



Let's Go To ???

News from the Wildauer Family, serving the Lord in _____

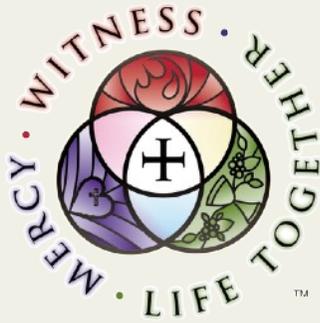
Where art we To-go?

I am writing to you from the shores of Lomé, Togo as I watch the waves crash into a rock barrier a little off the coast and then gently roll onto the shore. The biblical verses are echoing in my head, "I have prescribed limits for it...and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther'" (Job 38:10-11). The waves roll in, foam, leave their mark, and their memory is no more. How apt this is for the work of many missionaries. There are the great missionaries known by the Church through the ages who have gone into all the world beginning with the Apostles. But so many more are unknown. As for the missionaries themselves, many will never know their full impact while they labored in the vineyard of the Lord. Saint Paul is right: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." Thus, it remains the Lord's work.

The mission in Togo was never ours to begin with. As a theological educator - a pastor teaching men to be pastors - I was blessed to build upon the work of previous missionaries. The Lord had already provided the growth in young church bodies throughout Francophone Africa. This upsets the enemy who is constantly trying to trample newly cast seeds, sow the weeds of discord and doubt, and bring about worldly worry and wealth in hopes of choking out the Gospel. Right now, the enemy is doing this by rising up jihadists throughout West Africa, namely in Burkina Faso which is to the north of Dapaong, Togo. Our presence as westerners and missionaries gave reason for us to move. This was done in agreement with the local church body, the Lutheran Church of Togo, who was also concerned for their wellbeing and members.

Therefore, I urge you to pray for fellow Christians in West Africa whom you have not yet met. For example, we have Lutheran congregations still being planted in Burkina Faso by faithful pastors trained at the CLET in Dapaong. They understand well the call: Witness Always! Pray for their faithful confession and that the Church will endure in that region. The good news is that Christ already has the victory and the devil cannot win. *(Continued on the next page)*





Pray For:

- ✠ For the CLET-Togo as they return to classes in the fall
- ✠ For the inhabitants of West Africa as they face a famine due to country closures and displacement due to regional terrorist groups
- ✠ Rev. Jacob Gaugert, Rev. Gary and Nurse Steph Schulte who will remain in Francophone Africa living in Brazzaville, Congo
- ✠ Our family as we prepare for Spanish learning and transition to a new field of service
- ✠ Your pastor and congregation

Give Thanks For:

- ✠ The baptism of Mardoché Marc Orel Seuh
- ✠ The successful completion of the academic year in Dapaong
- ✠ The new placement of our family in Belize
- ✠ Continued health for our family
- ✠ The freedom of the Gospel as it is proclaimed in many languages

I was once told that catechizing already converted men to be Lutheran pastors in a classroom wasn't mission work in the fullest sense. I agreed with this person for a moment. The primary task wasn't the normal ground work of evangelizing people who have never heard of Christ. But I spoke further with my friend. The formation of men to be pastors in the common language of French produces a multiplied result greater than we can count. The men we taught typically spoke multiple languages that would take over a lifetime for me to learn. One student from Guinea came to the CLET knowing his maternal language, French, English, and two other regional dialects. When he returns, his call will be to continue with the congregation that sent him as well as plant churches among the other people groups of the region. Thinking like this, my friend then agreed that I was a missionary forming men to be pastors *and* missionaries. Five years might not seem like a long time, but as I close my time in



One last lunch with the Congolese students

Dapaong, Togo, I'd like you to consider the following summary. Our time in Togo covered five academic years (2015-2020) and was accomplished with fellow LCMS missionaries. During this time, our mission work assisted in the pastoral formation of 49 students at the Center in Dapaong. We were privileged to witness the ordination of 11 men into the Office of the Holy Ministry and six candidates will be ordained within the coming year. I had the honor of training 20 men in distance education courses in Côte d'Ivoire. Though not every student who came to the CLET completed the three-year program, many received enough teaching that they will be better equipped as deacons and catechists in their home church body. Also worthy of note are the many wives who have furthered their education through the on-site ladies' school. Through global efforts, we have also been able to establish two daughter institutes in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo and Gueckedou, Guinea-Conakry. Through the seminary, we have been pleased to serve 12 unique Lutheran Church bodies located in eight countries. We thank the Lord for the work that the Holy Spirit is accomplishing among our growing Confessional Lutheran churches throughout Francophone Africa. Our prayer continues to be for the preaching of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments which create and sustain their faith and that of the generations yet to come (Psalm 102:18).

I cannot help but finish with this one point. The past two weeks were a solo trip to Dapaong for me filled with the normal chaos of closing things out. In the midst of the scurry to do so, a final visit to the students was in order. While there, it was made known that a baby born to a student family during the pandemic had not yet been baptized. We had water and the Word. What prevented us from baptizing? What a joy to say that this was my final pastoral act in Togo. Mardoché Marc Orel Seuh is now a child of God. Thanks be to God.

Well, I'm Not Sure If You Are Going to Belize This or Not

Where are the Wildauers going To-Go now? (Ok, first thing's first. I'll have to stop with the bad puns. All those restaurants and shops with their parking spaces "Togo," signs like "Donuts Togo," or my favorite "Sushi Togo." I never found sushi in Togo, so it must be a well kept secret. Ok, enough with the puns) Well, I'm not sure you're going to Belize this, but maybe the newsletter header gave it away. When we arrived Stateside in April, we were asked to take time and recuperate thinking that relocation to a parish in the United States was imminent. The month of May came along and with it an idea from the good folks in Saint Louis. Rev. Dan McMiller, the Executive Director of the LCMS Office of International Mission, along with Rev. Ted Krey, the Regional Director of Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) missions presented the call for a Church Planter in the country of Belize where a formal Lutheran church body does not yet exist. I couldn't Belize it as this seemed to come out of the blue. After much prayer and meditation with the family, and seemingly endless questions posed to the Regional Director, I have gladly accepted this reassignment to serve as a missionary in Belize.



The village of Seine Bight, Belize

Photo courtesy of Erik M. Lunsford/The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Located on the Yucatán peninsula, Belize is a small country comparable to the size of Massachusetts and is nestled between Mexico and Guatemala along the Caribbean coast. My friend and fellow pastor, Rev. Duane Meissner, and his family served as the previous missionary family, so we will build upon his work. We will also be working in a team, namely with our Area Facilitator Rev. Herb Burch and his wife; a Bolivian vicar and his wife; and GEO missionaries Justin and Jordan Logston. The mission is pretty clear: Preach the Gospel, gather the hearers and plant Lutheran congregations, and show the Lord's mercy to all. For years, the Belize Mission Society has been

sending short term teams with the hope of having a full-time missionary to gather those they have reached. Thus, a small gathering of the faithful already exists in the Placencia region in the southeast. In the north, a former presbyterian pastor of two congregations has recently been reading Lutheran theology and is interested in entering colloquy. A small town of remaining refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala have an abandoned school where we would like to plant a Lutheran School and catechize the young. And there are other similar opportunities already in place! More to come in future newsletters.

What does this mean for the Wildauers? Since August, our family has begun the transition from closing out service in Togo to beginning with the LAC region. On to Spanish! In early October, our family will move near the regional headquarters in Santiago, Dominican Republic to focus on Spanish acquisition for four to six months. Our goal is to enter Belize in January or February. Since 2014, we have constantly been reminded that the Lord will provide. Here we raise our Ebenezer. Thus far the Lord has helped us, thus He will continue to do so and more (1 Samuel 7:12).

To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

[OR] Mission Central
40718 Highway E-16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (or "LCMS"). Please include **"Wildauer—Belize"** in the memo line.

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Where in the World?? Bremen, Indiana

When we arrived in the United States in April, we were able to move right into my grandfather's old house. He passed away in May of 2016 but the family retained the house. It has been serving as a short-term stay for family and church workers alike. This year, the Lord provided it as a place of rest for our family; a place to reconnect with cousins, brothers, and grandparents; a base from which to visit other family, and a shelter until our next move. Bremen is also the location of one of the founding member churches of the LCMS and Micah's baptismal home. Here in Bremen, the Gospel is still proclaimed.



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Witness Always