

*The history of LHF work in Sudan is one in which the hand of God is evident in so many ways. We could recall a statement once used to describe the work of LHF that underscores the impact God has had on the work carried out- "we don't know what we are doing or where we are going, but we know God is leading and providing." This is true especially of the work in Sudan. We started out with a bold move to provide books and materials and ended up seeing a Lutheran church body organized. In the context of this work the question needed to be asked many times- "is LHF money driven or mission driven?"*

*We have seen the manner in which God has used a church leader who had vision, confidence, commitment and leadership. The late Rev. Bishop Andrew Mbugo Elisa had an untiring zeal in laying the foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sudan/South Sudan. He also demonstrated an entrepreneurial spirit seldom seen in churchmen today. God in His wisdom saw fit to call Andrew to Himself at a young age and only now is the church seemingly recovering from this loss.*

*It is only fitting and proper that we dedicate this history, first of all, to our faithful Lord, and secondly to His faithful servant, Rev. Andrew Mbugo Elisa. To God be the glory and praise.*

Rev. Robert L. Rahn

LHF Founder

## 1994

**June 16** - Dr. Preus, LHF Board Chairman, lectures on Inspiration of Scriptures in Nairobi.

**June 29** - Dr. Preus receives letter from Andrew Mbugo Elisa requesting books referenced by Dr. Preus.

**August 8** - Rev. Rahn fulfills request and sends one copy of the *Book of Concord* and five catechisms. This marks the official beginning of a relationship that helped to organize the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sudan.



**July 31**- Andrew mentions request to Lutheran World Federation for funds. Rev. Rahn writes to Andrew: "In my opinion, the LWF does not represent that which is genuinely and confessionally Lutheran, and that means you need to discover for yourselves what is Lutheran. The best source for you is the Bible and the Book of Concord. I'm sure the LWF would not deem it necessary to publish the volume since they, in general, violate the statements of faith found in these documents."

## 1995

(LHF Budget \$3,500)

**November 27**- Funds provided to lease an office complex in Khartoum to serve as church headquarters, meeting rooms, and worship center. Later it would also house a doctor's office and a pharmacy.

## 1996

(LHF Budget \$6,000)

**August 1** - Zande Hymnal published

**August 22**- Wire on this date sent to Khartoum and it was not delivered until October 1.

**October 18** - ELCS uses \$5,000 grant to purchase computer, printer, table, software, and translation of Liturgy-Prayer Book.

## 1997

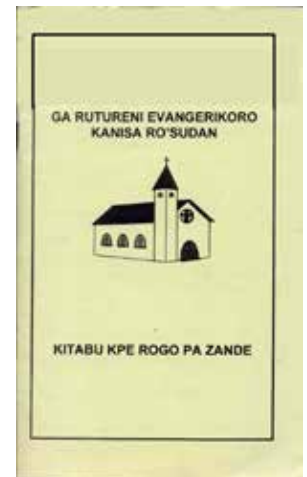
(LHF Budget \$12,000)

**February 10**- Andrew gives a report on the state of the church- "Hardship, suffering, war, poverty, displacement, militarism, racial conflict, poor economy, plus many other problems have become part of the life styles for us in Africa. In addition there is the growing religious conflict which affects countries like Sudan, particularly where Christians are a minority. But we continue to believe that one day we shall have new life in Africa, most of all in Sudan."

**March 5**- A \$2,000 grant sent to the ELCS to enable a deposit on a worship center for Juba.

**March 19**- Prayer book published in Zande language.

**June 14-22** - Andrew goes to Nairobi to spend two weeks studying the *Augsburg Confession* with Dr. Anssi Simojoki.



**July 30**- Books are provided by two widows of pastors to start libraries in Latvia, Siberia, and Sudan.

**September 10**- Andrew gives an update on the history of the ELCS. "When the idea of starting ELCS came into people's minds, we thought of southern Sudan as the home of ELCS. This remains to be so in our plan. Our existence in the

North today is quite temporary, waiting for peace to come to southern Sudan. As we were moving to build congregations and increase the number of Christians, we began to realize the difference between confessional and liberal Lutheranism. Thanks to those who helped us from the very beginning.” Among them were Dr. Robert Rahn, Dr. Anssi Simojoki, and Dr. Reijo Arkkila.

**September 29-** A report is sent to Andrew that LHF contacted President Barry and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, regarding the gathering of information to enable enrollment at the seminary. In the request for help in supporting Andrew, he also asked about forming an official partnership with LHF or LCMS. We suggested that this should be a partnership with the LCMS. It was at this time we made the request for him to come to Fort Wayne.

**December 12-** Andrew informs us he has been hospitalized for 26 days in three different hospitals without a diagnosis as to the problem.

## 1998

*(LHF Budget \$24,298)*

**February 16-** Jeff Rahn, in keeping with efforts to be on the cutting edge of international finance, obtained a registration number from the U.S. Treasury Department that allowed LHF to send funds into Sudan during a time when the U.S. had sanctions against Sudan. Test funds of \$1,000 were sent on February 23 with Andrew confirming receipt of the funds on March 3, and an official account was opened in Citibank of Khartoum. This avenue of fund transfers was subsequently utilized by the synod and other Lutheran agencies.

**February 28-** Andrew sends an application for admission to CTSFTW and began preliminary enrollment discussions.

**March 9-** LHF granted \$15,000 to ELCS to assist in the upgrading of the Khartoum leased facilities.

**March 11-** Andrew writes to Rev. Ken Greinke- “I came to

know Dr. Anssi Simojoki in 1994 when he was Pastor of Uhuru Highway Lutheran Church in Nairobi. In the same year we began correspondence first with the late Dr. Robert Preus and with the Rev. Rahn. Thanks to almighty God, these contacts have resulted in the actual birth of the ELCS, particularly with the concern and support received from LHF and Rev. Rahn. We always ask God to give him more wisdom and talent so that the relationship between LHF and ELCS can grow further.”

**March 18-** A fax from Andrew bemoans the common problem faced in Khartoum- days without electricity. The problem was later solved when the LHF and LCMS WM jointly purchased a large generator that provided power for lights, fax use and air conditioning.



**April 24 -** LHF provided funds for a mission exploratory trip to South Sudan for Andrew and Dr. Simojoki, VP for Africa. The trip is hindered by problems related to the People’s Liberation Army security. When permission was finally received there were no flights available. Dr. Simojoki stated, “right now we are standing on a step stone of grand Lutheran missionary future, if the existing opportunities are seized timely by the right people. It is high time to concentrate missionary efforts.”

**August 7 -** The bombing of the American embassies in Nairobi and Dar El Salaam impacts the obtaining of visas requiring Andrew to go to Cairo to obtain documents to come to Fort Wayne.

**September 15-** Andrew arrives in Fort Wayne after much difficulty in obtaining documents. He writes, "Though I'm yet to learn what is being taught here, one thing I have discovered is the Lutheran worship." He also voiced concern about his family back in Khartoum. The LHF was able to alleviate the anxiety by assuring Andrew that proper support would be given them in his absence.

**December 11** - LHF is granted Recognized Service Organization status under the LCMS World Mission, an effort that began on July 31, 1995.

## 1999

*(LHF Budget \$100,908)*

**February 12-** Andrew shares Sudan story with members of St. John Lutheran Church, Fraser by preaching for services and reporting in the Bible Class. During presentation he remarked: "I am just a very small person saying something big." This statement could appropriately describe the heart and soul of Andrew's service and commitment.

**March 23-** Rev. Elisa made an interesting comparison when thanking donors, Ron & Wanda Beck, for their special gifts. He said: "Among the Zande people, if you give birth to a boy, you are to bring him up making sure he is well trained. Upon reaching his teen years, you will first buy him a bow and arrow to begin shooting small animals and birds. As he grows older, you will buy him a spear which will be his defense as well as a tool for killing animals. The spear can protect him and at the same time feed him. Finally, you will assist him in building a house and getting married. After his marriage, it will be his responsibility to produce children, while you retire very happy in heart.

"Coming to know you, Ron and Wanda, has reminded me of this old Zande father described above. First, you gave me the Lutheran Worship Liturgy Book, which in the above context symbolizes a bow and arrow. Secondly, you gave me my New King James Bible, which symbolizes the spear to defend me spiritually. Thirdly, you have decided to donate money which can build a house for me. It is now my responsibility to use the tools you have offered to produce (i.e. to fish people into Christ's church)."

It is a very interesting analogy for the support LHF receives from thousands of partners around the world. Let it be Andrew's way of thanking you as his special memorial.

**May 20-** Andrew finished his study at CTSFW. Rev. Rahn wrote on this occasion: "As you close this American seminary chapter in your life, I hope it will be a case where you can look back and view it as a positive experience. Now you begin another part of the journey. As you do, I want to commend you for your untiring zeal for the Lord's work and also want to pledge our continued support. We want to do what we can to support your efforts during this of planting Lutheran churches in Sudan." Andrew was sent back with a six month \$20,000 commitment. This amount was provided since Andrew, during his studies at Fort Wayne, was very active in promoting the work of LHF. The amount included \$15,000 to purchase a pre-owned vehicle.

**August 26-** Rev. Elisa welcomed special guests to his ordination festivities. Included in the delegation were Rev. Ken Greinke and Dr. Allan Buckmann, representing LCMS World Missions, Dr. Dave Adams, representing Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, Dr. Tim Quill, representing Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, Rev. Dr. Anssi Simojoki, LHF Vice President for Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, Rev. Japhet Dachi, General Secretary, ELCK, and Rev. Dr. Robert L. Rahn, LHF Executive Director.

Andrew gave an historic overview of the ELCS from the time of its formation stating, "May I on behalf of the Executive Council and the entire membership of the ELCS welcome all of you to Sudan to participate in this historical occasion of ordination. We look forward to your faithful participation.

You have come like the three men who came from the Far East to see the Son of Mary, who was the very Savior born in Bethlehem. You have come like the man whom Jesus spoke about in His parable who left 99 of his sheep, tracing the whereabouts of the one sheep which got lost. Indeed, all of you who are in this country today have left your dear ones, your faithful Christians entrusted to you, your staff, to come and stay with the Sudanese people, who by God's grace have become Lutherans, who are now seriously waiting and expecting to realize God's miracle among them.

Our Executive Council members are especially excited to see Rev. Robert L. Rahn among us, most importantly attending the first priestly ordination taking place in the ELCS. Rev. Rahn has made history in building ELCS tirelessly since 1994, starting with five **Catechisms**, one *Book of Concord* and \$1500.00 for printing 1,000 Hymnals, followed by funds for purchasing chairs and tables. Rev. Rahn has done more than just that. We all thank him for his real commitment to the Sudanese people and promoting confessional Lutheranism in

Sudan. The work in Sudan was started by Rev. Rahn during a time when the late Dr. Robert Preus was Chairman of the LHF Board.

In 1995, LHF as a young organization took upon itself the task of building another church. Again thanks to Rev. Rahn for introducing the ELCS to the LCMS Board for World Missions to join hands and support the work in Sudan. Rev. Dr. Anssi Simojoki, who is always referred to as the father of the ELCS, is very much welcome. You are all welcome to Sudan. May God bless you.”

**August 27-** An invitation was given to meet with Hassan Osman Dahawi, State Minister of Social Planning. He was most eager to give us the full police escort to the pharmaceutical plant bombed by President Clinton. They wanted us to see the debris and to observe that this was not a nerve gas plant. They are waiting for the United Nations to come to confirm that the United States made a grave error. We found out that evening, when we were shown on TV, why all the video cameras were present. While we could not understand the language, it seemed evident that we were the objects of some government propaganda for their networks.



After being whisked back to the city, we were taken to the Sudanese Parliament to have an audience with the Speaker of the Parliament, Dr. Hassan Abdullah El Turabi. In both cases we were first given almost an hour of what I call propaganda. In essence, their theme was “There are no problems in Sudan.” Most stories were contrived by news media. In a meeting with the General Secretary of the Council For International People’s Friendship, along with several other clergy, our questions about religious persecution were neatly skirted. On our return to America an editorial in the “International Herald Tribune” had a title, “Sudan Must End Its Brutal War Against Civilians.” They accused Sudan of engaging in a “charm campaign.” I think that is what we experienced. Being in the highest offices of the land, it was

perhaps good that we had in our company Dr. David Adams, from the LCMS Government Office in Washington, D.C. It was interesting to see their reaction when we introduced him as being from the Office of Religious Affairs.

After all our meetings, Rev. Elisa told Rev. Rahn he was astounded over the fact that he read from the Bible in one of the highest Muslim offices in the country when he was explaining the Lutheran understanding of the power of the government and read Romans 13:1-8. Even more astounding to Rev. Elisa, was the fact that they wanted Rv. Rahn to send copies of Luther’s position on government. Upon returning to America, pertinent articles were sent to those government officials.

**August 28 -** Andrew received a call document from the Executive Council of the ELCS and it stated, “In faithfulness to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, the Executive Council of the ELCS met on August 28, 1999, and elected to call you as pastor of the established congregations of the ELCS. It is our fervent prayer that you would accept this call from God and shepherd the Lord’s flock, over which the Holy Spirit will ordain you as overseer.” It was signed by 11 members of the ELCS Executive Council.

These members of the council met on this date with the World Mission delegation and LHF representatives. During the meeting the electricity went off, which was an ongoing problem addressed previously with a request for a generator. As we sat in the darkness and increasing heat, we looked at the mission representatives and told them that this was certainly the hand of God. Andrew had previously asked for \$11,000 to purchase a generator and we could only provide half the amount. Perhaps the other half could be provided by the World Mission. In the presence of the Council, how could their answer be anything but “yes.” A very large and functional generator served the church well and the daily outages could be better managed.

The next major question addressed to the World Mission representatives was, can you help us start a seminary? The response was that the mission direction these days was more along the line of leadership training. It was an answer that was a bit disappointing to the ELCS leadership. After the meeting, the council asked if the LHF delegation could meet on Monday.



## ORDINATION

**August 29, 1999**

**August 29** - Rev. Andrew Mbugo Elisa was ordained and installed as President of the ELCS. The event took place in Khartoum on the street in front of the ELCS office complex and church headquarters. The street had been closed to traffic (vehicle but not donkey) and a huge tent erected to accommodate over 300 congregants, who had arrived on foot, on bicycles, on mopeds, and chartered buses. They represented eight congregations that had become part of the official ELCS church body.

Service participants included members of the World Mission staff, Rev. Dr. Allan Buckman (preacher) and Rev. Ken Greinke. LHF Vice President for Africa, the Rev. Dr. Anssi Simojoki, served as ordinator, Rev. Dr. Robert Rahn (Liturgist), Rev. Dr. Timothy Quill (Reader), Rev. Dr. David Adam (Reader), Rev. Japhet Dachi (Representing Ev. Lutheran Church of Kenya), and Rev. Edward Nzeme (ELCS General Secretary). Participating also were several choirs from the congregations providing African songs in a manner that still rings in one's ears; the clear crisp voice of a soloist can still be heard.

This historic six hour service was conducted in three

languages-- English, Arabic, and Zande. Following the service a typical full African meal was served that had been cooked the previous day, including a goat that was butchered on site. The rice and goat meat with gravy was served on three foot trays that were set in the midst of some six to eight people, who used the traditional African finger style to consume the food. Visiting dignitaries were ushered into the mission complex and provided with plates and eating utensils. Africans think of everything.



After the meal special music was played on home made drums and violin-like instruments. With this music as a background, an African dance began with dancers surrounding all dignitaries and involving them in the celebratory dancing. When darkness began to set in around 9 P.M. the long day of celebration that had begun at 11:00 a.m. had come to an end.

We became friends with the man who served as the Arabic translator and on an ensuing visit I asked of his whereabouts and was informed he was no longer in Khartoum, he had to move to Cairo, Andrew explained, because of persecution. His children were removed from school and he lost his job. My response was a lament- that's too bad! Andrew said it wasn't all bad because he had already started a secret Lutheran house church in Cairo.

**August 30-** Members of the ELCS Church Council in their specially called meeting asked LHF if we would help start a seminary for the church and our immediate response was that we could help and that we would even suggest a name- the Concordia Lutheran Institute for the Holy Ministry. It was a lengthy name but there would be no question as to the purpose of the school- to train pastors.

A short time later Andrew again approached the WM and asked if they could help with leadership training as the

seminary was operating with two tracks. One was a track for training pastors and the other track was for training church leaders. The LHF ended up providing the funds for both tracks as the leadership training track also trained people to be translators.

Thus ended a very historic weekend for the ELCS. It included the ordination of Andrew, the installation as Bishop, the opening of a seminary and later the program of leadership training.

**August 31-** Andrew wrote a letter to the then President of the LCMS, Dr. A. L. Barry- “as pastor, president, and founder of the ELCS, my church body is herewith requesting to enter fellowship with you.” He explained, “The ELCS was organized on its own initiative and received significant early help from the LHF. The late Dr. Robert Preus, the Rev. Dr. Robert Rahn and the Rev. Dr. Anssi Simojoki were instrumental in helping to shape the confessional Lutheran position of the ELCS. In more recent times, the LCMS Board for Missions also provided help.”

## 2000

*(LHF Budget \$128,720)*

**January 26-** LCMS World Mission provides \$27,500 for a portion of the five years of rent on the ELCS Mission Center in Khartoum.

**February 9** Rev. Andrew Elisa wrote, “Since the beginning of this millennium, it has been my daily prayer that the year 2000 should be more special making ELCS to receive God’s blessings in abundance. And this for sure will happen with your prayers, full support, and commitment to assist the ongoing development efforts. I am exerting in Sudan at this critical moment to preach Christ to those who have lost hope. My fears, worries, and troubles are always waved away when I read God’s Word. His unfailing promise to those who trust in Him, and knowing that you are a true brother in Christ who prays for this church day and night, making all possible efforts to assist me to accomplish God’s will in Sudan.”

Along with the above letter he sent a document outlining why the ELCS decided to establish the Concordia Lutheran

Institute for the Holy Ministry, along with a copy of a proposed curriculum for the CLIHM. It has a track for deaconesses, evangelists, deacons, business, and pastors. Prof. Tim Quill was mentioned as one providing assistance in developing the curriculum. Andrew discussed the opening of the seminary with the Director of Church Affairs in the Ministry of Social Planning, who has given his approval. Andrew says, “This letter shall help create a file for CLI to be recognized as one of the higher institutions in Sudan. As things stand now, we hope to open CLI officially on April 17, 2000.

**June 5-** *Luther’s Small Catechism* is published in the Arabic language of Sudan (10,000 copies). Andrew reported on a request that came from Bodosh with a population of 300,000 in the Northern region. He received word that no church had ever visited the town and the Chief of Bodosh requested Lutheran services start there.



**July 13** -Tom Blackwell, John Hatteberg, Dr. Scott Murray, and Rev. Rahn arrived in Khartoum, Sudan, the headquarters in the early years for the ELCS. This was to be a working visit, with Dr. Murray serving as a seminary instructor and the rest of us serving as painters. The goal was to paint both the inside and outside of the very large ELCS headquarters. The following report was filed in my trip journal:

“It has been a great day so far. Started with ‘opening ceremonies’ only like the ELCS can do it. It is most humbling and cuts away all the nonsense we had to put up with in getting visas and making the plans and to experience their joy in having people from America interested in helping. Rev. Rahn told them the LHF philosophy may be best summarized in two parts—‘we don’t know what we are doing and where we are going,’ and then had them turn to Psalm 27:14 and

2 Chronicles 15:7. We reminded them that the Lord knows, and that is what is most important as they begin their journey to start the Concordia Lutheran Institute for the Holy Ministry. **Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the Lord.” Psalm 27:14 “Be ye strong, therefore, and let now your hands be weak, for your work will be rewarded.” 2 Chronicles 15:7**

Scott started his lectures and we toured the building to map out our strategy. We decided not to invest too much, as it was not going to be a permanent location. Already at this time there were thoughts of eventually moving to the south. We would have to receive permission from the landlord for any major changes. We decided to finish one room as a library and do the painting while we were there. The upstairs balcony would be enclosed with bamboo to serve as a classroom. A second balcony area would be enclosed for another classroom, leaving the roof area to be available if needed.

We estimated the paint quantities and colors, and someone went off to the shop to make the purchase. They returned with seven five-gallon cans of paint. Some scaffolding was erected (have you ever seen that done by a bunch of seminarians?). They did eventually get it assembled and the lower patio area was tackled. All the bamboo was taken off the roof and replaced. This is the area where the church services are held. The next interesting sight was to see the only man who claimed to be a painter take a five-gallon pail up 30 feet of scaffolding, the pail being handed up level to level, and go to work.

Rev. Rahn brought a paint roller and pan and this was a new phenomenon to this crew. The painter took the roller and plunged it into the five-gallon pail and began rolling with paint flying in all directions. We had put down some plastic to protect the floor, which still had gobs from the last painting done. There were about 20 guys giving instructions until we got brushes into their hands and put them to work.

On Sunday Rev. Rahn was to preach at several refugee camp services that surround Khartoum. A problem developed Sunday morning in getting an appropriate stamp in the passport that allowed visiting the refugee location. The process was changed, a regular occurrence, and it now required visiting four offices. Laymen were dispatched early Sunday morning (regular work day in a Muslim community) to obtain the passes. We waited for them to return. When they finally came at 11 a.m., Andrew had left because the service was to have started at that time. We went back to the guest house disappointed, and had our own service for the four of us rather than the 200 who gathered for Andrew’s substitute preaching.

I thought I misunderstood that there were 170 candidates for baptism at the camp services. It would have been more had the weather cooperated and had Andrew gotten to the several locations. He baptized 64 in one place, and when it rained, the gumbo wouldn’t allow traveling to a place where 90 were waiting. Twenty more waiting at a third location went home when Andrew didn’t arrive long after the designated time, and there was no way to summon their return.



Can you envision someone walking 23 miles to be baptized, or members of the congregation walking seven miles to fetch the closest water for the baptisms? How many would volunteer for Altar Guild duty if that were the normal practice? Not a problem for the Sudanese.

**July 17-** Work continued on the headquarters with the report given that shelving had been purchased for the library that will be constructed and put in place on Thursday.

**July 18-** The painting work usually started slow in the morning and picked up in the afternoon when we got a flurry of activity, as the students are released from class at 12:30 p.m. and many of them got to the painting. Today we had to do a major revision in our work, as there is something under the old paint that causes peeling when it is dampened by the new coat of paint. All of it had to be wetted down and peeled off before the new coat of paint was applied.





When we got back to the guest house around 6 p.m., the thermometer read 101. The electricity, as was common, went out and we moved a table outside for a “candlelight dinner.” Every day in Khartoum there was a period of blackouts and the generator kicked in. Would that such a mechanism were available to us as a church when the darkness of sin crowds out the light. In reality there is such a generator available and our problem is getting people plugged in so that the Light can enter. I wrote to one of our workers along these lines in another country where he was experiencing difficulties with his church body, “I know these are dark days for you, and I would encourage you to stay connected with the Word that generates light and power. There seems to have been a complete severing of the power source for key individuals, and this is damaging the church. It seems the plug has been inserted into the wrong power source and sin is being generated. JESUS NEVER FAILS is more than a slogan on a bookmark. There is no blackout possible with him. In the darkest hour he is still able to be our source of power and light. Hopefully you can dispense some of this power in the right places through the energized Word of our Lord.”



**2001**

*(LHF Budget \$178,845)*

**February 19-** On the way to Sudan on a circuitous route because of airline snafus. We arrived two hours early at the Nairobi Airport and were told we had no reservations and the flight was overbooked by 18 passengers. Our question

was, “How can this be? We not only have reservations but we have seat assignments?” I had never experienced activities demonstrated by irate Kenyans. They jumped the counter, and engaged the agents, and even filed into offices making demands. We watched with interest. The head ticket agent tried to calm everyone down and had a solution. We could fly to Muscat, which we discovered was in Oman. Our suitcases were at international arrival and the flight was soon to depart. I told Mrs. Simojoki to wait at the counter for the boarding passes and I would run to the baggage area. I gave the attendant the baggage stubs. He disappeared and the flight was leaving. I left the luggage area, ran to the departure area with the ticket agent running with us past customs and security. Naturally the plane was the farthest one away on tarmac. No jetways to the plane here. Gave the steward our boarding pass and requested first class because of the run around. Directed to the coach area, but he kept our stubs. There were six of us trying to get to Khartoum, all strangers. We were told a plane would leave at 7 a.m. for Khartoum. All was well until we got to Muscat. We were now on our way to Khartoum and had no luggage tags, no tickets, not even stubs saying we were on the plane. They tried to figure out what to do with me especially and finally with some vouching from the others I got passage. They gave us a “pink slip” we could use to pick up tickets in the morning. There was no plane at 7 a.m. but one at 11 a.m. They did give us lodging at a Holiday Inn, arriving at 2 a.m.

We discovered the flight from Muscat would go to Khartoum via Dubai, a six hour flight arriving well after the service we were planning to attend. We did manage to get our tickets but not in simple fashion. Lots of “just go over there and be seated, wait over there, just wait and be patient.” Of course, by this time all of that was ignored and we maintained an “in your face” style of waiting. We were not going to be denied. By this time the six of us had developed a pretty good camaraderie, with a lot of imitating of the agents.

Muscat was impressive and could be called “the oil city.” I have never been on a road such as the one from the airport to the hotel. There were mile after mile of beautifully manicured boulevards and ditches. All the stucco homes and businesses were elegantly painted, looking like a page out of a fairy tale. They were pleased that the price of oil had recently doubled. This was not too far from Baghdad, which came up in the news while we were traveling. My fellow traveler and guest seminary instructor, Rev. Andy Simcak, was amazed at the hoops we went through to get to Khartoum where a big delegation was waiting for us. This was the occasion when I was introduced no longer as the “father of Sudan Lutheranism, but the grandfather.” They learned of the birth of our first grandchild, Mackenzie.

Just before leaving on this trip a phone call was received from Dr. Glen O’Shoney, World Mission Executive Director, requesting a meeting. The underlying hidden agenda seemed to be the LHF RSO status. A number of issues were listed and the Benjamin name was mentioned. It seems they did not approve of us taking Rev. Benjamin on staff. I wrote a message to him before boarding the plane informing him as to how disappointed I was with the phone call and leaving with this burden. I suggested he prepare an agenda so that we would be ready to address all concerns. There was an attempt to block Benjamin’s installation until matters were resolved.

This was the time when a new term surfaced in connection with our work. It’s another one of those “t” words. Recently the “t” word becoming more and more prominent is the word “tolerance.” For the World Mission at this time it was the word “transparency.” The point of the entire scenario was that LHF delayed calling Benjamin until all matters had become “transparent.” This was a case where an LCMS pastor was sent as a missionary and became frustrated with the direction being taken and resigned, but stayed in the country to do mission work. It wasn’t the last time this very same action was taken by a missionary who was clergy trained.

**February 22** - Container shipped to Khartoum, Sudan, 220 boxes (80 books & 140 clothing) weighing 15,000 pounds.

**May 1** Suzanne Zobel, Rev. Tom Petersen and Rev. Rahn attended a meeting of the Executive Committee of the ELCS in Khartoum. Each member gave a report. The thank you’s to the LHF became a little overwhelming and almost embarrassing. I spoke to them on the theme: THE WORD WORKS, LET IT WORK IN YOUR WORK, the same theme that was used when I spoke to the Fort Wayne graduates one year earlier. I told them all the accolades belong to the Lord and not to us. Their reports only indicated that the Word works and it would be our prayer that the people who support LHF would believe this and continue to support the LHF, so we in turn could continue our active involvement in their mission. Suzanne spoke to the women, and it was noted she was the first woman to officially visit the ELCS. Her reception was a little overwhelming, with remarks from Rev. Andrew and the Women’s Program Chairman.

We were given a tour of the complex and found many changes from our last visit. A kitchen upstairs had become an office. A small room downstairs had a cooler with Pepsi. The cooler is provided free by Pepsi if their products are sold. They expanded the clinic and are hoping the government will provide funds for a six-bed hospital, where patients can

be held for 12 hours to see if their health requires transfer to the main hospital. The worship area was also altered with the bamboo roof raised about three feet and ceiling fans installed. They also have their own sound system and have bought their own large video camera. They previously had to pay \$60 for two hour sessions and now they hire out at the same rate. They sold the motorized rickshaws and now have a 20-passenger bus that “runs the streets” and provides fares of some \$25 per day. There has been a proliferation of new city buses and they are afraid it will affect their income. An annex building that was nothing more than a junk room has been turned into the Youth Department. They have purchased a welder, and instead of paying \$10 per six foot bench, they make them themselves and provide them for new congregations.



**May 2-** We just had dinner with Dr. Costa Jarvas and Mr. Joseph Ukel. The doctor was with us when we visited the government Office of Peace earlier today. Dr. Jarvas wanted us to have direct access to the other side’s report. Mr. Ukel has been with the Sudan People’s Liberation Army as a leader and has spent 11 months in jail, has had his passport removed, and travel restricted. He is being watched by government people, as he is an outspoken supporter of the SPLA and does not support a cease fire in the south until their demands have been addressed. He calls the Muslim-based government a minority and leaders not true Sudanese. Until the majority is convinced that Danforth’s suggestion for sharing the wealth of the oil and the south having true input in the government, there will be no full cease fire. The Muslims will only use it to build up their power and force. They have had this happen before and been shafted by the government. The government has offered minor posts to southerners in the government, but they are marginalized and forbidden to speak openly.

He feels that Danforth has made the right step and is looking for the monitors to keep the initiative, but talks have to address their main issues, recognizing their natural right

as true Sudanese and the country's majority population of 69%, and that there be assurance of sharing the power and sharing the wealth. The SPLA seems to have most of the south covered, even though the government forces control the towns, the largest of which has a population of 5,000. Danforth met with this man and his leaders when he was here.

Both of the above-mentioned men are Christians and more "transparent" than the government operatives. Mr. Ukel warned us as Americans that our great minority rights and freedom of religion have helped us in the Cold War, but the growing Muslim population is going to heat things up if their usual pattern of operation holds. He listed all the places where they lay low until they have the power. (An interesting synopsis prior to the recent division of the country)

**May 15** – Report to LHF Board on Trip to Sudan April 29-May 8: "I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who remains in Me and I in Him is the one who bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." ON THE OTHER HAND...WITH ME YOU CAN DO SOMETHING!! returned from the Sudan vineyard with awe and humility, for I saw the hand of God enabling fruit to be produced in some of the most barren places on the face of the earth. Only God could provide the increase, only God could do something here, and He has done it. With Him, it has been proven, we could do something. Had you been there, your conviction would have been to do more. This report can only convey a small tinge of the overwhelming, enthusiastic joy I felt being with these displaced people. It is hard to put into words the tremendous and overwhelming feeling of awe that surrounded the many events in Sudan. I don't believe any synod president, district president or mission official has ever participated in events that filled our four consecutive days. To report that I participated in five services during those four days would not be that significant, as I recently had a Sunday in the United States with five services. The unique ingredient was that three of the services were church dedications, two involved the baptisms of some 60 people, and one also included the first anniversary observance for the CLIHM. No service was less than three hours, and Sunday's worship went for seven hours.

#### *Abu Hajar*

Abu Hajar is in the Sennar State of Sudan. We drove for five hours to get to this church site. The first 40 miles were smooth, and the next 80 were a real test even for a 4WD Toyota. We stopped along the way for our potluck breakfast using one of the bamboo shelters in a roadside market area.

It was evident that even animals sought shelter here from the 100 plus degree heat. When we arrived in Abu Hajar, our first stop was at the police station to report our presence. There was no marking on the hut to indicate it was a police station, and the officer had no uniform to indicate he was such. We proceeded to an area where there were grass thatched huts. In the midst of these huts stood a straw thatched church with a congregation gathered, giving us a welcome in song. There were handshakes all around with many children and women making up the group. We were told the men had left to travel many miles, as they do twice a year, to help on Arabic-owned farms. They stay several months and then return. It is their only income for the year. A tent was erected in front of the church to accommodate the congregation, since the church had already been outgrown before it was completed. The sermon, preached and translated into Arabic and Dinka, was on Matthew:7, the house built on the rock and the one built on the sand. The baptism of adults and children followed the sermon. There is no school of any kind in this village, so many are totally illiterate.

#### *Singia*

We were greeted again by a delegation literally running ahead of us, after obtaining permission to be there. This was scheduled as a dedication service. The structure was "knit straw" from top to bottom. Again a tent was erected to accommodate the crowd. Think about this in terms of a mid-week special service and yet some 150 people showed up. I cut the ribbon to enter and then moved to the altar and pulpit for a special blessing. I preached on Solomon's temple dedication prayer in Chronicles. Here we had 11 baptisms. Andrew distributed little lapel pins with the fish inside the cross, and I was wearing a wood model and had extra with me. I hung one on the front side of the altar and explained the symbol the early Christians used and taught them the Greek word "ICHTHUS," containing the first Greek letters of the words: JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD, SAVIOR.

In this place, as well as in the previous, I'm sure many from the village came out of curiosity. Not too many white people had ever been in the village. The children were a little surprised to see me open a bottle of Pepsi on the rim of the tire when an opener wasn't available. I pointed to the cross that was painted on the wall behind the altar. I alluded to the fact that the message of the cross was for all – those gathered in the church, those under the tent, those peering in the door and windows, and for the entire camp. Here Jesus will be preached, and this message is needed because of our sin and His victory over it, giving us hope in every situation.

After the service we made the usual greetings, and I

mentioned to the group that I was going to pay Andrew a “left-handed compliment.” I told them Andrew was the most successful mistake maker when it came to building churches. I alluded to the fact that we visited two churches and both of them are too small before they are opened. They understood and were amused.

### *Mandela*

Mandela is located about one half hour from the ELCS/LHF Center in Khartoum. When we left the main road, we drove nearly 15 minutes to the church site. All this time we were driving through the middle of the camp of those displaced from the south. We saw huts made of mud and straw, some made with discarded grain sacks, and some out of simple cardboard. We saw only one other car, but hundreds of donkeys with carts, each carrying a large barrel. They were carrying water, buying it from a water station and then selling it to consumers, who pay approximately \$1.25 per day for water. When income is only \$70 per month, one has to reduce consumption. No electricity, no water. Such is “camp life.”

As we drove through the camp on a trail barely wide enough for the 4WD, people stood in amazement and then began to wave. Children in some cases were not clothed and they lived in an endless dirt environment. Whether playing soccer or sitting on the sidelines, it was always in the dirt. There were so many huts it was impossible even for Andrew to find the church until a man with a Bible came running to direct us. The usual singing welcomed us. The choirs were already singing and marching around the church, and the leaders were waiting at the door of the church. We were ushered to the “sacristy,” an adjoining little hut where we could robe for the service. A tent was again set up next to the church to accommodate the crowd. We joined in the procession around the church and then cut the ribbon and performed the dedication rite. In six months this structure will also be too small. The structure is probably what we would term the \$3,500 model.



The service lasted for 3½ hours with lots of singing by both the youth and adult choirs. The longer the service lasted, the more children there were standing at the windows watching and adults stood at the perimeter studying the proceedings. We were whisked away after the service because we had “overextended our stay.” As Andrew was leaving the Khartoum office, he received a phone call saying that we would need a permit to visit the camp. Andrew told the official it was too late as we were on the way. We were to be out of the camp by six, and Andrew was asked to meet with the official about our infraction.

Water is the great need. The digging of a well was the topic of discussion with the president of the Khartoum State, whom we met several times during the trip. The president offered assistance if we could enter a joint venture. Perhaps LCMS World Relief would join such a venture.

### *Khartoum*

Seven hours!! That was the length for the Sunday service, the first anniversary observance of CLIHM, that took place once again under a big tent outside the ELCS/LHF complex with over 400 in attendance. The service also included the confirmation of six adults and 36 baptisms, including Andrew’s son, Elisa. I preached on the Epistle of the day, 1 Peter 3:20, on the theme “Brought Safely Through.” There is obvious evidence that the Spirit of God captures you in these circumstances because it wasn’t what I planned to preach, certainly not what I had on my notes. I started in the Old Testament to show how the children of Israel were brought safely through the Red Sea, and the Jordan, how Jonah was brought safely through, and how eight were brought safely through the flood. I then talked about the problems they faced and how we have all failed, and how God through Jesus was able to bring us safely through.

I then told them we were even going to see in the service how God brings us safely through by baptism. I ended on the note as to how God brought us safely through, when in the fullness of time He sent His one and only Son. The length of the service, of course, was impacted by the fact that some of it was in three languages and the sermon in two. There was also the special music by choirs from three different congregations, the seminary choir and a Sunday school choir.

The LHF provided catechisms for a special English language school that was conducted in Khartoum on three different levels. The upper level required reading from the catechism, and as a result, a number of Muslims were converted. We

brought 75 copies on one occasion, which resulted in a \$200 overweight charge in Nairobi. In Detroit, the agent at the ticket counter honored our humanitarian aid plea and waived any added charges.

### *Rimela*

It was a Monday afternoon when we made another journey into a displacement camp. It was another one of those areas of basic huts. These were a little more pretentious than the ones of straw, canvas, and mud brick. These were also of mud brick but the construction was more advanced. We drove for a good half-hour after entering the area with these huts. One really can't describe the endless number of walled dwellings. There were buses available to assist in the transport of people.

The church we dedicated here was one of the more advanced models. It still needed the zinc roof to put it in that category. I spoke on three texts for this dedication service. Using 2 Chronicles 6:18, and adding John 1:14 and Galatians 4:4, the theme was "WILL GOD DWELL WITH US?" All those passages are "dwell" passages. Solomon said, "The heavens of heaven cannot contain God, much less this building I have built." If Solomon said that about his glitzy, gold temple, it is surely true of this building. We, however, can have the assurance of Him dwelling with us. They happened to have a picture in front of the church showing all the items we usually connect with Lent and the crucifixion. Under the cross was a snake and a human skull and I told them: "He has put everything under His feet." That's why we know he dwells with us through His suffering, death, and resurrection.

I told them the story of the adopted boy, who only had torn and tattered clothes, shoes that were only remnants of leather. The father gave him all new clothes and new shoes, but he took the old shoes and placed them on the mantle. Whenever the boy did something wrong, he was ushered to the mantle and reminded, "This is who you were, and this is who you are now." I told them this is not a picture of our heavenly Father and how He deals with us. Sins are removed as far as the east is from the west – red like crimson, white as wool. He truly dwells with us.

After the service there were the usual speeches. I began to disrobe in the chancel as I explained to them that I was wearing vestments of a former St. John, Fraser, Michigan, pastor, and I had been given the vestments to distribute. As I removed my vestments one by one, I mentioned how the late Rev. Walter Rutkowsky had finished his work and was now in heaven, and that his daughter (Lois Brenner) wanted

his vestments to have continued use. I placed them on the altar and told Andrew they were for the first men to enter the ministry of the ELCS.

I called this the "deluxe model church." There are three styles of construction. One is just a straw roof set on posts, another is a straw roof with sides enclosed with straw, and the one here in Rimela. The roof is bamboo, then a layer of grain sacks, then the mud and straw covering. The floor is dirt, but the raised chancel area has a soft red sand. The interior walls are finished with a "fine covering of mud mixed with fine cut grass and donkey dung mixed in." We were told you could buy donkey dung for \$10-\$15 per large sack. Eventually this church became more deluxe with a zinc roof. Several years later as the persecution of Christians continued in the north, this church was bulldozed "because a road was going to be built and the church was in the way." There were no cars present and there didn't seem to be any need for some kind of highway just for donkey carts. Nevertheless it was demolished by the local Muslim government.



I wrote in my report that this represented worship on that side of the world. You'll soon be rising to make your way to worship, but there will be many others who won't find the way because they have lost appreciation for what it is all about, and have become comfortable in their own little huts and haunts that have no space for Jesus to crowd in. There they have nothing. Why can't we give them hope in Christ? We need help to give hope. Let it be our plea to the LHF board and to our family of donors.

### *ELCS Council Meeting*

Members of the council reported on the state of the church. By the end of the year, the ELCS hopes to achieve their goal of opening ten new congregations. In the first quarter alone 258 people were baptized and 400 received into membership. Andrew said, "The seed has been planted, and we look to LHF to provide the water. We can plant the seed, but we can't

do it ourselves. If we can do the work, we will be able to add 5,000 to the church, but we may not be able to get to them because of the great time demand. I should be in the field. I should be in the office. I'm trying to balance it. Training manpower is the key and our hope is in the seminary."

At the end of the visit, Rev. Tom Petersen was conscripted to teach 22 evangelists that had arrived for a week's training. Their work is having a great impact and has resulted in two new congregations opening.

Yes, we are still in the translation, publishing, distribution mode. In the middle of May a binding machine is being delivered so that LHF will have a complete publishing center to go with the Rizzograph that was provided earlier. The problem encountered is that printers fear doing any print job for Christians. With our own press, the following four books will be printed:

Zande hymnals (3,000), Arabic *Prayerbooks* (3,000), Arabic *Good News*

*About Jesus* (5,000) and Zande catechisms (3,000).

**November 23** – The schedule which had been prepared called for a two-hour tenth anniversary worship celebration of the ELCS. I commented that I had never been involved in that short of a service in Sudan, and that it would probably be more like five hours. We gathered under a makeshift covering of a large mango tree and palm branches that had been placed over poles, mostly for protection from the sun. My sermon contributed to the five-hour service length. It was translated into Zande and came from Nehemiah's wall building episode. I made the points that Nehemiah's project was

1. Begun in a posture of penitence and prayer
2. Continued with some practical preparations and
3. Completed through patient persistence.

I won't record the entire sermon, but I can tell you that there were 500 worshiping souls listening attentively. The service also included 18 baptisms and 20 confirmations, along with many choral numbers from four different choirs.

Bishop Andrew started to give his greetings at the end of the service. It began lightening and thundering, so we moved to the church that only held 200. A driving rain began and people were forced to crowd into one side of the church that had no windows and a short overhang. We waited for half

an hour, and Andrew announced that festivities would be reserved until the next Sunday when an ordination of pastors was scheduled.

**November 24** – This was the day of dedication for the newly-constructed guest house funded through a special gift from Rev. Arthur & Olga Senn, Port Washington, Wisconsin. They had sold their lake home and demonstrated their love for the work in Sudan by making the building possible.



The guest house has five dormitory rooms, a kitchen, dining room, living room, and 1½ non-operating baths. Four "booths" were built nearby, a shower area and a toilet area for men and women. A shower meant dipping water heated in a barrel into a large pan, carrying it into the "booth" and using a cup for pouring. Surprising how good it felt after a day like Sunday when the clerical shirt had white rings of salt from sweat. But, "no sweat," there is washing every day and an ironing table was always functioning. How to heat the iron where there is no electricity? Simply fill the box on the top of the iron with live coals to generate heat.

The ceremony of dedication involved a ribbon cutting by Rev. Andrew and the president of the local congregation and then the reading of Scriptures. A plaque had been prepared and the inscription was read. There was a brief ceremony for each room and I made the comment that there should be a cross over the kitchen serving window as a reminder of the fact that there are greater spiritual foods served for the soul. As soon as I made the statement, a lady came forward with a cross and the architect immediately put it in place, a rather dynamic, unplanned moment and testing of one's composure.

**November 25** – This was another day of endurance as we were special guests at a military ceremony marking the 13th anniversary of the freeing of Yambio from the North. It was also to commemorate the time many left the area and went North to escape fighting all around. The Sudanese People's

Liberation Army had their army, a rather scrawny, ill-clothed regiment of men and women parading the grounds. What was significantly strange was one of the soldiers leading the parade was carrying a cross. Quite a contrast! This “nothing to look at” army succeeded against all the forces unleashed by an army from the North in shiny uniforms with all their planes and bombs, but this SPLA volunteer army had the determination and will to win. The SPLA drove the leaders of the north to the peace table at a great price. This town showed why this army was sustained.

**November 27** – America’s National Day of Thanksgiving was celebrated in Sudan with goat featured as the main dish. I found myself involved by appointment in a custom common to Sudan: a hunting expedition. A large net was set up and people began to drive a goat into the net. When it was entangled in the net, it was the duty of the “spearman” to spear the goat. That designation was given to me and there was “no right of refusal.” I’m sure many in America would see it as cruelty to animals, while Sudanese see it as giving the goat the right to escape.

**November 28** – Functions and services can seemingly be held on any day of the week and on this Friday we were in the “village” of Saura, kind of in the middle of the jungle. We were here to dedicate the Lutheran church that had been built by members of Royal Redeemer Lutheran Church, North Royalton, Ohio. The biggest challenge of the day was to get to the location. We like to complain about pot holes in our roads, but on this route we encountered mini lakes and steep banks that had to be traversed. At one point a truck got stuck, and it took many members pushing and shoving to release it so that its cargo of church benches could be delivered for the dedication.



**November 29** – On this Saturday we all journeyed the six miles to the “village” of Baguga, which Andrew had designated as the headquarters for the ELCS. The ceremony was to dedicate the cornerstones of two major buildings

planned for the site: a headquarters building and a cathedral. Rev. Dan Preus dedicated the church cornerstone that looked more like a podium on which an inscription was printed. A similar podium had been built for the headquarters building. Andrew’s vision had the area growing to such an extent that the two villages on either side of Baguga, some six miles away, would merge and Baguga become the main center. With his death in 2008, it now appears that the headquarters will possibly be in Yambio.



**November 30** – The day of ordination for Rev. Nicholas, Rev. Wilson, and Rev. Elinama with participation by Revs. Simojoki, Elisa, Dachi, Arkkila, Asaph, Preus, Suzanne Zobel and me. Rev. Preus preached the sermon for the event. Mary Biba, a Roman Catholic lady, spoke for the community. She headed up a program of feeding the SPLA Army and spoke of physical and spiritual development. When I spoke, I utilized her “development” concept that in our country means fundraising to keep missions moving forward. “We have been here and have seen your needs, and I reflect on what we have been talking about before we came – development. We want to stand with you, but there are those who would prefer to decrease development. In a few weeks our board will make a decision about the work here. Rev. Preus is an executive member of the board.



“I will be here in June on a development project as we begin to build the headquarters for the ELCS, and I pledge to you that the LHF, as it did in 1999, will stand with you. In the Khartoum meeting on July 28 you heard a ‘no’ to your request for seminary development. On July 30 you asked for another meeting and you heard a ‘yes,’ although it wasn’t our main focus, to develop the Concordia Lutheran Institute for the Holy Ministry. We are committed to standing with you so that you can develop your country and the ELCS.” Suzanne was ecstatic about the speech and wished it could have been recorded. Simojoki labeled my speech as a war cry, a very bold message. Rev. Preus mentioned that people were apprehensive and reluctant to come to Sudan, and he was also. But being here I can see the church in all its glory and joy. The joy on your faces will be remembered.”



## 2004

*(LHF budget \$256,240)*

**May 12** – Rev. Andrew Mbugo Elisa estimated the cost of four-story mission center to be built on a Baguga site. Andrew was informed that the cost was excessive and needed to be reduced.

**July 27** – Notice was received that the voters of St. John Lutheran Church Rich Valley, Rosemount, Minnesota, approved a grant to build the Rich Valley Lutheran Mission Center for the ELCS.

**August 17** – Rev. Elisa wrote, “Your message indicating that LHF would make available a grant for the construction of the ELCS Mission Center has been accepted and acknowledged with great thanks and appreciation. Upon receiving your message, I immediately notified the engineer with the figure, as he is arranging to produce the bill of quantity for the whole work.”

**October 1** – Rev. Elisa traveled to South Africa and arranged the purchase of a brick-making machine with help from LHF and LCMS World Relief and Human Care. He was also able to purchase sawmill equipment, tools to set up a workshop building that would feature brick making, sawmill, welder, and mechanical operations. The foundation for the building was laid, but because of his sudden death it remains unfinished.

## 2005

*(LHF Budget \$174,399)*

**January 2 - February 7** – Andrew arrived in Detroit and began a month-long tour of presentations and visits, including stops in Elgin, Chicago, Cleveland, Westlake, Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne, Dearborn, Fraser, Frankenmuth,



Oviedo, St. Louis, Springfield, Chesterfield, and Macomb.

The trip to Pittsburgh was for the purpose of meeting with Rev. Jamison Hardy and the Concordia Lutheran Ministries Board, where we were able to share the history of the ELCS and present some of the church needs. An end result of this meeting was the willingness of the Concordia Lutheran Ministries to provide a grant to ELCS for the purchase of medical vans. In discussing this with Rev. Jamison Hardy, we indicated that this would not be regarded in the general mission scope of the LHF, with the conclusion that we should



direct the funds to be sent to the LCMS World Relief/Human Care designated for that purpose.

This activity established a relationship between Concordia Lutheran Ministries and LCMS World Relief and Human Care by which the ELCS benefited, and also the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya and its work with orphanages. Because LHF had the special permit to send funds into Sudan from the U.S. Treasury Department, we became the conduit for the disbursement of funds without charge to other entities. Two medical vans found their way to Sudan and were highly utilized for several years, but medical supplies became scarce. One of the vans became a bus for transporting goods and people, with some benefit to the church treasury.

**January 9** – A contract was signed for the construction of the Rich Valley Lutheran Mission Center with Adventis Limited Architects and Interior Designers, Nairobi, Kenya.

**February 18** – After visiting with Rev. Matthew Harrison (at that time heading up the LCMS World Relief and Human Care), Rev. Elisa wrote, “Allow me to repeat once again my words of thanks for the nice visit and meeting that took place in your office a week ago. It gave me great encouragement as I discovered your eagerness to assist ELCS in her struggle to serve God’s people in the Sudan, while concentrating on preaching the precious Word that announces the grace of God to all the people and the forgiveness of their sins. I remain praying and waiting to release what God has planned to be accomplished for ELCS through the Human Care Department and your good self.”



**February 25** – A historic event took place with the movement of a shipping container from Nairobi to Baguga, Sudan, after

six months of bureaucratic buffoonery. Had all the charges been applied as were requested for custom clearing and dock storage, the cost would have been \$50,000. At one point, in frustration, the suggestion was made that the container be taken into the ocean and dropped. We were told there would still be tariff charges. The lessons learned made it clear that we were definitely out of the container shipping business. Our next shipment was made through Orphan Grain Train, and they, too, encountered untold problems dealing with graft, greed, and corruption. Perhaps with the new country of South Sudan there will be some improvement in this shipping saga.



**March 10** – The ordination of Alison Zebedayo Zebe was announced by Rev. Elisa, bringing the total to five pastors who are ordained and serving the ELCS. He graduated from Matongo Lutheran College in Kenya and was ordained in Juba, Sudan.

**March 14** – Rev. Elisa expressed appreciation to LHF for sending Ms. Suzanne Zobel to teach the catechism during several sessions over a two week period.

**April 21** – First request sent to President Gerald Kieschnick to initiate talks for ELCS church fellowship.

**May 1** – An arrangement was made to have Dr. Kieschnick meet with the ELCS church leaders. General Secretary Rev. Japhet Dachi wrote, “We have no words to express ourselves to you and also to your office about such a wonderful happening.” Unfortunately the event never happened, and the ELCS continued its efforts to convince the LCMS that there is a desire for fellowship and partnership.

**May 8** – Once again I had the privilege to preach for yet another service in Yambio, Sudan. This time the day's Epistle Lesson was 1 Peter 4:12-19. I began with a long introduction on what is the universal question asked in every culture and time, by Christians and non-Christians alike, during time of tragedy and uncertainty, during time of joy and happiness, at the death of a child or family member, when the roof blows off a church, when the roads are rough and the way is difficult? Do you know the question? Before I ask the all-pervasive question, let me tell you there is an answer to the question in the 1 Peter text. Are you ready for the question and the theme? The theme, the question – WHY?

Why is there suffering? It is no surprise that Christians suffer. There are some things from which you can expect suffering – v.15 murder, theft, evil doers, meddlers. Suffering as a Christian happens all over the world, perhaps here in your life as well. Cast your care upon Him for He cares for you. Why? He loved you enough to send His very best – John 3:16. No painted picture of privilege, a phrase my translator had a tough time translating. At a gathering around the fire pit in the evening I told the group the word I would use to describe roads is “unbelievable.” I would use the same word in discovering that a container from America had arrived with the most unbelievable route taken and the unbelievable price that was gouged from LHF. The lesson learned was never send a container.

**May 10** – Andrew scheduled a ground breaking ceremony prior to leaving for our flight to Nairobi. The original church had become too small for the congregation and a new building was being built. Since this was another one of those surprises, and since I'm usually the “go to” man for all seasons, I was asked to do the ceremony. I had no *Agenda*, so it was done from what I could remember for such an event. I read an appropriate lesson and commented briefly on it before handing the shovel to each participant.

**May 2-11** – Harvard Schulz, LHF board member, and owner of Welf Construction Corporation, Yankton, South Dakota and I visited Baguga and participated in the first site meeting with the officials of Adventis Construction. Harvard reported that the foundation which had been laid was more than adequate for the building project. It meant that we were on solid footing as the project began. It was unfortunate that the construction firm was not on the same kind of footing. After numerous delays and court battles, the firm was dismissed from the project on March 17, 2009.

On July 26, 2008, Nilo Engineering & Consultancy

Services, Juba, Sudan, provided a Technical Site Investigation indicating that a portion of the building with the second floor cement poured showed significant signs of structural failure. It was suggested that the eastern first floor slab and beams should be demolished before any work commenced, and that the structural

design of the building should be reviewed. The granting congregation was kept informed of all activities and on November 1, 2009 the congregation suggested that the construction at the Baguga site be discontinued and that LHF would have permission to sell any materials or salvaging portions of the building and consider a one story structure.

**July 23** – Visited South Sudan with Rev. Tom Hoyt, Tomball, Texas; Mark Loessel, Macomb, Michigan; and Phil Porter, Shelby Township, Michigan. We made our visit to the Baguga site and ran into a problem with the road being blocked by a disabled truck. Water on each side of the road did not allow a vehicle to pass, so we were faced with walking a mile to our destination. At Baguga a project was underway, building a shed to protect a sawmill operation and brick-making machine. We hauled fourteen 2x4s in a 16' length to the site, which were nailed together to form a 40' roof stringer. It was difficult driving nails, as the wood was mahogany or teak. Mark and Phil assisted in the building project. Our next trip to the site had us riding bicycles from the blocked road.



We returned for the wedding ceremony of Rev. Nicholas and his bride, Flora, a very somber couple who never smiled during the ceremony. She indicated nervousness as the reason. I spoke on Eccl. 4:9-12, “A CORD OF THREE STRANDS IS NOT EASILY BROKEN.” The church was full with many peering in the windows and doors. A dinner followed for about 150 people.

**July 24** – I made the trip to Baguga on a motorcycle driven by Andrew and was dropped off for the service led by Evangelist Cephas. I preached on Ephesians 2:11-23, on barriers and gates and Christ enabling us to cross over. I used the illustration of broad jumpers trying to jump a 30 foot canyon, and each one jumping farther than the next, but all ending up falling short of the mark. So it is if we assume we can get to heaven by our own efforts. Perfection is demanded and the mark achieved by the cross of Christ. Only 30 attended the service and I told Andrew this was of great concern to me. A pastor needs to be stationed here where there is so much activity going on with the construction of a building and a school of some 500 students.

In the afternoon discussions were going on when someone mentioned termites. The kitchen crew was summoned, the termite hill attacked, and soon before us was a tray of roasted termites that we all helped to consume.

**July 26** – Andrew announced that today was “farm day.” It meant traveling out to the place where Andrew was born and now had the farm. We endured two hours of some unbelievable roads. A truck met us at the farm with 1,000 pineapple plants that I helped to plant. There were 15-20 of his relatives there to also help. Sad to say that with Andrew’s death, the pineapple, banana, peanut, mango plot is overgrown with weeds. Each pineapple could have been sold for \$1.



**July 31** – We are in Khartoum, Sudan, thanking God that visa problems were solved and we were able to fly here from Nairobi. The purpose of our trip was the ordination of six men for the ministry. The text I used was 2 Cor. 4:1-15 using

the theme “THE POSTURE OF A PASTOR.” The three concepts centered on PREPARATION, PERSEVERANCE AND PROMINANCE and RELEVANCE OF CHRIST. The ordination followed our *Agenda* until completed, and then there was bedlam as everyone tried to rush up, bestow garlands, throw candy, and give flowers. The service was again held under a tent, and some 350 people were in attendance. Following the ordination we also had a dedication of the Zande *Small Catechism*.

Andrew came to the guest house in the evening with Allyson Magaya, the Minister of Labor and another cabinet member. Magaya was on the phone most of the time, because the big event was that John Garang was missing on a helicopter trip. He had just been installed as Vice President of Sudan, second in command in the new administration. The initial reports said the helicopter had been forced to land because of bad weather. Rev. Hoyt and I headed to the airport, with him departing for Texas and me to Riga, Latvia.

**August 1** – Rev. Andrew sent the following message to LHF Mission headquarters: “The news from Khartoum is that the Vice President of the Republic of Sudan, Dr. John Garang, died on Saturday in a helicopter crash. This happened when he was returning from Uganda, using the helicopter of the Ugandan president. Soon I am going to release a statement giving details about the whole tragedy. The death of Dr. Garang has not interrupted the peace process in any way. His deputy has been named to replace him as all will continue as planned. May God rest his soul in eternal peace.

“As regarding the condition of our guests, Dr. Rahn left earlier this morning on Lufthansa on his way to Latvia. Suzanne, Anna and Dr. Simojoki are safe in the guest house. Only tonight they will go without electricity because of riots that closed most businesses in town. Our office, my house, and all the staff so far are safe. But as we receive the general information, there have been more damages and clashes between southerners and Arabs. We are staying inside to weather the storm and waiting for the problems to die down before resuming any activities or travel plans. The news which first came yesterday that his whereabouts is not known, was simply a security cover-up to make more preparations before announcing his death. The entire town of Khartoum was closed today, due to riots which have resulted in the deaths of many people.

“Since the news was announced yesterday, I have been in contact with most of the southern leaders, including the man who is expected to succeed Dr. Garang, and all have assured

us that the death of Dr. Garang does not mean the end of the peace accord.

“The death of Dr. Garang is more than a tragedy to the southern Sudanese people. We have lost a man who gave his talents, time, and energy to struggle on behalf of the people. This has created a gap that will be very difficult to fill and forget. The very good Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ, will not forget us in this critical situation, and we strongly believe that peace will continue to flourish in the Sudan.”

**December 5-8, 2005 – First Joint Sudan Consultation** It was realized that after more people and groups began to be involved in Sudan, some kind of consultation needed to take place to assimilate and organize efforts. The first joint consultation was called and sponsored by the ELCS, LHF, and LCMS World Missions. Thirty-one individuals participated in the meeting, and all signed a Memorandum of Understanding, indicating that all activities in Sudan would be coordinated through the leadership of the ELCS. A description of needs was developed, and each member agreed to promote these needs in whatever way possible. It was determined that another similar meeting be held in two years to determine progress and assess needs.



**2006**

*(LHF Budget \$357,092)*

**January 4-** Andrew arrives in Detroit on his way to Fort Wayne. Rev. Rick and Pat Nuffer provide a vehicle for his use. We do not report all of the red tape involved to arrange for his arrival. Preliminary courses had to be taken to obtain a recognized B.A., so Concordia-Mequon became involved because they had an extension in Fort Wayne.

**January 9** – First discussions take place on the need to elect a bishop for the ELCS. The reasoning was that the office of bishop would better demonstrate that there is one Lutheran church in Sudan around which all Lutherans should gather. Discussion also took place in regards to a constitution.

**February 17-** A plea is made to President Russ Sommerfeld, Nebraska District, to assist and support Andrew and the ELCS. Andrew would be invited to the NE Dist Convention.

**March 17-** President Kieschnick sent regrets at not being able to attend Andrew’s consecration as bishop, but indicated a meeting with Andrew could take place when the President is in Nairobi August 3,4. “It is my hope that we will be able to discuss together at that time how we can proceed to put in place a plan for formal doctrinal discussions, with a view toward establishing altar and pulpit fellowship,” Dr. Kieschnick wrote.

**July 16** Several major celebrations took place in Yambio. Banners were strung over the entrance of the Yambio Lutheran Church that said COMMISSIONING OF THE FIRST BISHOP OF THE ELCS. Up to this time Andrew’s title had been president, but the church requested his title be more in keeping with the African culture. The commissioning



took place in the early part of the service and there was a large delegation participating in addition to myself: Rev. Jamison Hardy, Pittsburg, PA; Rev. & Mrs. Rick Nuffer, Fort Wayne, IN; Marcelina Nuffer, Ellsworth, MI; Mr. Ron Ziegler, Rev. Don Pohlers, Rev. Randy Bell, Pacific, MO, Pres. Russ Sommerfeld, Lincoln, NE; Rev. Ken Greinke, St. Louis, MO;

Rev. Claude Houge, Nairobi, Kenya; Dr. Anssi Simojoki, Nairobi, Kenya; Bishop David Tswaidi, South Africa; Bishop Asiago, Kenya; Bishop Onderi, Kenya; Bishop Janis Vanags, Latvia; Rev. Asaph Kazahgunzi, Uganda; Matti Reinikka and guests, Mr. & Mrs. Milton Scott and Glen Ziegler.

Bishop Tswaidi gave a short address prior to the commissioning with Vanags, Onderi, and Asiago assisting me in the rite. Russ Sommerfeld presented a pectoral cross. Nuffer presented the bishop's ring. Anssi and I placed the chasuble, and the president of the congregation presented the shepherd's staff. As Andrew was presented to the congregation, there was much celebrating, flower petals thrown, and the usual leis bestowed.

This was then followed by the sermon. I preached on 1 Cor. 2:2-5 with the theme, "The Prevailing Proper Posture of a Pastor." After the message Andrew conducted the ordination rite for Moriano Joseph Bamuka and Joesph Otto Ottoniano, with assistance from Vanags and Tswaidi. Other pastors joined in for the laying on of hands and prayer. Summerfeld and I presented the pectoral crosses, and Andrew placed the stole, and finally other gifts were given.

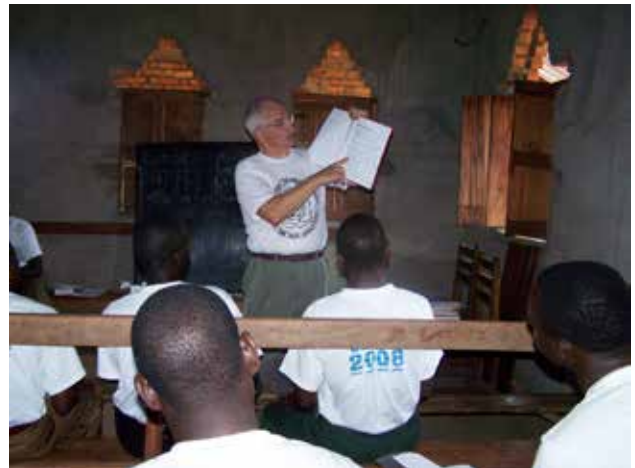
This was then followed by the commissioning of the five deaconesses and two deacons. The special deaconess patch was introduced and consecrated along with the patch for youth that Pat Nuffer provided. Pat was included with the group commissioned, having just graduated from the deaconess program at Fort Wayne.



**July 17** Because of a heavy rainfall during the night and roads being impassable for a bus, individuals who had not been to Baguga were taken by 4-WD over the hazardous roads. We visited the construction site for the Rich Valley Lutheran Mission Center and then the Baguga Lutheran Primary School. We brought with us 50 Zande catechisms that were distributed in the upper grades. Rev. Hardy distributed T-shirts for all the children, while Matti was doing some filming for the documentary being made on the ELCS church body.



**April 1-** Dr. Bernie Lutz launched GOD'S PLAN FOR SUDAN, a program to support the Concordia Lutheran Institute for the Holy Ministry (CLIHM) seminary program. Dr. Bernie Lutz, former missionary to Lebanon and New Guinea, did several long stints of teaching and helping formulate the curriculum.



**May 7-** On the way to Sudan with Dr. Bernie Lutz who will serve as a teacher for the CLIHM program. The securing of a South Sudan visa in Kampala, Uganda was a challenging effort. With the help of our Kampala LHF Representative, Mr. Pascal Kungbowia, we launched forth to the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) or South Sudan embassy. We have some documents we used for Khartoum and we are told in no uncertain terms that there was no interest in seeing anything to do with Khartoum. Documents from there were a detriment. Our goal was to receive the visa by the next day and we were told it would be impossible. We were ushered to several offices with the same story heard, but Rev. Lutz used his best begging style. We at least got a "maybe," but plan to be here by 4:30 p.m.

No money changed hands in the embassy. You had to go directly to a bank and deposit the cost of the visa into

their account. We did so and took the receipt back to the embassy to prove we made payment. In the meantime we were confirming our air ticket on the Mission Aviation Fellowship flight and arranging how all our luggage will get there because of weight restrictions. By the time we make those arrangements it is a race (up to 120 kph) to get back for picking up the visas by 4:30 p.m. We weren't making the needed progress in a car due to the traffic, so Pascal jumped out and hired a motorbike, and he was off. We returned to the hotel and wondered if the visas would be granted. We would not be able to leave on the plane early the next morning with no visas. Pascal returned several hours later with visas in hand. How do you spell RELIEF?

**May 9** – Our flight lands ten miles from Yambio and we were picked up. The day was spent meeting with seminary students and discussing curriculum with ELCS executive staff. A daily schedule for the seminary was adopted.

We visited the construction site of the Rich Valley Lutheran Mission Center in Baguga where an engineering problem with two sagging beams was discussed. There was a problem with an inadequate number of workers and the engineer's absence from the job. Because of the problems, we scheduled a meeting the next week with the engineer and a law firm in Nairobi. The Baguga Lutheran Primary School had three of their classrooms burned, and the rebuilding would start in the next days.

**November 17** –Andrew hospitalized in Amman, Jordan with the prognosis that he was suffering from brain stem cancer. As he deteriorated, he was flown to Nairobi for further treatment.

**December 27-** Dr. Simojoki and members of the LHF compound congregation conduct a short service with corporate confession and Eucharist.

**December 31-** Bishop Andrew Mbugo Elisa's death is recorded just before midnight. His death was the result of many bouts of malaria, tuberculosis, and cancer of the brain stem. Rev. Rahn was unable to travel for the funeral as his passport was in New York and could not be rescued because all visa offices were closed for the New Year's weekend.

**2009**

*(LHF Budget \$288,954)*

**January 10-** Dr. Simojoki conducts funeral service for Andrew with burial next to the Yambio church. This has become a memorial site for the late Bishop.



## **July – A Mission Report**

SUDAN

### **BREAD OF LIFE PROGRAM MOVES FORWARD**

All programs of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sudan that enable the Bread of Life to be fed to the people are moving forward. The Word of Life is being translated into the language of the people so that worship can take place with the use of a *Zande Liturgy and Prayer Book* being revised for publishing. The catechism, which teaches about the One Who said "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE," is being used widely throughout the church and in the Baguga Lutheran School. Other language catechisms are in process.

### **SEMINARY**

The Concordia Lutheran Institute for the Holy Ministry will soon complete another year of training. Dr. Phil Giessler (Cleveland, Ohio spent three months teaching the 14 students "The Unity of the Scriptures" and "The Pastor as Bible and Catechism Teacher" Dr. Bernie Lutz (Crane Lake, Minnesota) followed with a three-week session on "Isaiah" and "The Principles of Bible Interpretation." Mr. Rob Lutz of Our Savior Lutheran School in Crookston, Minnesota, taught remedial English and some general principles of teaching in the Sunday school and home. Rev. Justin Kane (Immanuel Lutheran Church, Conover, North Carolina) taught a course on the Gospel of John. Rev. Roger Heintz, of Brookfield

Lutheran Church in Brookfield, Wisconsin, will complete the current school year the end of September.

As the students depart for their break, they will be working in their home congregations to put into practice what they have learned. The new school year begins on January 18, 2010, and this will mark their final year of formal training.

### **MORE THAN JUST A TEACHER OR STUDENT**

Dr. Bernie and Mr. Rob Lutz did more than teach in a classroom. They led the students and members of the ELCS in a work project to improve the water situation. Water drawn from a lake for bathing and washing was polluted and caused skin rashes, so a system was devised whereby gutters were installed on the guest house to capture the rain water coming off the zinc roof and empty into two 1,000 gallon containers. Sinks for washing were also installed to improve sanitary conditions.

### **TERMITES FOR BREAD**

One of the delicacies of this area is the crop of termites that are collected and served after frying in cooking oil or in some cases eaten raw. Even mahogany boards are no match for these creatures with a voracious appetite to satisfy their large bodies.

### **OTHER IMPROVEMENTS MADE**

During weekends and free time other projects were carried out to improve the overall conditions. Brick was laid around buildings to improve conditions during the rainy season. Library shelves were built to get books out of storage for better utilization, and carpeting was laid in the guest house dining and conference room.

**November 5-** Mr. Harry Wolter, President, St. John Lutheran Church, Rich Valley, MN, reports that the Linkert Committee suggests that construction on the Rich Valley Mission Center in Baguga be discontinued due a breach of contract with Adventis Construction Company, contractors for the building. Meetings to try and resolve difficulties were unsuccessful. LHF determined that the time and effort to continue the dispute would be fruitless. Their ineptness, failure to fulfill obligation and general lack of response all contributed. Without Rev. Elisa's tenacity, business acumen, and on-site control, the effort came to a standstill. Efforts continue to try and come up with a remedy for the faulty construction.

**December 14,15** – A third mission consultation was held at King of Kings Lutheran, Omaha, NE, sponsored by the ELCS and mission partners of the LCMS. Rev. Fandrey and

Rev. Rahn reported on the 15 years of generous support by LHF and invited participants to become involved to help alleviate the heavy financial responsibility assumed by the LHF ever since the church was organized.

Rev. Edward Nzeme, ELCS General Secretary, was unable to obtain a visa to travel to the meeting but sent a report indicating the church was being served by 10 pastors, 3 vicars, 15 seminarians, 4 deaconesses, 2 deacons, and 60 evangelists. The consultation called for a unified effort on the part of all participants.

## **2010**

*(LHF Budget \$154,450)*

**October 7** We were in Yambio, Sudan, with Dr. Bernie Lutz of Crane Lake, Minnesota, and Rev. Reijo Arkkila from Finland. We conducted an open forum with the seminary students who lauded the program we provided. We informed them that the general economy of our country would not allow us to support programs at the same level, and that they should be prepared for stipends to be decreased each year. They were encouraged to develop stewardship programs in their congregations and to be ready for no support after four years.



**October 8-** The Yambio Police Band arrived at the Center at 10:00 a.m. to lead the processing graduates through the village. The line-up included the processional cross, flags, large Bible, pastors, graduates, choirs and congregation. We marched to the town square on what was a very hot and sunny day. The procession led to the church for the service, and Dr. Lutz served as the speaker. Diplomas and certificates were given to each student. Speeches were given by members of the faculty and staff, including Nicholas, Dachi, Edwards and Arkkila. The Minister of Education for Sudan also spoke, as well as the Police Chief, who was more like a preacher who talked about wisdom in the context of "the fear of the Lord."

The parents, wives, and friends of the students displayed their great exuberance in an unusual way. When the diploma was granted, all would run forward and pick up the student and carry him around to the applause of the congregation.

**October 9-** An Interim Committee Meeting was announced and all pastors were invited to participate. Around 15 men joined the discussions. The translation work was discussed and the ongoing difficulty with finances was another topic. It was reported that the Baguga Lutheran Primary School had declined to 110 students, and there were now more students in Yambio with 210 students. The St. Paul Hospital in Khartoum was in arrears financially and help was being sought from Lutheran Medical Missions and Lutheran World Relief. It was determined that a plan was needed to outline procedures for starting a school.

Rev. Jock Rianz from Malakal reported on a container that arrived in 2009, bringing a tractor, water purifier and other farming equipment. Two containers were joined with a roof, but the project was never completed. Other reports included information where churches were started and a place where people were arrested for starting a church and now moved from place to place to escape persecution. It was obvious that communication was a missing ingredient between the pastors. The flow of information is a problem, especially in northern Sudan. A plea was given that we continue the training of pastors.

I made a presentation calling for a plan and vision based on 2 Timothy 1:6,7: "For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline." We are not called to crawl, but to walk or even run. It calls for an entrepreneurial spirit. This is a time for us to think about a vision for the church in 2011 and 2012.

Dr. Lutz summarized the discussion and called it a great meeting. He quoted Revelation 12:12: "Woe to the earth and sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time."

The Baguga situation was addressed and the feeling was that the building project should be continued, perhaps on a smaller scale utilizing at least the first floor. The group will check for some possible large equipment in the area which could be used to knock down the north end with the poor construction.

**October 10-** This was the designated day for the ordination of the 16 candidates. The festivities again began with a procession through the village of Yambio. Some 580 people attended the event. My sermon was based on 2 Timothy

1:13,14: "Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. Guard through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you." To be a fit minister you are called upon to "guard the treasure." Of and by yourself this would be impossible, but it has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells in you by the power of God's Word. Be faithful in guarding this treasure that many are trying to take from you. Guard the treasure of His Word as you serve in every aspect of your ministry.

The ordination rite was performed by Rev. Japhet Dachi and Rev. Edward Nzeme. Dr. Lutz presented each candidate



with a stole, and I provided the pectoral cross. There were other gifts to be given but things became somewhat chaotic, and it was decided to give the rest of the gifts after the service ended. Those gifts included baptismal napkins, communion wafers, Mexican crosses, plastic crosses for children and wives received LHF tote bags. A dinner followed the service. The service and festivities lasted for seven hours.

**October 11-** All day meeting on a new structure that I proposed in anticipation of the election of a new bishop. Everyone was given an opportunity to speak about the proposed structure that would have Dachi serve as interim president and that a lay treasurer be elected to assist Edward in dealing with the money matters. It was explained that Dachi would be a good choice, since he would have no ambitions for the office for which he was ineligible, coming to Sudan as a guest from Kenya. When the vote was taken, 38 voted in favor of the proposed structure and 17 voted against. Dachi encouraged participants to join hands and work in serving the Lord." I thank you for the privilege to serve with you. If I have offended anyone I ask for forgiveness, and I offer forgiveness to those who have given any offense. The White and Blue Nile join and become one river, let us join hands and become a big ELCS. May the Lord strengthen



us together as we help one another.” This was followed with discussion on the idea of a Council of Advisers, and these were voted on from each deanery. An assistant treasurer was also elected to serve with Edward.

**October 12** -At the 7:00 a.m. devotion we held an installation for Dachi as interim president and left for the airport while the delegates continued a program of working on the constitution. As it turned out there was one delay after another with the plane arriving, and finally it was too late to reach Entebbe in day light so the plane had to be parked in Yambio overnight for a morning departure. All of the commotion had to do with bad weather in Entebbe, our destination.

**October 13**- While we were having lunch in Entebbe, Dachi informed us of the first problem he had to deal with that took until 3 a.m. to resolve. It seems the Malakal Deanery demanded a new Dean and this became a point of contention. All parties met together and they finally agreed to have one of the new graduates serve as their dean. I congratulated him on successfully resolving his first problem as interim president of the ELCS.

## 2011

*(LHF Budget \$93,087)*

**September 11**- Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Juba, was dedicated. The project was funded by the LEAF Mission Society of Finland. Leaf missionaries Antti and Liisa Saarenketo worked in the Juba area and Antti was subsequently authorized for ordination by LEAF and will be serving with Bishop Wilson Noah Rule. LEAF has joined LHF in financially supporting the ELCS/SS and CLIHM.

**October 11**- Recruitment letter is sent to potential faculty members to teach at the Concordia Lutheran Institute for the Holy Ministry established for the ELCS. The program was first established in Khartoum and then moved to Yambio. The expectations for faculty were noted in the letter and conditions were outlined in order to help individual pastors, teachers and professors to make a decision. With the help of Rev. Bernie Lutz and Prof. Richard Nuffer a four year program was developed and distributed to the candidates. This included a one year vicarage program and also some type of field work program while students were attending the seminary.

**October 16** - Rev. Fandrey and I visited Yambio, Sudan to participate in the installation of the new Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sudan bishop. Prior to the induction service, a

church convention was held in order to ratify a constitution and vote to fill the bishop's office.

This is an article/report that summarized our activities in Sudan.

Isaiah 55:11 Return on Word is Full

The promise is from the Lord--MY WORD SHALL NOT RETURN EMPTY. There is evidence everywhere in Sudan that the Word is accomplishing its purpose.

It may have been a slow return, but the ELCS-SS now has its constitution. It is the first time the official language of the church includes the "SS" designation. It was explained that the ELCS would refer to Sudan a nation now of the north, but it is a church that serves the south nation as well. So the designation ELCS-SS makes it a church for both nations that were just formed and officially started on July 1, 2011.

The designation was first recorded officially within the constitution. The first triennial convention of the ELCS-SS took place from October 10-14. After passing their constitution, the next order of business was the election of the second bishop to fill the office held by the late Rev. Bishop Andrew Mbugo Elisa. For this election the church had gathered an independent election board made up of individuals from other denominations-- Roman Catholic, Pentecostal and Anglican. The church election process had narrowed the list of eligible candidates to three. The candidates for the ballot were:

Rev. Wilson Noah, Rev. Nicholas Kumba, Rev. Andrea Benado

Rev. Wilson Noah was declared the Bishop on the first ballot.

On Sunday a Service of Induction took place with over 500 in attendance, including 35 clergy participants. The sermon



for the occasion was given by Rev. Robert L. Rahn, referred to as the "grandfather of the ELCS" The text was 2 Timothy 1:6-13, and Rev. Rahn began by alluding to the fact that this was an occasion when we confront many mixed emotions. We remember the past but we look to the future. For those of us who had a close relationship with the late bishop, it is time to move forward into the new era with Bishop Wilson Noah. It may especially be a time of deep emotion for the widow and family of the late bishop, but together we must move on.

We remember the past, but we heed the words of Paul to a young pastor in the text. These are the points Paul makes in the text:

1. Kindle afresh the flame of faith in you. 2. Do not be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord. 3. Retain and hold fast the standard of the Word. 4. Guard the Treasure entrusted to you.

Rev. Rahn used the illustration of the flame we saw in the fire pit at the guest house as we sat around that fire. Many logs were put together to form hot coals and then a large flame appeared. When the logs were removed from one another, the flames died out. "Rev. Wilson, you can't do it alone, but with the help of the brothers here represented and with the members of the ELCS-SS, you can provide the heat of the Word by the flames from the Spirit. It will give you, not a spirit of timidity, but one of boldness, power, love, and discipline.

It will enable you to hold fast to the standard of truth being abandoned in too many circles today. Guard this treasure according to His purpose and grace, not on the basis of your good works, but by the power of the Spirit."

Conducting the rite of induction was the Rev. Christian Ekong, President of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria. During the rite Rev. Wilson was asked to prostrate himself completely before the altar and give answer to the questions in which he pledged loyalty to the Scriptures, the confessions, and the constitution of the church.

The attire of the office of bishop were then bestowed-- alb, chasuble, stole, pectoral cross, mitre, and staff.

Rev. Wilson was introduced and received congratulations from the members of the clergy, church officials, community leaders, and family members.

With four choirs participating in the service, and the sermon and greetings translated into Arabic, the length of the service even exceeded the length of Andrew's ordination service of seven hours set on August 29, 1999. This eight hour service

began at 9:30 a.m. with a procession on the streets of Yambio and concluded with special greetings from the government officials, local church officials, and participants from the United States.

The governor, Honorable Colonel Joseph Bokosoro, sent his regrets, but the Deputy governor gave a passionate vote of thanks noting the movement of the church. It started in Juba, moved to Khartoum, and then here to Yambio. He noted that Juba and Khartoum are much more blessed than our little village of Yambio, and yet you chose to have this event in our community. He said, "We are from the church, we are part of the church, we stand with the church. I'm requesting you to give full support to your bishop, and I appeal to all churches to pray for our goernment so that we govern correctly. I salute the election committee for their work. They have conducted a peaceful election, the first in our state. Let our country elections be peaceful as we learn from the church. For us the Bible will also guide our government, This is what the governor would have you know through me his representative today."

Speaking for another department of the government was The Honorable Norma Fodul, Minister of Social Development and Religious Affairs. She had also spoken at the convention earlier and had called for unity in working for the good of the people of the South Sudan. "Keep working for freedom which could not have happened without the help from the church. "From today you have a responsibility. Put the Bible in your right hand and your constitution and staff in your left. Wherever you walk, take them along for guidance."

The general secretary, Rev. Edward Nzeme, interim president, Rev. Japhet Dachi, and director of education, Rev. Louis Kumbo, issued certificates of appreciation to all involved in making for a successful convention.

Rev. Rahn carried a bag of lapel pin crosses. He mentioned that the congregation and pastors would remember other occasions when crosses were distributed. He said, "I see some of those crosses here today being worn by pastors, and they indicate if you were a member of the first seminary class or the second. Others of you will remember the woven crosses given last year to the youth and choir members as they were singing. Some plastic crosses were also distributed on one occasion to all children. I wondered what I would do with these crosses, and the inspiration came to me during a typical sleepless night after long travel and time changes. Therefore, today I'm naming these the 'bishop's crosses.' I'd like to distribute these to the 58 convention delegates, to the nominating committee, and to the youth and adult choirs. These bishop crosses indicate your special involvement in an

historic event, the election of the second Bishop of the ELCS-SS. I'm giving the remaining crosses to the bishop for use as he sees fit in his office."

Rev. James E. Fandrey, Lutheran Heritage Foundation executive director, brought special greetings from the LHF Board, staff, and donors, and presented Bishop Wilson with a copy of A TREASURY OF PRAYERS, a large prayer guide using Bible readings based on the pericopes, a daily reading from the Book of Concord, the Psalms and prayers. Rev. Fandrey said, "These Bible readings and prayers will sustain you in your service."

The deaconesses of the church were introduced, including Deaconess Pat Nuffer, director of the Hands of Mercy organization, and Intern Deaconess Kaetlin Hiatt, who would be serving the next months in Yambio.

Representatives from the Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Pentecostal churches brought greetings from their church bodies, and all pledged to work with Bishop Wilson and the ELCS-SS in the new nation.

His Word does not return empty. In other words, where His Word is proclaimed, there it is in all fullness. We are seeing it in Sudan in special ways. For the past three years we have stated that there are 100 congregations with around 15,000 members in the ELCS. As we were conversing with the pastors from the Malakal region, we were startled to hear there were some 100 congregations in this region alone. Many of them are smaller and difficult to reach because of poor transportation. Some of them are also enduring persecution. Their report led us to request the general secretary to gather the correct statistics for the church. That process began immediately.

#### IT WILL NOT RETURN EMPTY

In an interview with the new bishop I asked him what would be the biggest challenge he faced. He said, "It will be to bring people to faith through a strong evangelism program. It will be important to start with children, teaching them the Lutheran faith."

He then gave an example of a great opportunity for church growth. He told the story of a group of people he has been evangelizing, east of his location in Juba. There exists a community of Atsoni tribe people who were missionized years ago by the British and also by the Anglican church, but have been abandoned. They became involved with the Lutheran church and are requesting books and materials in their language. The clergy want to serve as Lutheran pastors. Two of the pastors came to the convention as interested observers.

There are many congregations ready to become part of the ELCS-SS. The Word is not returning empty. Together with the ELCS-SS, the LHF is assessing avenues of training for these pastors.

The Word doesn't return empty. The seminary is filling to capacity with 25 students enrolled to start on January 16, 2012. It will have a revolving faculty recruited through the LHF office in Macomb, Michigan. The Rev. Art Bolstad, Arnold, Missouri, will be the first volunteer faculty member. Dr. Bernie Lutz, Crane Lake, Minnesota, a regular faculty member, will take a long stint in May, June, and July. There are many eager candidates for the ministry.

The bishop also sees this as a major challenge in terms of the stewardship required from the church and from continued LHF support. Congregations, groups, and individuals will want to come to the rescue of this struggling but growing church by partnering with the LHF to provide the help needed. Gifts should be directed to LHF.

Immediately following the induction a special session of the convention was again scheduled for the next day. After lengthy discussions, the convention determined that the present officers of the church should continue in office to assist in the transition. These officers are to serve a three-year term.

One of the items placed on the cabinet's agenda is the discussion as to how the deaconess program will be carved out. Previously in Khartoum the first set of deaconesses received their training as part of the seminary route. The church needs to address this situation and direct how all programs fit into the structure of the church. HIS WORD WILL NOT RETURN EMPTY.

Other questions will be addressed. Will the headquarters of the church remain in Yambio even though the bishop is serving in Juba? Will the bishop's office be full time or part time? Will transportation be available? How will travel costs for his office be covered with the constitution calling for at least two annual visits to each congregation? What will be the best avenue of communication with only 20% of the pastors having internet?

Bishop Wilson called for a continuation of the consultation agreements, that all activities by groups and individuals be coordinated through the ELCS-SS central office of the bishop. This will enable the church to schedule and carry out her mission.

HIS WORD WILL NOT RETURN EMPTY. The desire of the ELCS-SS has been and continues to be the establishment

of fellowship with the LCMS. To that end, the church officials are renewing the call for fellowship that was first made some ten years ago.

The distant Malakal delegation of 11 participants was brought to the convention with air travel provided to Juba by the United Nations. This was a great help to the budget of LHF. President Ekong traveled to Yambio under sponsorship by the LCMS.

While at the convention, Rev. Fandrey preached for the closing service of the convention. His text was John 8:36. He spoke about freedom that came to the country and that which comes through continuing in the Word. When the truth is known, it alone has the capacity to give true freedom. To that end, he also renewed the translation and publishing schedule as the main focus of LHF.

Two books being worked on will be published before the end of the year-- The Arabic worship book and the **Nuba Hymnal** in the Otoro dialect. Another project to be continued is the Zande Worship Book. Collects and the three year readings are yet to be added. The Moru Catechism is completed and needs funding for publishing. With the Juba Atsoni tribe interested in Lutheranism, the Atsoni translation of the Catechism will be high on the docket for 2012.

The weapons of mass instruction provided by the LHF in books like these will help to assure His Word will not return empty.

## 2012

*(LHF Budget \$166,703)*

**July 10-** Work begins on the faculty and assignments for the 2013 academic year of CLIHM.

**August 15-** The preliminary schedule is sent out of potential instructors for CLIHM during the 2013 year. The schedule is fine tuned during the ensuing months.

**October 29-** The fourth Sudan Consultation was organized by Rev. Russ Sommerfeld, Pres. NE District and held at King of Kings Lutheran Church, Omaha, NE. An earlier consultation was cancelled when the Bishop of the ELCS/SS, Rev. Wilson Noah, could not obtain a visa. It was determined that extra effort would be made to enable him to be present for this meeting. Efforts were made through contact with Congressional reps but he was again denied a visa. A request was made to the Bishop to send his vision statement for the church but none was received. Rev. Fandrey represented LHF at this meeting and also represented the LEAF Mission

Society of Finland and gave the respective reports. No one was present to represent the LCMS mission staff.

**November 7-** The 2013 schedule of classes and assigned faculty is sent out in preparation for the CLIHM starting its second year of classes on February 14, 2013. The final schedule and assignments:

2/14	Students arrive	
2/19 - 3/5	Dr. Wm Schumacher	Research/Ref Methods
3/12 - 4/11	Rev. Arthur Bolstad	Dogmatics IV & II
4/2 - 6/4	Dr. Phil Giessler	Pastor as Bible Teacher Isaiah/HIstory of Israel
6/11 - 6/27	Dr. Dave Bolte	Dogmatics V & I
7/2 - 7/30	Dr. Bernie Lutz	Dogmatics VI
7/2-7/30	Mr. Robert Lutz	Remedial English How to Teach
8/6 -8/22	Rev. Robert Roberts	Homiletics
8/27 - 9/16	Rev. Lebede Yigezu	Law & Gospel
9/17 - 10/1	Rev. James May	Revelation
10/3 - 10/24	Dr. Anssi Simojoki	Lutheran Confessions/ Dogmatics III
10/24 - 11/7	Dr. Reijo Arkkila	Early Church History
10/24- 11/7	Rev. Lukkarinen	Middle Ages Christian History
11/7 - 11/28	Rev. Matti Vaisanen	Baptism
11/7 - 11/28	Rev. James May	Liturgy/Liturgics
11/28	End of Year II	

Submitted by Rev. Robert Rahn, CLIHM Program Director.

### Substitutes or Candidates for 2014 or 2015:

Rev. Bruce Keseman      Pastoral Theology  
 Rev. James Dahlke  
 Dr. David Tswaidi  
 Rev. Steve Schumacher  
 Rev. Doug Punke  
 Rev. Steven L. Anderson

Rev. Samuel Atunga  
 Rev. Japhet Dachi    Principal  
 Rev. Nicholas Louis Kumbo    Dean  
 Rev. Edward Sunge Nzeme    General Secretary

It is understood that the Bishop can insert himself into the schedule at any point on a day to day basis to present matters of ecclesiastical or doctrinal concerns.

The way we had the curriculum worked out was that Dogmatics would cover as follows:

- I. The Holy Bible (source, origin, inspiration, attributes, divisions, purposes and use and the Doctrine of God, natural and revealed, essence and attributes of the Triune God.
- II. The Doctrine of Creation, doctrine of angels and man, original, actual sin.
- III. Doctrine of salvation by grace, justification, saving grace, person of Christ, humiliation, exaltation, work of Christ, office of Christ.
- IV. The Doctrine of Sanctification, conversion, faith, justification by faith, sanctification through faith, good works, prayer, Christian life, election
- V. The doctrine of salvation through the Means of Grace, The Gospel, the Law and the Gospel, the sacraments, Baptism, the Lord's Supper
- VI. The doctrine of the church, visible church, government of the church. Office of the Keys, power to remit/retain sins, church discipline, office of the ministry, the Anti christ
- VII. The doctrine of the Last Things, temporal death, state of death, Second Coming, Millennium, resurrection of the dead, Last Judgment, end of world, eternal damnation, eternal salvation.

We are asking that Dr. Bernie Lutz lead a discussion with the seminary leadership whether a vicarage program is feasible or workable. Or what other methods might be used in place of a vicarage, e.g. a year of service prior to ordination?

## 2013

**January 7-** LHF staff discusses procedures relative to the 2013 budget for Sudan. It was determined that we would be better able to ascertain the needs of the ELCS/SS if we had specific goals and objectives for the church. We will continue to pursue a prepared vision statement from the Bishop that will provide the general direction for the church.

**February 14-** First students arrive to begin second year of classes.

**February 19 -** Classes begin but Rev. Schumacher's arrival is delayed due to lack of space on MAF flights from Kampala to Yambio.

**February 20 -** Dr. Bernie Lutz and Rev. Rahn discuss the



request of the ELCS/SS to resurrect the deaconess program that has been dormant since the first groups of deaconesses were consecrated along with the seminary program as it existed in the early history in Khartoum.

**February 26 -** Rev. Schumacher does a one week intensive due to late arrival. Class day is lengthened to cover topic. Early reservations are made by remaining to assure an on time arrival according to above schedule.

While discussing the merits and concerns of the program, Rev. Fandrey receives a copy of several grants that were given to the ELCS/SS and Hands of Mercy funded by the LCMS and Wheatridge respectively. One grant was for the renovation and refurbishing of a building for deaconesses and for transporting deaconess students to Yambio. The other directed to Hands of Mercy was designated for funding a study and work with health officials to address the mortality rate of children. The proposals had been submitted a year ago by officials of the ELCS/SS without the knowledge of LHF. The funds were to be distributed through Hands of Mercy or the Missionary Aviation Fellowship. If nothing else, it did give evidence that there was support for the deaconess program from the synod.

**March 1-** Dr. Lutz and Rev. Rahn discuss the deaconess program and having Ms. Kate Cole serving as an initial discussion leader with interested women for the program. She will serve during the same July time frame of Rev. Lutz.

**March 7 -** An inquiry is received from Dr. Rick Nuffer of the Fort Wayne Seminary asking if we had any information on another Lutheran church that had formed in Sudan. Rev. Detlev Schultz of the seminary had been in Ethiopia and there learned of a Lutheran church body that was interested in starting a seminary in south Sudan. Rev. Rahn sent a message

to Rev. Long alluding to the fact that we had started work in Sudan in 1993. Rev. Long was sent a copy of this history to describe our activity.

This is a message from Rev. Long describing the origin and activity of what is called "The Lutheran Church of South Sudan:"

Dear Robert,

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! My name is Rev. Jordan M. Long, President of the Lutheran Church of South Sudan. Thanks for your email and for the historical timeline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sudan/South Sudan. I acknowledged and appreciated the witness to the Gospel the ELCS/SS has brought to South Sudan in partnership with Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS).

The Lutheran Church of South Sudan was born out of relationship (not partnership) with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). I had my theological study at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia was ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in October 2005. I received a call to Nile Lutheran Mission, an ELCA congregation in Rochester, New York in the same year. I served this congregation until 2009 ELCA's Churchwide assembly when the church adopted a policy to ordain gays and lesbians. As a result, I left the ELCA and joined the Lutheran Church of South Sudan in 2010. At LCSS' Annual Conference in Maiwut, Upper Nile State, I was elected the President of the Lutheran Church of South Sudan on November 2011.

The history of the Lutheran Church of South Sudan began in 2001 when an ELCA congregation in Des Moines, IA, Capitol Hills Lutheran Church, visited South Sudanese refugees in Pinyudu and Dimma Refugee Camps in Ethiopia. In your relationship to ELCS/SS, you may understand that Lutheranism in South Sudan is fairly young - a little over 10 years. Other ELCA individual congregations continued visiting South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia. In 2003, Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (SELCA), an association of 32 Sudanese congregations was formed. For your information, there were 101 African Congregations in the ELCA before the church adopted social statement on Human Sexuality. About 32 of these congregations belong to Sudanese Americans.

The SELCA began evangelism and church planting in Pinyudu and Dimma Refugees Camps in the same year it was established. About 8 congregations were planted in both camps with a coordination office in Gambella. Timothy Moline from Capitol Hills Lutheran Church help raised funds to purchase office space in Gambella. Other congregations

who contributed to the mission and ministry of the LCSS include:

1. Incarnate Word Lutheran Church, Rochester, New York
2. Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fairport, New York
3. Resurrection Lutheran Church, Buffalo, New York
4. Christ Lutheran Church, Grand Rapid, Michigan
5. Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, Minnesota
6. Our Savior Lutheran Church, Faribault, Minnesota
7. Redeemer Lutheran Church, Omaha, Nebraska
8. Sheridan Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska

The Incarnate Word Lutheran Church drilled safe drinking water well at LCSS congregation in Gambella in 2007, Rev. Gary Steeves from Resurrection Lutheran Church visited LCSS congregation in Maiwut in 2008 and Rev. Steve Dolzer from Our Savior Lutheran Church visited LCSS congregation in Nasir twice in the last several years and the Rev. Steve Cook from Bethlehem Lutheran Church visited LCSS congregation in Lare in 2009.

The Lutheran Church of South Sudan has partnered with Western Gambella Bethel Synod of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) for years. Baro Bible School, one of the EECMY Bible Schools located at Western Gambella Bethel Synod graduated 12 LCSS pastors from three years theological educational program. These pastors are now in South Sudan spreading the Gospel. In January 2012, the Lutheran Church of South Sudan and West Gambella Bethel Synod of the EECMY signed an official partnership, particularly, in area of theological education and evangelism. A copy of the partnership agreement between the LCSS and WGBS-EECMY is attached to this email. Also, the President of Western Gambella Bethel Synod could be reached at [dinggach@yahoo.com](mailto:dinggach@yahoo.com) for comment. The LCSS is small, but a growing church. The church has 40 rostered congregations and 30 mission sites across the country. The church has 22 pastors 12 of whom received theological training from Baro Bible School later changed into Jackjordan Bible School. The mission sites are congregations with 20 to 49 worshippers on a given Sunday. My office is based in Makalal.

On different development, the LCSS and ELCS/SS have engaged in dialogue on possible mergers. This year long extensive dialogue was carried out in Malakal, and the ELCS/SS Bishop, Rev. Wilson Noah, was briefed. I personally met with ELCS/SS Bishop in Juba in March 2012 and discussed

possible merger between the two Lutheran Churches. Both churches expressed willingness although women ordination remained an outstanding and contentious theological issue. The ELCS/SS adopted strict LCMS theology on women clergy while LCSS's Constitution calls for female ordination. That issue has not yet been resolved.

In the latest move, the Lutheran Church of South Sudan has proposed to establish a Theological Seminary in South Sudan. For years, the church relied on WGBS-EEMY for training its pastors. On this endeavor, the LCSS has reached out to its historical partner, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Makane Yesus, and its new partners abroad to help on this effort.

The LCSS has fully partnered with Lutheran Congregation in Mission for Christ and is working toward a partnership with North American Lutheran Church. So, the Lutheran Church of South Sudan and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sudan/South Sudan are separate Lutheran bodies in South Sudan. They both expressed willingness to emerge but some theological issues remained to be resolved.

I look forward to more dialogue on how to expand God's Kingdom in the World's newest nation, the Republic of South Sudan.

Peace in our Risen Christ,

the Rev. Jordan M Long, President  
Lutheran Church of South Sudan  
Malakal, South Sudan  
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[+211914745210](tel:+211914745210)

## March 9

Rev. Rahn responds to rev. Long:

**From:** Robert Rahn  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 09, 2013 10:10 AM  
**To:** 'Jordan Long'  
**Subject:** RE: Establishment of Theological Seminary in South Sudan

*Dear Brother,*

*Thank you very much for your quick reply in response to my message and the history of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation's work in helping to establish the ELCS/SS back in 1993, a history of some 20 years. When we add the dollar numbers to the history, as we will do prior to publishing, we will show that the LHF has invested an amount close to \$3.5 million during this time.*

*We have an active seminary functioning in Yambio and it would be good if some cooperation could be developed; although one critical issue would be women's ordination.*

*I was pleased to hear that Bishop Noah Wilson Rule has had some discussions with you and I hope they might continue. It is important for us to be kept informed of your activity and that the Bishop keeps you informed of the ELCS/SS activity.*

*The Lord's rich blessings to you during this Lenten season.*

*Dr. Robert L. Rahn*

*LHF Founder*

Rev. Rahn also sends a message to all faculty members of the CLIHM, LHF staff, some LCMS personnel, Rick Nuffer and Detlev Schultz informing them of our communication with the leadership of the Lutheran Church in South Sudan.

## Summary of LHF Financial Support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sudan

(ELCS/SS)

1995	\$ 3,500
1996	\$ 5,000
1997	\$ 12,000
1998	\$ 24,298
1999	\$ 100,908
2000	\$ 128,720
2001	\$ 178,845
2002	\$ 241,605
2003	\$ 262,750
2004	\$ 256,520
2005	\$ 474,399
2006	\$ 357,092
2007	\$ 349,738
2008	\$ 409,933
2009	\$ 288,954
2010	\$ 154,450
2011	\$ 93,087
2012	\$ 166,703
Total	\$3,508,503

\*Higher amounts provided during 2004-2009 were related to restricted funds received for construction of ELCS/SS mission center in Baguga, South Sudan.



