



# The Central Africa Sentinel

Witness Mercy Life Together      Witness Mercy Life Together      Witness Mercy Life Together  
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Pray that both RT5M and CHE would bear much fruit in God's kingdom during isolation and beyond!

Praise God that our son Tim received a vicarage placement at Living Savior Lutheran Church in Fairfax Station, Virginia!

Praise God that the Corona virus has been a relative sloth rather than a beaver thus far in most parts of Africa!

Pray that it would be so throughout the rest of the world as well!

## Imagination in Isolation

Dear Christian friends and ministry partners,

I'm certainly not telling you anything you don't already know. Life in Covid-19 isolation can be a real drag of a situation! It's easy to give in to discouragement and decreased activity; to transform from a beaver into a sloth. In our case, we quickly went from traveling all over Africa to spending most of every day at our computers in our little makeshift office, which is actually one of the bedrooms of unit B in the Mission Apartments on the Campus of Concordia Seminary St. Louis. So, like many others, we've found that you have to use your imagination to be productive in isolation.

### My Imagination in Isolation

A goal of mine for a very long time, to which I could never seem to get around with our busy travel schedule, was to update my 36-week Thru The Bible Curriculum and translate the lessons into French in order to teach it both in our anglophone and francophone seminaries. It's very laborious work updating and translating hundreds upon hundreds of PowerPoint slides and the accompanying note sheets, but it does give one something to do all the live long day every day in the end bedroom. As I write this, I've completed the first 10 lessons and covered the Pentateuch – the 5 books of Moses.

While doing that I got to thinking... Back when I was a parish pastor in the United States, in order to instill a thorough-going biblical theology in people, I offered my parishioners an email daily Scripture reading program that I dubbed RT5M (Reading Time 5 Minutes) or alternately "Beginning with Moses...", where I would write a teaching devotion in real time each day on the appointed reading and send it out to the group. I developed an audience of over 700 recipients that went well beyond my congregation. I brought them through all the historical books of the Old Testament, Isaiah, several minor prophets, Mathew, John, Acts, all the Epistles, and Revelation. It was the genesis of what would become my 36-week 'Thru the Bible' teaching program.



With my isolation imagination thus stimulated, I figured it wouldn't take much to send these already written teaching devotions to English speaking African church leaders and laypeople alike. And Google Translate should also make the daily translation into French a relative snap for the francophone side. There is increasingly less I have to clean up in the Google translations. Since no teaching is going on in our seminaries and churches are still closed down in most places, this is a wonderful opportunity to keep the teaching of God's Word going for everybody. I just sent the invitation out to about 60 pastors today to start RT5M on June 1st; asking them to invite anyone and everyone in their church to participate. By the way, if anyone of you would like to get these emails, just let me know.

**Steph's Imagination in Isolation**

Not all our work in isolation stimulates the imagination. There is still a lot of email to answer and Zoom video conference meetings have increased exponentially since this thing started. During a recent Zoom meeting with Short-Term Coordinators, however, Steph and fellow African Missionary Nurse Sarah Kanoy offered an imaginative use of the new technology. They told the group they could conduct Zoom-based teaching sessions on the concept of CHE (Community Health Evangelism) for any LCMS missionaries who would like to use the approach to empower and lift up the people in their ministry area. The other participants loved the idea!

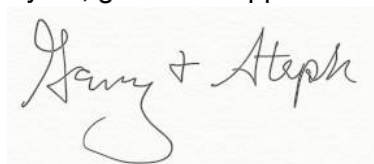


So the nursing dynamic duo sent the first invitation out to all the African missionaries and the response was overwhelming. Over the course of the following week, Steph and Sarah delivered the same 2-hour teaching session four times to different groups of missionaries. During these presentations, they gave an overview of CHE, including the history, philosophy, and structure and also presented a sample lesson. The feedback afterward was also overwhelming – overwhelmingly positive!

**God's Imagination in Isolation**

Empowered by the God who so vividly displayed His imagination in isolation over six wonderful days and then again when He brought Jesus out of the isolation of the tomb, congregations and individual Christians all over the world are using their imaginations in isolation in remarkable ways during this Covid-19 crisis. It's great to see! Only He can bring so much good out of so much bad! May He who loves you beyond imagination bless you abundantly in your isolation! Thanks so very much for your ongoing prayers, gifts and support!

Your partners in the Gospel,



Your Joyful Response?

*If you would like to support our work as we continue the bringing of Christ to the nations, you may send a tax deductible gift either to:*

*The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-66861*

or

*Mission Central  
40718 Highway E-16  
Mapleton, IA 51034  
<https://missioncentral.us/schulte/>*

*writing "Support of the Schultes" in the memo line.*

Or give online @  
[lcms.org/givenow/schulte](https://lcms.org/givenow/schulte)