



MINISTRY MOMENTS

"The Word of God is strong, it brings people together, it is a foundation." -Pastor John Bosco, Rwanda

photo by Shauen Trump



The Body of Christ...

The Body of Christ is American, African, European. It is everyone who believes Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior and is part of the Church. Christ and his church form one body, as Head and members. Christians become members of this body by baptism. All the members of the body are useful and necessary to each other. "For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free." (1 Corinthians 12:13) Christ values and loves His people and as I serve Him, I pray that He will continue to teach me to love and serve them humbly according to my calling. This month I spent time with my brothers and sisters in Christ in Rwanda and Ethiopia.

Synod of 1000 Hills - Rwanda

It was a joy to return again to Rwanda with my area director, Rev. Shauen Trump. This trip we visited with the Lutheran Mission in Africa - Synod of 1000 Hills (LMA-STH). The church is led by Bishop Selestine Seburikoko who has a heart for evangelism and discipleship. We visited eight of the congregations in the eastern part of the country. This young but steadily growing church of only three years has congregations in eleven of the thirty districts of Rwanda. It was a time of learning, fellowship, and encouragement. Some of the churches were just simple structures of a tarp held up by sticks but set atop a hill with the most magnificent views. In each of the churches we visited the pastor shared about how the congregation started and how it has grown. What I enjoyed the most was hearing from members of the congregation sharing about how they were led to Christ and the church. The most heartbreaking were those who shared about the horrors of the genocide. I could still see the sting on the faces of many as stories were shared. One young man, previously from the Catholic church shared that his parents were killed during the genocide by fellow church members so because of that he stayed away from the church. He met Pastor Alex from the Lutheran Mission in Africa, who through many conversations led him back to church. He now is studying theology so that he can share the Gospel with others. I thank God for the opportunity to visit with my brothers and sisters in Christ in Rwanda.

CMCR - Ethiopia

It was a blessing to attend the Committee for Mutual Christian Responsibility (CMCR). The purpose of the CMCR is to encourage and strengthen interdependence, sharing and mutuality in furthering God's mission. The committee provides opportunities for fellowship and theological reflection; consultation and dialogue; sharing experiences and God's gifts for common concerns in mission. This is an annual event hosted by the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY). The theme for 2018 was "Blessings of Loving Care" focusing on ministry among the elderly. The conference brought together fellow co-workers for Christ from America, Ethiopia and Europe which brought the opportunity to build relationships. It was great to see good friends Dr. Mike and Cindy Rodewald from Lutheran Bible Translators and dear friend Deaconess Tadelech Loha who serves as the director of Women's Ministry with the EECMY. Relationships formed by events such as this enable the Gospel to be shared around the world.

Yours in Christ.....Shara



Prayers & Praise

- Pray for God's strength and guidance as Michael and I serve in Eastern and Southern Africa.
- Pray for God's wisdom as I transition into my new ministry. I have much to learn.
- Pray for the Lutheran Mission in Africa and the growth of the church.
- Praise God for the blessing of being in relationship with my brothers and sisters in Christ in Ethiopia.

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