we will never share or sell your address. We promise to only send important messages occasionally.

We realize email isn’t for everyone, but we are hoping to quadruple the current subscriber list. That would offer us a substantial savings on paper, printing, and postage for each newsletter. Less overhead expense is a good thing and we would be doing more to save the environment too!

Sign up now!

Please sign-up now by clicking on the JOIN OUR MAILING LIST button on the home page or at <http://lutheranpartners.org/get-involved/join-the-mailing-list>.



WOMEN'S CENTER LOOKS GOOD

The House of Mary and Martha (Women's Center) in Bouar, CAR, is functioning well. The facility is used for gatherings, classes and other special events of the church. Guest rooms are used regularly. The building is well maintained and is serving the needs of the women and the church community. A new (and larger) generator is being purchased that will be powerful enough to not only supply electricity to the building, but provide

power to run the submersible water pump from the well. Outside showers will soon be built to supplement the showers already inside the building, allowing more people to use the facilities. While the center has a part-time manager, the church is looking for a qualified woman to be the live-in manager. The center will soon expand its outreach and programming for the benefit of women and children and is off to a good start.



House of Mary and Martha



Teresa Obwaya in front of health center

SOME SPECIAL NEEDS FOR THE EELRCA

President Golike, in his visit to the USA, has articulated some very special needs. Maybe this list will serve to give ideas for many people to be involved in partnering with this church. Contact LPGM for additional information.

- Bibles (600 needed at \$10 each) – we've already raised enough for 100 Bibles
- Solar panels and solar lanterns for Emmanuel Health Center– any amount will help keep energy costs affordable
- Staff houses for Emmanuel Health Center – 6 needed at \$15,000 each
- Ongoing opportunities – support of village education, support of women's ministry,

scholarships for girls and advanced education, church roofs, clean water. program, health center operations (medicines, fuel, maintenance, salaries)



Teresa Obwaya and Eunice Olson

LINKS

Do you have a story on your website that is about an LPGM project or a reflection from an LPGM traveler? Do you have a link to the LPGM website on your website? We are curious about these sorts of connections between you and LPGM. Send us an email with the URL. And thanks for helping us tell the story!

office@lutheranpartners.org • www.lutheranpartners.org

WE ARE MOVING!

It won't be far – from the 5th floor to the 3rd floor of the Minnesota Church Center – but our address will change slightly sometime in April:

Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry
122 West Franklin Avenue, **Suite 319**
Minneapolis MN 55404

Everything else is the same: phone number, email addresses, website. If you are ever in the neighborhood, please stop by and say hello!

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

From Gordon: This book will challenge you and your congregation to refocus ministry, to make a greater impact on the world through mission – a must read for pastors and lay leaders and a wonderful study book for small groups. **CHANGE THE WORLD – Recovering the Message and Mission of Jesus** by Mike Slaughter

UPCOMING CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

INDIA: July/August 2010 –Bethlehem Lutheran Church Youth, Minneapolis, MN

ARGENTINA: Partner to Partner
July 2010 – St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Bloomington, MN, to Resistencia
November 2010 – Trinity Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, to Esquel
February 2011 – Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church, Racine, WI, to Buenos Aires

Have you ever thought about visiting India, perhaps to meet the child or visit the library you sponsor? Is 2-3 weeks in January/February 2011 an option for you? This is a perfect time of year to visit south India, when it's not too hot and still a pleasant diversion from a cold, winter climate. Let us know if you would like to be on the list of possible travelers. Call the office 612.823.5058 or email us at office@lutheranpartners.org.

Special Contributions to LPGM

We encourage you to consider investing in global outreach as you remember or honor a loved one.

In Memory of...

MR. & MRS. H. A. ANDERSON
given by Pete LeVander
DAUGHTERS ANN & MARTHA
given by Sally & John Koepsell
KAY BEIHOFFER
given by First Lutheran Church, Aitkin, Minnesota
MARIAN CHRISTENSEN
given by Naomi & Steven Staruch
DALE DEAN
given by Donna Piehl
FRANK C. FULLER
given by Nancy & Joe McRae
JOE GRAMS
given by Georgina Eichers
OSCAR & RUTH GYLLAND
given by Linda & Bob Gylland
MARY HAGEN
given by Betty & Gordon Olson
FRED JENNY
given by Stefanie & Mark Nelson
DR. WILLIAM KECK
given by First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Greensburg,
Pennsylvania
RICHARD LONG & LARRY FLEMING
given by Diane Fleming

DARCY J MILLER
given by Linda Miller & Keith Syfert
JOAN NELSON
given by Laurie & Steven Orlov
CATHERINE M. NELSON
given by Gordon & Betty Olson
TIM OLSON
given by Carol & Ken McKenzie; Arleth & Dale Anderson;
Nancy & Peter Rand
KIMBERLY RISBURG
given by Betty & Gordon Olson; Carol & Ken McKenzie
MARY STARUCH
given by Naomi & Steven Staruch
IVAN TOPPE
given by Stefanie & Mark Nelson
IDELLA WESTBY
given by Betty & Gordon Olson; Sandra & George Anderson
IDELLA & ARNOLD WESTBY
given by Marilyn & Kent Christensen
AVANELLE WINTER
given by Betty & Gordon Olson; Sally & John Koepsell;
Bonnie & Verne Winter;
Marguerite & Robert Carlson; Naomi & Steven Staruch

In Honor of...

**MARNE ALYASEEN, ERIC DISTAD,
CHARLES DISTAD, EVIE MARIE ALYASEEN,
SAM ALYASEEN, JONATHAN DISTAD**
given by David Distad
DOROTHY BENTLEY
given by Margaret Dahl
SUSAN & JEFF ENGHOLM
given by Carolyn & Wilbur Wright
**SHELLY FRANZ, NAOMI STARUCH, &
ANNE WESTBY birthdays**
given by Sandra Anderson
**DEEPA GANGAR, BRADLEY CLABO, &
SIDDARTHA GANGAR**
given by Keighley & Leonard Spott
HAUCK SINGERS
given by Elizabeth Shepley
MAYNARD IVERSON on his 90th birthday
given by Margaret Leddick
**KATHY JOHNSON & RUSS MILLER
on their wedding**
given by Barbara Schmiesing
LYNDEN & KATHY JOHNSON
given by Merv & Jackie Thompson
JANE & DOUG KOONS
given by Sue & Jud Reaney
**ELAINE & RON LARSON,
JANET & DENNIS HAHN,
ROBERT & PAT ANDERSON,
ANITA & BRUCE FELLER**
given by Donna Anderson
IVANELL & LUTHER MONSON
given by Solveig Monson & Valente Dolcin; Martha Keck
LAURI & MARK NELLERMOE
given by Donata J. Nellermo

**NELSON FAMILY – RANDY & PAM
NELSON; ROBERT NELSON; KATHY &
CHRIS OLIG; SUSAN NELSON; BETHANY
NELSON; VICTOR, AUDREY & JOSIAH
NELSON; KEVIN & KARA PIATT; STEVE,
LAURIE, JEREMY, NATHAN & ANNA
ORLOW; BRUCE, HILARY, & LOUIS
NELSON; DAVID, DENISE, MATTHEW,
JORDAN & DANIEL EIBEL; MARK,
STEFANIE, BRITTANY & RYAN NELSON;
JOEL, ELIZABETH, & HAYLEY NELSON**
given by Celeste & Jim Gibson
REV. HUB NELSON
given by Laurie & Steven Orlov
**REV. HUB NELSON'S CHILDREN AND
THEIR FAMILIES**
given by Hub Nelson
EUNICE OLSON & FAMILY
given by Mariel & Frederick Wolter
BETTY & GORDON OLSON
given by Donna Anderson; Shary & Tom Mulhere
NEAL PEARSON on his 90th birthday,
given by Jerry Pearson
NANCY & PETER RAND
given by Amy & Scott Rand
SELLAKUMARI on her birthday
given by Gina & Raymond Salisbury
**DR. SAMUEL VIMELIN &
DR. FRANKLIN IRWIN**
given by Jane & Doug Koons
LUANN WERNER
given by Betty & Gordon Olson
BONNIE & VERNE WINTER
given by Lisa & Bart Beardsley

If we have omitted any gifts by mistake, please contact us so that we can correct the error in our next newsletter.

GIVING OPTIONS

EVER DEPENDABLE CHECK

Contributions by check often give a donor a good feeling. By writing a check, putting it in an envelope, attaching proper postage and dropping it in the mail box you are accomplishing what you intend and LPGM loves to get mail!

If you contribute to LPGM by check but are currently making other donations, payments or purchases online, we encourage you to look into online giving through these three options:

1. AUTOMATIC BANK DRAFT

Many banks offer on-line bill pay (although they may call it something else). Often this service is free to account holders. You can direct a certain amount to be sent to LPGM on a recurring basis or on your demand one-time/occasionally. There are no costs to LPGM so this is a favorite option.

2. SIMPLY GIVING

We've recently updated our online giving page with new donor-friendly features that we think you'll find beneficial. Now, by creating a profile, you can make your own changes and view your own donation histories without any assistance from the LPGM office. There is a small expense to LPGM for this service but if it is convenient for you, then it is convenient for us too.

3. GIVEMN.ORG

You will notice we have a GIVEMN.ORG button on the website contribution page now. Some people may prefer to use this option. LPGM will receive the funds within a few weeks of your contribution; however, your receipt will be delivered by the folks at GIVEMN/RAZOO, not LPGM. If you like it, that's great!



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IN GLOBAL MINISTRY

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