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FOREIGN MISSIONS 2016

FACT SHEETS





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Mexico

Iglesia Luterana Confesional Mexico (ILC)

STATUS

In Fellowship ☒

STATISTICS - Mexico

Ordained Pastors	<u>1</u>	Congregations	<u>2</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>4</u>	Preaching stations	<u>1</u>
Evangelists	<u>0</u>	Adult Members	<u>22</u>
Evangelists in Training	<u>0</u>	Child Members	<u>18</u>



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

CLC Board of Missions Chairman Todd Ohlmann, together with Pastor Roehl, travelled to Torreon to conduct meetings with Pastor Olvera in January of 2014. Following that visit, through MDF contributions, the CLC was able to provide Pastor Olvera with multiple copies of various Spanish language seminary textbooks to be used in the instruction of the four men studying for the pastoral ministry.

SCOPE AND FOCUS OF MINISTRY

Pastor Olvera currently resides in Juarez, Mexico and serves congregations both there and in Torreon. He is currently training four men for the pastoral ministry – one in Torreon, two in Juarez, and one in Campeche. To support himself and his family, Pastor Olvera also engages in secular employment.

CHALLENGES

As is the case with the majority of our brothers in foreign lands, Pastor Olvera works under very difficult conditions. Both Torreon and Juarez are plagued by drug cartel-related violence and by poverty. It is very difficult to begin a church body with little or no financial resources. Travel is also a challenge, given the fact that Torreon is an 11 hour drive from his home congregation in Juarez. Pastor Olvera's wife, Claudia, continues cancer treatments, and Pastor Olvera himself suffers from diabetes and kidney problems.



HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Contact was first established between Pastor Juan Jose Olvera and Pastor Michael Roehl, of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, through email in October of 2012. For reasons of conscience and doctrine, Pastor Olvera had ended his affiliation with the WELS-sponsored Lutheran Church of Mexico - Iglesia Evangélica Lutherana Confesional (IELC) - earlier that year, and was seeking information on the doctrine and practice of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. A visitation team consisting of President Michael Eichstadt, Board of Doctrine chairman Daniel Fleischer, and Pastor Roehl met with Pastor Olvera in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico in January of 2013. Fellowship between Pastor Olvera's newly formed church body, Iglesia Luterana Confesional (ILC), was recommended by the CLC Board of Doctrine and approved by the Coordinating Council of the CLC in April of 2013.

PERSONNEL

Pastor Olvera, although he is currently training four other men for the public ministry, is the only theologically trained pastor currently serving this church body. He has trained one student to the point where he can and does conduct Sunday services in Torreon and Monterrey when Pastor Olvera is serving in Juarez. By the end of 2016, he plans to have an additional pastor-student who is able to lead these services in Torreon and Monterrey.



FUTURE PLANS

It is Pastor Olvera's desire to establish a self-supporting, orthodox Lutheran church body in Mexico, with charter congregations in both Torreon and Juarez. He plans to start a new preaching station in Juarez and several home Bible studies to reach out to friends and families of existing members.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Pastor Olvera receives a \$250 a month subsidy budgeted through the MDF for church building rental and travel costs.

Ghana

Crown of Glory Lutheran Church - Ghana (CGLC)

STATUS

In Fellowship ☒

STATISTICS

Ordained Pastors	<u>1</u>	Congregations	<u>1</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>0</u>	Preaching stations	<u>1</u>
Evangelists	<u>0</u>	Adult Members	<u>5</u>
Evangelists in Training	<u>0</u>	Child Members	<u>5</u>

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

In 1999, Elinore Gbedey was returning to the US from teaching in the country of Benin. She came through Lome, Togo, to visit there, since she is married to a Togolese. While in Lome, she came across a Lutheran, Amegan Kwaku Kpello (Mike), and explained our church to him. He seemed to have some interest, so she contacted Missionary David Koenig who had previously been her pastor at Peace Thru Christ in Middleton, WI. Email correspondence resulted. Literature was sent but Mike decided to remain with his Lutheran church which is affiliated with the LC-MS. However he did put Missionary Koenig in contact with Kossi Blewu and Gideon Abussah. Pastor Gideon lived in the village Denu very close to the border of Togo. Since Missionary Koenig was regularly making visits to Nigeria it was a simple matter for him to stop in Ghana and Togo on his way in or out of Nigeria.

Through study with Missionary Koenig Pastor Gideon became aware of the errors of Pentecostalism. He left Pentecostalism and has since taught Lutheran doctrine. However this has made it very difficult for him in Ghana. In Denu, where he lived, he at first taught religion at the school, but Daniel, the man who ran the school, decided to return to Pentecostalism so Gideon had to leave. He tried preaching on the back veranda of his house and in his home village of Tema, yet still not many people would come. Meanwhile his wife was unfaithful to him, contracted AIDS and left him.

In 2005, Pastor Gideon decided to move to Tema, Accra. In the larger city he hoped more people would be willing to listen to God's true word.

PERSONNEL

Pastor Gideon Abussah

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The CLC Board of Missions is currently sending no regular financial support to Gideon but sends money from time to time as there is need.



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Pastor Gideon has moved his base of operation to an area outside the main city. Here he has a close friend who is a Pentecostal pastor. He has been studying with him and is hoping to teach him Lutheran doctrine.

SCOPE AND FOCUS OF MINISTRY

Pastor Gideon works in Accra, Ghana. He has no church building but meets with members for regular Bible study and does some evangelism.

FUTURE PLANS

Pastor Gideon has had a very challenging time attempting to get a congregation started in the Accra area. He is currently hoping that he will have more success just outside the city where he has a small parcel of land that he can use.

Liberia



STATUS

Working toward Fellowship ☒

STATISTICS

Ordained Pastors	<u>0</u>	Congregations	<u>0</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>10</u>	Preaching stations	<u>1</u>
Evangelists	<u>2</u>	Receiving Instruction	<u>20</u>
Evangelists in Training	<u>5</u>		

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Alvin Jask, a layman from Liberia, contacted Grace Lutheran Church, Fridley, MN, in March of 2010, seeking a Lutheran church here in America. Through instruction, Alvin was baptized as an adult and joined Grace. Following his instruction, Alvin has been eager to share his faith with people in Liberia, generating a lot of contacts with pastors and laypeople who are now interested in the Scriptural doctrine of the CLC.

In November of 2015, Pastor John Hein of Grace Lutheran Church made a trip to investigate some of the opportunities in Liberia. He made contacts in the Monrovia and Bopolu areas. Missionary Emeritus David Koenig joined Pastor Hein later during the trip. The two conducted a three-day seminar about God's Word. Around 55 contacts participated, including several pastors.



**ALVIN JASK
BETWEEN
PASTOR JOHN
HEIN (GRACE
FRIDLEY) AND
MISSIONARY
EMERITUS
DAVID KOENIG.**

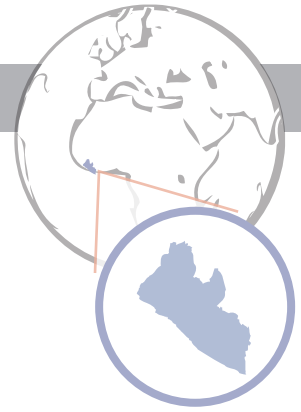
On the trip, visits were also made to two schools. One was to CAFOL (Children Against Forced Labor) which is led by Pastor Samuel Cheneken who doesn't have a church but is interested in helping children who were impacted by the loss of parents during the civil war and more recently by Ebola. There are 361 children in his grade school. A visit was also made to what would become Grace Lutheran School, (originally Image of God Ministries) led by Pastor Alfred Kollie, a school of about 50 children who attend his church.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Currently equipment is being prepared and internet access is being secured to start an internet cafe in the hopes of increasing opportunities to have further instruction with the people in Liberia.

SCOPE AND FOCUS OF MINISTRY

Currently there are several contacts in Liberia generated by Alvin, and there is frequent contact regarding doctrinal instruction with Pastor Andrew Johnson, Pastor Alfred Kollie, and Pastor Samuel Chenekin. Pastor Joseph Kwiwalazu is also an independent Lutheran pastor at Grace Evangelicalistic Lutheran Church in the Monrovia area. Pastor Joseph has been in regular contact with Pastor Hein regarding doctrine.



PERSONNEL

Alvin Jask is a layman, a member of Grace, Fridley, MN.

FUTURE PLANS

Opportunities for further instruction in Lutheran doctrine are being sought to see if fellowship can be established. If so, attempts will be made to unite some of the splintered churches who are interested in what we believe and teach, including the promotion of a school or schools.



Nigeria

Nigerian Church of the Lutheran Confession (NCLC)

STATUS

In Fellowship ☒

STATISTICS

Ordained Pastors	<u>13</u>	Congregations	<u>16</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>3</u>	Preaching stations	<u>0</u>
Evangelists	<u>0</u>	Adult Members	<u>978</u>
Evangelists in Training	<u>0</u>	Child Members	<u>n/a</u>

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Many of the pastors of the NCLC are greatly desirous of forming permanent bonds with their sister churches across the borders in Benin, Togo and Ghana. To this end they have pushed for the establishment of yearly conferences with these men, which began in January of 2012, and will hopefully continue.

We are in the process of moving the Bible school from its current location to be located with the dormitories.

SCOPE AND FOCUS OF MINISTRY

The commitment to conservative Lutheran practices has been a unique feature of the NCLC from the beginning. Under the leadership of Pastor Essien the NCLC has historically grasped the importance of solid biblical teaching and practice against the new wave of enthusiasm that is sweeping the churches of the world.

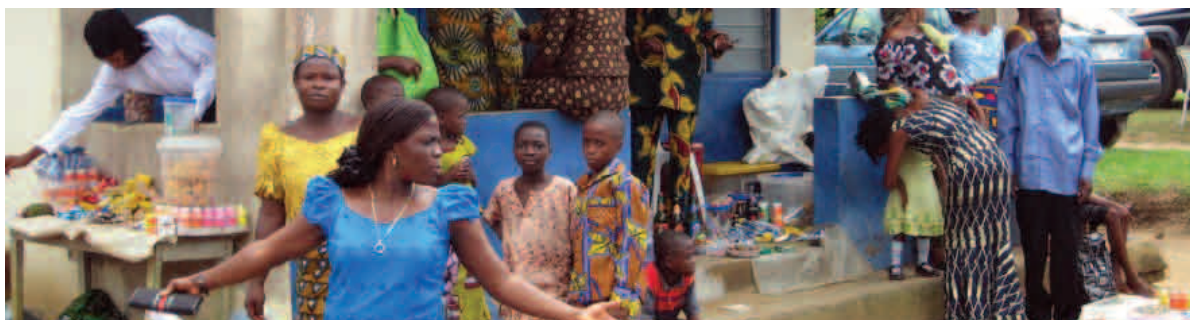
The hub and center of the NCLC is located in Efa Etinan, a village in the far south eastern part of Nigeria. But the NCLC has also greatly desired to expand and fill their home country. Especially as the pastors see more and more of the younger generation moving to the big cities, they are trying to reach out and provide for these and others. To this end they have established missionary congregations in many of the larger cities throughout Nigeria, including Port Harcourt and Lagos. The NCLC is unique among our sister churches overseas, in having a full five year college and seminary, in which Hebrew and Greek are taught.

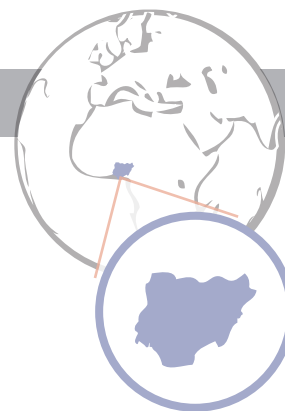


CHALLENGES

The NCLC currently recognizes three overarching concerns and goals.

1. The establishment and growth of mission churches outside the initial Efa area.
2. Church discipline, a few of the pastors of the NCLC have had serious allegations laid at their feet.
3. Financial support, as the Nigeria economy suffers so do the churches. The NCLC is having difficulty finding the funds it needs for even basic tasks.





HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

In the early 1970's, Oscar Erpenstein of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church of San Francisco, CA, came into contact with certain Nigerian students schooling in the US. When they returned to Nigeria, Oscar continued to correspond with them and their friends in Nigeria on the basic teachings of Christianity.

In January of 1974, Pastors Carl Thurow and Norbert Reim traveled to Nigeria and visited these churches and individuals. They began calling themselves the Nigerian Church of the Lutheran Confession.

In April of 1974, Pastor E. E. Essien and several stations that he served inquired about the CLC. Pastor Essien had been trained in Lutheran doctrine at the old school in Obit Idim. Later in 1974, Patrick Udo along with his wife and infant daughter arrived in the US to begin studies at Immanuel Lutheran College.

Throughout the next decade numerous problems began to manifest themselves in the NCLC. A split occurred dividing these churches. It became apparent that correspondence with these churches was not enough; instead it was of great importance to have a missionary in the field.

In September of 1986, when it seemed that Missionary David Koenig would be unable to get into India, he arrived instead in Nigeria. At this point there were 12 congregations and preaching stations left as part of the NCLC.

In January of 1987, classes were begun in the Lutheran Bible Institute in Efa Etinan. Pastors E. E. Essien, Missionary David Koenig, and Pastor Patrick Udo taught at the school.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Through mission offerings the CLC Board of Missions has allocated \$450 per month as financial support for the NCLC. This includes salaries and maintenance for the NCLC Bible Institute. Beyond this KINSHIP supports the orphans and the students of the Bible Institute. Recently KINSHIP has also agreed to start supporting the widows of NCLC pastors.

PERSONNEL

Pastor Ufot Umoren is the newly elected President of the NCLC. He has already served faithfully for many years as the treasurer of the NCLC.

Pastor Edwin Ukoh is vice president of the NCLC and the lead teacher at the Bible Institute. Pastor Edwin has taught at the Bible Institute for many years since the retirement of Pastor E. E. Essien.

Pastor Bassey Udofa is one of the teachers at the NCLC Bible Institute. He is also pastor in Efa, and a member of the NCLC Board.

Pastor Godwin Akpan is the third teacher at the Bible Institute. He oversees the children's home, and is a member of the board of trustees.

The Lord has also blessed the church through the talents and leadership of Pastor E. E. Essien's sons. Although none of them has been given to the ministry, many of them dedicate much of their time and resources to the Lord. Mike Essien has been instrumental in establishing and supporting the mission in Lagos. Martin Essien has recently built a beautiful new church in Badagari and has also served in various lay leadership roles in the church. Alfred Essien helps and supports the church in Port Harcourt and serves as treasurer of the NCLC.

Togo

Mission Église Évangélique Luthérienne au Togo (MEELT)

STATUS

In Fellowship ☒

STATISTICS

Ordained Pastors	<u>1</u>	Congregations	<u>3</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>5</u>	Preaching stations	<u>6</u>
Evangelists	<u>n/a</u>	Adult Members	<u>243</u>
Evangelists in Training	<u>n/a</u>	Child Members	<u>n/a</u>

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

As the churches grew both in number and in members, Pastor Kossi realized that he could not efficiently do the work of the ministry and work at the school. In 2013, he resigned from his secular job and is now focusing completely on the ministry of the Lord. Through mission offerings, the CLC Board of Missions assists him in this endeavor by providing a small stipend to help him with the traveling costs of his ministry.

Near the end of 2013, Pastor Kossi was contacted by men in Benin and Ghana hoping that he would plant and oversee churches in those countries as well. He is currently applying to the governments of both Benin and Ghana for the legal rights to carry out ministries there. In 2014, opportunities opened up for Pastor Kossi to begin evangelism work in two separate cities in Benin.

He also has been in contact with a pastor across the border from Lome in Ghana.

SCOPE AND FOCUS OF MINISTRY

Pastor Kossi is a very dedicated minister and is constantly looking for new ways to do evangelism. He spends a lot of time with his home congregation in Varipariso. Here he has classes and meetings almost every day. He also travels as much as possible to the preaching stations most of which are villages just outside Lome. When he can't go himself he will often send one of his students to teach, preach, and do evangelism in these areas.

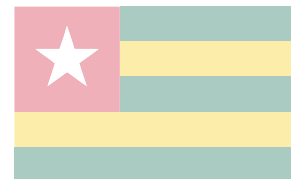
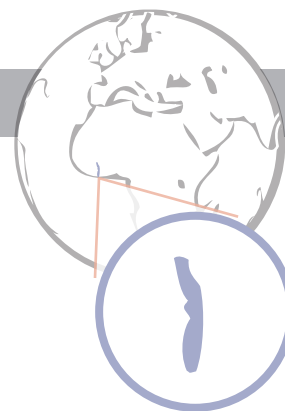
PERSONNEL

Pastor Kossi is the lead Pastor of the MEELT, he is currently training six men who help him with the various churches and preaching stations in Togo.



FUTURE PLANS

Pastor Kossi has many plans and prayers for the church in Togo. He wants to build a school as well as building many permanent church buildings in the villages where he is currently holding meetings often outdoors. In one of these villages the villagers have donated land and have already begun to make bricks for the building of a church.



HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

In 1999, Elinore Gbedey was returning to the US from teaching in the country of Benin. She came through Lome, Togo to visit there, since she is married to a Togolese. While in Lome, she came across a Lutheran, Amegan Kwaku Kpello (Mike) and explained our church to him. He seemed to have some interest, so she contacted Missionary David Koenig who had previously been her pastor at Peace Thru Christ in Middleton, WI. Email correspondence resulted. Literature was sent but Mike decided to remain with his Lutheran church which is affiliated with the LC-MS. However he did put Missionary Koenig in contact with Kossi Blewu and Gideon Abussah.

Kossi Blewu was a school teacher and a member of a Baptist church. Missionary Koenig began correspondence courses with Kossi in September of 2001. The next year in March, when Missionary Koenig visited him, he could see from the word of God that the Baptist teaching concerning the sacraments was incorrect. He had not yet received Baptism, and asked for it at that time. On April 3, 2001, Missionary Koenig baptized him in his house.

In April of 2004, Kossi registered his small church with the Togolaise government.

In December of 2008, Pastor Matthew Ude, while visiting West Africa, publicly ordained him.

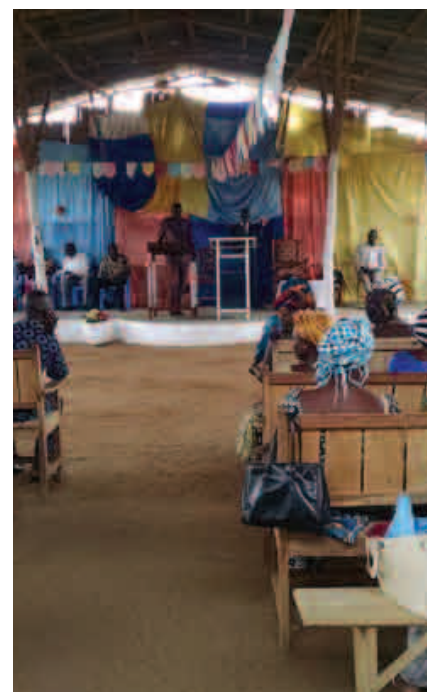
Throughout the decade since his first contact with Missionary Koenig, Pastor Kossi has continued to work diligently at both his secular teaching job as well as his ministry. Quite soon, by the grace of God, Pastor Kossi had established two congregations and two more preaching stations in and around Lome, Togo.

In 2009, he began teaching five men from his own congregation to be ministers in God's church.

Nearly five years ago the CLC Board of Missions agreed to help Pastor Kossi buy land for his church, while the CLC couldn't pay the entire amount for the land, we agreed to pay a certain amount every year and in this way eventually pay off the land. The land owner eventually grew tired of waiting for the full amount to be paid off and returned all the money Pastor Kossi had paid him so far. With this sum he was able to buy a different, less expensive parcel of land which was still more than large enough for his church. The Lord provides.

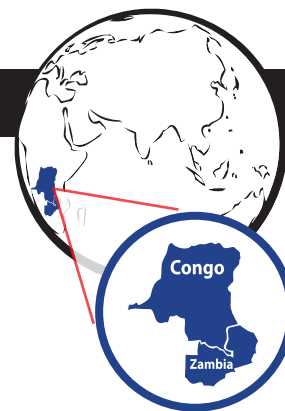
FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Through mission offerings the CLC Board of Missions currently provides \$200 per month in subsidy for traveling and teaching expenses in addition to MDF grants for church building projects.



Congo/Zambia

Congregation Confessionnelle Lutherienne Au Congo



STATUS

In Fellowship ☒

STATISTICS - Congo

Ordained Pastors	<u>23</u>	Congregations	<u>23</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>n/a</u>	Preaching stations	<u>n/a</u>
Evangelists	<u>37</u>	Adult Members	<u>n/a</u>
Evangelists in Training	<u>n/a</u>	Child Members	<u>n/a</u>

STATISTICS - Zambia

Ordained Pastors	<u>4</u>	Congregations	<u>3</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>2</u>	Preaching stations	<u>n/a</u>
Evangelists	<u>9</u>	Adult Members	<u>183</u>
Evangelists in Training	<u>n/a</u>	Child Members	<u>n/a</u>



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The men with whom Pastor Yumba works across the border in Kitwe have started the registration process with the government of Zambia to be recognized as a Lutheran Church.

Pastor Yumba is involved in building a school in Whiski, a village just outside Kasumbalesa. While building the school he is also planning on including a worship structure as well.

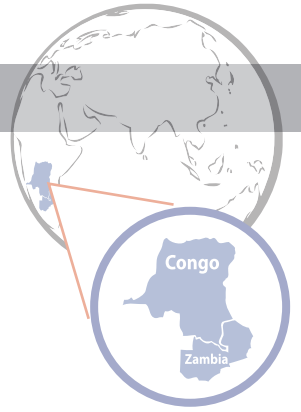


SCOPE AND FOCUS OF MINISTRY

The CLCC is headquartered in Lubumbashi of the Katanga Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). They have churches and missions scattered throughout the Katanga Province, but mostly their work is focused on the area surrounding Lubumbashi, and south of Lubumbashi near the Congo-Zambia border. Pastor Yumba also works across the border in the northern part of Zambia, particularly in Kitwe.

Pastor Yumba grew up in a Lutheran church that had given in to some liberal ideology, at which point he left that fellowship. He is attempting to train a number of pastors in both Congo and Zambia who are largely from a Pentecostal background and have little if any biblical training.





HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

In August of 2009, serious problems arose within the Eglise Luthérienne de Confession du Congo (ELCC) over administrative issues. After a number of troubled years it seemed best that each group simply work separately, in fellowship, but with separate church organizations. This was the beginning of the CLCC.

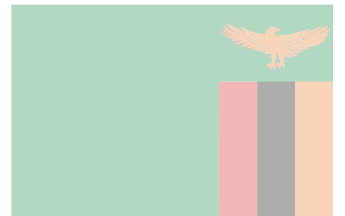
The CLCC and ELCC agreed, among other things, to work together in translation and publication projects.

Pastor Yumba Lumbala, now the president of the CLCC, immediately began pursuing contacts across the border in Zambia.



PERSONNEL

Pastor Yumba Lumbala has a Lutheran background and studied for a time under Pastor Muzakuza. He works in rural development with various non-government organizations (NGOs; non-profits) and with the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).



FUTURE PLANS

A large parcel of land, half an hour outside Lubumbashi, has been offered to Pastor Yumba, for a very reasonable price, for the purpose of building a Bible School. He is very excited and has high hopes about moving forward on establishing a Bible school in Congo.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

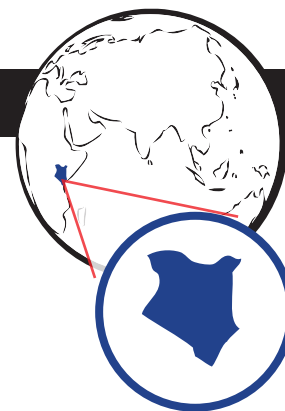
From mission offerings the CLC Board of Missions sends \$2,400 annually for Pastor Yumba's work in the DRC and another \$1,800 for his work across the border in Zambia.



CLCC Pastors meeting in Lusaka, Zambia in August 2014

Kenya

Kenyan Church of the Lutheran Confession (KCLC)



STATUS

In Fellowship ☒

STATISTICS

Ordained Pastors	<u>5</u>	Congregations	<u>6</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>0</u>	Preaching stations	<u>1</u>
Evangelists	<u>3</u>	Adult Members	<u>350</u>
Evangelists in Training	<u>0</u>	Child Members	<u>200</u>

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Building projects are underway at Emmaus - Moi's Bridge with a shift from temporary structures for class rooms to permanent brick and mortar structures. The Emmaus - Moi's Bridge School sponsorship is now under the administration of the KINSHIP Committee. The pastoral training program in Chotororo (Kisii Area) has been closed. A more effective pastoral training program is being investigated.

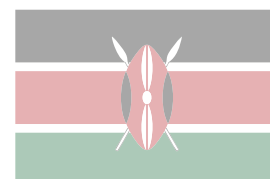
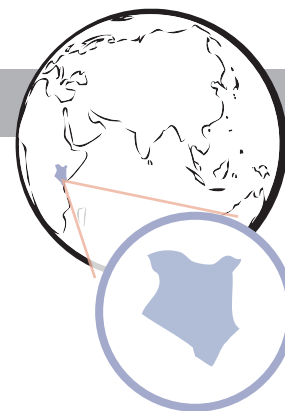
CHALLENGES

No on-site missionary or full time seminary.

SCOPE AND FOCUS OF MINISTRY

There are two primary schools (St. David's Academy - Etago and Emmaus - Moi's Bridge) which are well established and serving over 400 souls.





HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

On June 18, 2000, in Etago, Kenya, the first service was held by a new congregation of 32 adults and 24 children. They set up a board of elders and installed a pastor, Samson Otieno, who had been 7th Day Adventist.

Some of the people had been looking for a new church in their area of Etago, Kisii, to replace the churches they were in, namely the Roman Catholic and the 7th Day Adventist. Inquiries were made about Lutheran contacts among tourists from America who travelled nearby through the Great Rift Valley. A non-CLC friend from Michigan, upon being asked, recommended they investigate the CLC. Correspondence was initiated and carried on, a visit by Missionary David Koenig and his wife came about. Doctrinal unity was eventually established.

The present faithful head of the church, Pastor Enosh Anyona, leads a congregation of 102 church members; 39 adults and 63 children. An Aids Orphan School, St. David's Academy, begun in November of 2003, with 80 children, has grown by leaps and bounds. The most recent report from our KINSHIP Committee reported 10 teachers and 223 children. For all of this we praise our Lord and thank Him that He has given us the opportunity to work with our Kenyan brothers and sisters.

In 2009, through Kenyans visiting Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Phoenix, AZ, work began in the Moi's Bridge area of Kenya. In 2010, a school and congregation were started at Emmaus Milimani through the efforts of Pastor Michael Gurath. The CLC support for this project is largely funded by mission offerings through the KINSHIP Committee with additional support through a special fund at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Phoenix. Pastor Gurath also spent time teaching in the Chotororo seminary.

PERSONNEL

Pastor Enosh Anyona is in charge of the St. David's Academy school administration and has served the congregation there since about 2002. He was one of the first contacts with the CLC-USA.

FUTURE PLANS

Establish a permanent means of pastoral training. Construct permanent classroom buildings on the Emmaus - Moi's Bridge School property.

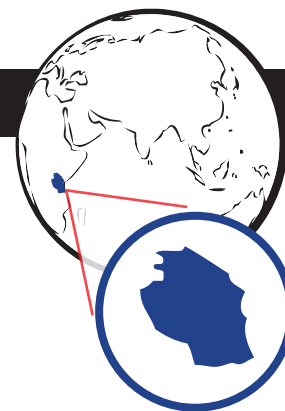
FINANCIAL SUPPORT

St. David's Academy - Etago school receives regular bi-monthly support from KINSHIP totaling \$4,800 per year.

Emmaus - Moi's Bridge receives regular support from KINSHIP totaling \$8,760 per year.

Tanzania

Church of the Lutheran Confession in Tanzania (CLCT)



STATUS

In Fellowship ☒

STATISTICS

Ordained Pastors	<u>28</u>	Congregations	<u>38</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>6</u>	Preaching stations	<u>16</u>
Evangelists	<u>36</u>	Adult Members	<u>1424</u>
Evangelists in Training	<u>12</u>	Child Members	<u>2253</u>

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The district leaders are currently working toward legal registration of the church body with the Tanzanian government. This would allow them to post signs with their church name and affiliation in the areas where they are working, and give them greater exposure to the people of Tanzania. Over the past two years they have formulated a detailed constitution in which they clearly proclaim the doctrine that they preach and confess based on the Brief Statement. Pastor Nathanael Mayhew has stepped down as our part time missionary to Tanzania, leaving a void in our current and future work with our Tanzanian brethren.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

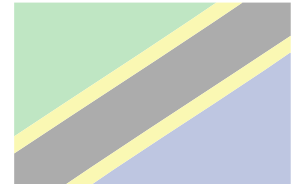
Currently none of the Tanzania districts is receiving a monthly or yearly subsidy. The districts have received assistance through the CLC Mission Development Fund for purchasing Bibles, hymnals, catechisms, motorcycles, and roofing for churches. This money has been distributed to the districts yearly and in person by our visiting part time missionary as he considers the needs and distributes those funds accordingly.

SCOPE AND FOCUS OF MINISTRY

Our work in East Africa began not unlike our own beginning in the CLC, as it was formed out of already existing Lutheran Churches that were forced to leave their fellowship because of false teaching. Only one third of the population of Tanzania considers themselves Christian, with Islam being slightly more than a third and animism being slightly less than a third. Even among those that call themselves Christian, most have only a cursory understanding of the work of Christ and many believe that the God of Christianity and the god of Islam are one and the same. There is much to do in the work of explaining the truth of God's Word.

From the very beginning these Tanzanian churches had a strong desire to reach out to those who were lost in unbelief. Each of the districts work among the Maasai tribe (largely animistic). Over the years the Lord has blessed the efforts of our Tanzanian churches among this African tribe and many Christian (Lutheran) congregations have been formed among the Maasai.

With the growth of Islam throughout East Africa, many of our congregations have also become actively involved in outreach to Muslims as well.



HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The first contact between Lutheran churches in Tanzania and the CLC took place in April of 2000, through Pastor Angowi of the Lutheran Church in East Africa (LCEA). Missionary David Koenig met with the leaders of that church body to discuss doctrine and fellowship. The initial meeting went well. Two years later a second meeting was held in Tanzania and after more doctrinal discussions, fellowship was requested by the LCEA. In June 2002 the CLC Convention declared fellowship with the Tanzanian church body. Over the coming year work was begun on starting a seminary in Himo, Tanzania. This was accomplished through funding from the MDF and the help of several CLC mission helpers who worked to prepare the newly purchased building and property. The seminary opened in May 2003, with five instructors and nine students. In 2004, a second Tanzanian church body was formed out of the LCEA, the Church of the Lutheran Confession in East Africa (CLCEA). While these church bodies were distinct from each other, an understanding was reached that both bodies would work together with one another and with the CLC. In 2008, the seminary graduated its first class of eight men for the pastoral ministry. In 2009, there was a rupture in the LCEA over fellowship with the LCMS. Fellowship was broken with Pastor Angowi in February 2010. Many pastors and congregations of the LCEA joined the CLCEA and remained in fellowship with the CLC. As a result of the rupture the seminary in Himo was closed down and ownership of the seminary property was disputed. In 2010, the CLCEA reorganized into districts under the name Church of the Lutheran Confession in Tanzania (CLCT). Districts are formed in Arusha, Moshi, and Tanga areas. In 2013, a fourth district was formed in the Makanya area. While there has been much turmoil in our sister churches in Tanzania, the Lord continues to bless the proclamation of His Word of Truth through faithful pastors and congregations. Thanks be to God!

PERSONNEL

Each of the four districts is led by a trained pastor.

Pastor Jeremiah Issangya leads the Arusha District. He has several well trained and capable men working with him.

Pastor Ebenezer Malyi is the leader of the Moshi District near Mt. Kilimanjaro with several trained pastors at his side.

Pastor Godson Mshana leads the Makanya district. Under his leadership the churches are growing and expanding.

Pastor Pascal, who currently works with a small number of pastors in towns and villages along on the northern coast of Tanzania, is in charge of the Tanga District.

FUTURE PLANS/CHALLENGES

One of the most important goals moving forward is the establishment of an institution for the training of future pastors and teachers. Many of the leaders of our Tanzanian brethren are becoming older, and they recognize that training the next generation to take their place is a critical part of their work. For this reason the reestablishment of a seminary for the ongoing training of pastors and teachers is vital in the work of the Lord's kingdom work in Tanzania. With the ownership of the Himo seminary building still in question the challenge is to find a way to do this in the immediate future. There are several gifted men who would be an asset to a seminary, but it has been difficult to find a feasible location that would be accessible for all the districts. Other problems are funds to purchase any possible property, and a qualified man to organize, run and teach at the seminary to get it up and running.

Uganda

Ugandan Church of the Lutheran Confession (UCLC)

STATUS

In Fellowship ☒

STATISTICS

Ordained Pastors	<u>2</u>	Congregations	<u>3</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>4</u>	Preaching stations	<u>2</u>
Evangelists	<u>1</u>	Adult Members	<u>110</u>
Evangelists in Training	<u>0</u>	Child Members	<u>164</u>

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Pastor Wangira has reported that satellite congregations are forming in his home area of Bulondani and is doing what he can to help equip the leaders of those groups.

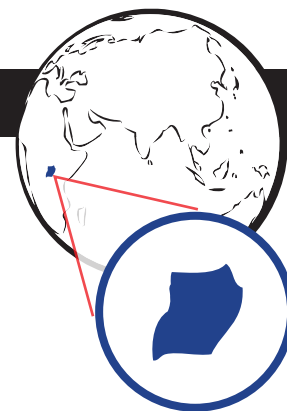
HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Pastor Daniel Mugeni, along with 5 evangelists, serves a congregation in Iganga, of 113 souls (60 adults and 53 children) in a church building which the membership purchased along with the land. Previously they had been renting a small plot of land and worshipping in a temporary structure. Pastor Mugeni has been in contact with the CLC since 2009, and has completed correspondence training along with attending the Bible College which was located in Chotororo, Kisii, Kenya. This congregation has one additional branch that it also serves.

The heavy rainfall in the latter part of 2015, severely affected the entire area and damaged their church building. The CLC MDF was able to send relief aid in order to repair the roof of their church. In July of 2015, the Mission Helper Trip traveled to Uganda for the very first time and conducted Vacation Bible School in Iganga.

Pastor Tanas Wangira was introduced to the CLC through his colleague and long-time friend, Pastor Daniel Mugeni. Along with several evangelists, he serves a congregation in Bulondani, of 130 souls (31 adults and 99 children) in a church building which is still under construction and is being built on his own property.

The heavy rainfall and flooding in late 2015, severely affected this congregation as well with the church and home property being almost completely destroyed. The CLC MDF was able to provide some relief funds to them as well so that the rebuilding process could begin. Pastor Wangira serves as a community council member and volunteer advocate for orphaned children. He has attended several Kenya/Uganda Pastoral Conferences and has shown a great appreciation for solid Lutheran teaching. In order to continue correspondence training he must make the difficult journey each week down to Busia.



CHALLENGES

No on-site missionary or full time seminary to carryout pastoral training.

PERSONNEL

Pastor Daniel Mugeni serves a congregation in Iganga. Pastor Tanas Wangira has a congregation in his home area of Bulondani.

SCOPE/FOCUS OF MINISTRY

Two primary congregations (Iganga and Bulondani) are well established and serving over 240 souls.

FUTURE PLANS

Their plans are to help the adults set up income generating projects and train the youth with vocational skills.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The congregations receive no regular financial support. Emergency relief funds in the amount of \$600 were sent in late 2015, to help the Iganga church and the Bulondani congregation rebuild.

Zambia

The Church of the Lutheran Confession in Zambia (CLCZ)

STATUS

In Fellowship ☒

STATISTICS

Ordained Pastors	<u>1</u>	Congregations	<u>3</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>36</u>	Preaching stations	<u>3</u>
Evangelists	<u>2</u>	Adult Members	<u>220</u>
Evangelists in Training	<u>16</u>	Child Members	<u>105</u>

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

In 2010, Pastor Ibrahim, who was trained in the CLC-East Africa Seminary in Tanzania, visited Zambia at the invitation of a friend who wanted to start a CLC congregation in Zambia.

In 2011, Pastor Ibrahim moved to Lusaka, Zambia, and established the CLC-Zambia. He also started a congregation, began several outreach efforts, and began meeting with evangelists and pastors in the area who were interested in the teachings of the CLC.

In 2012, Pastor Todd Ohlmann and Missionary Matthew Ude visited Zambia to meet with Pastor Ibrahim and to assist him in explaining the doctrinal position of the CLC to any who were interested. The CLC Statement of Faith and Purpose was used as an outline for the discussions.

SCOPE AND FOCUS OF MINISTRY

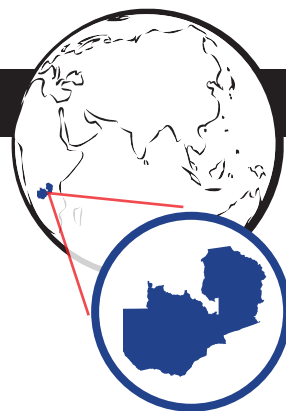
Congregations have been established in Lusaka, Shimabala, and Nakonde. The work of the CLC-Zambia consists of weekly worship services, door to door evangelism in the slums near Lusaka and in rural areas, and the on-going training of pastors and evangelists. Pastor Ibrahim also conducts weekly after-school Bible studies in several locations in impoverished areas outside of Lusaka.

PERSONNEL

Pastor Ibrahim Karioki

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

\$370 per month, from mission offerings, is sent by the CLC Board of Missions to the CLC-Zambia which helps defray transportation costs for Pastor Ibrahim and for the evangelists and the many pastors who attend monthly training.



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

New districts, near Livingstone and outlying areas of Lusaka, were started in the fall of 2015, with several independent pastors who have asked to be trained. Pastoral training meetings are conducted at five locations each month with nearly 40 pastors in attendance.

FUTURE PLANS

The purchase of a suitable building for a headquarters where worship services can be held and pastors can be trained, is in the planning stages. They are looking to buy property in Lusaka or Livingstone.

BELC - India

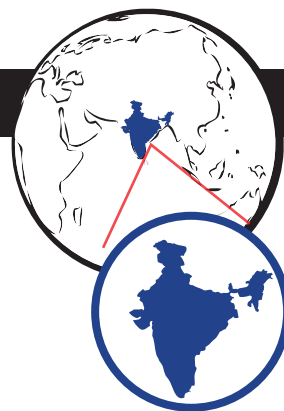
Berea Evangelical Lutheran Church of India (BELC)

STATUS

In Fellowship ☒

STATISTICS

Ordained Pastors	<u>742</u>	Congregations	<u>1284</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>22</u>	Preaching stations	<u>447</u>
Evangelists	<u>n/a</u>	Adult Members	<u>37,723</u>
Evangelists in Training	<u>n/a</u>	Child Members	<u>n/a</u>



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

A new district has been started in Vellore with 36 pastors coming to learn what the Bible teaches. The BELC has also started holding Leaders' Conferences to encourage and equip new leaders from each of 23 districts.



SCOPE AND FOCUS OF MINISTRY

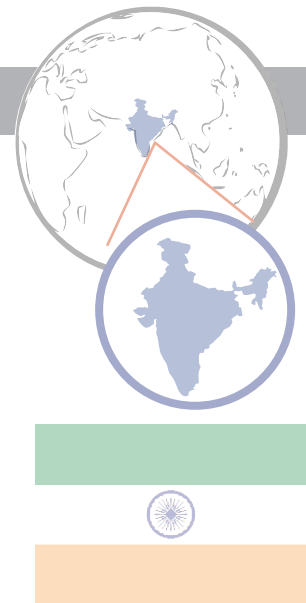
The BELC currently ministers to people in four states and one territory of India, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Seven district chairmen hold monthly meetings, with all the pastors attending, teaching them the catechism. VBS summer programs are held and they work with children in after school programs. Some of the pastors work with the blind and others work in leprosy compounds. The BELC pastors also work hard to reach out to rural villages and tribal colonies. The BELC has a twofold program with the goal of increasing correct doctrinal teaching in India and proclaiming the Gospel to the heathen. They hold regular monthly district meetings for the training of men who are already pastors throughout the districts. They also have a school in Andhra Pradesh for a more immersive training of young men desiring to become ministers.

FUTURE PLANS/CHALLENGES

There is great willingness and desire to expand to include even more districts. There are many places and pastors that would like to be included in the monthly classes. The district chairmen, as well as many of the pastors, are continually spreading the word to friends and family concerning the BELC's solid biblical doctrine and practice.

There is also a strong desire among a number of our district chairmen to open up more Bible schools throughout the districts. The one we currently have serves well, but it is inaccessible for many of the young men in the districts farther away.

Many of the chairmen would also like to start orphanages. This is a process we are currently working on with KINSHIP.



HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

In 1983, Pastor Mohan Bas, who lived at the far southern tip of India, sent a letter to the CLC Board of Missions requesting contact. Pastor Bas had previously been trained in Lutheran doctrine and had since started his own church - the Bharath Evangelical Lutheran Church (BELC). In July of 1986, the CLC, in convention, recognized confessional fellowship with the BELC. At this time the BELC consisted of 2 pastors and 300 souls.

In July of 2000, Pastor Todd Ohlmann traveled to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to explore a new field where the BELC had contacts. In December of 2000, it was discovered that Pastor Mohan Bas was receiving money from another Lutheran Church body with which the CLC was not in fellowship. An end to our fellowship with Mohan Bas was declared.

Many of the men who had previously been studying under Bas came to Missionary David Koenig desiring to remain in fellowship with the CLC. This was the beginning of the new BELC. A new name was chosen, Berea Evangelical Lutheran Church, and a new building available for rent was found in Nagalapuram, Andhra Pradesh.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

\$12,500 in monthly support is sent from mission offerings by the CLC Board of Missions. This includes money for monthly district meetings, financial support for the District Chairmen including support for long distance traveling, KINSHIP support for widows and Bible school students. On top of this, money is sent for publication and distribution of literature including catechisms, Bibles, and Sunday School lessons. Money is also sent to help with building projects.

PERSONNEL

The men are listed in the order that they appear in the picture to the left (left to right, and front row first):

Pastor D Paul is the president of the BELC, as well as the head teacher at the Martin Luther Bible School (MLBS), he also serves as a district chairman.

Pastor Rajamani serves as a district chairman and teaches music at the MLBS.

Pastor Moses Raghu is a district chairman, intelligent and dedicated. He is always pushing for the start of another Bible school in his district of Nellore. He works with Pastor Bhaskar to conduct Evangelism meetings in western Andhra Pradesh and is also overseeing the work in Bengaluru in Karnataka.

Pastor Bhaskar, district chairman, is very humble and dedicated. He had the Luther rose carved on his front door. Pastor Bhaskar works closely with Pastor Moses.

Pastor T Sampath, district chairman, helps out teaching at the MLBS.

Pastor Victor Vemuri, district chairman, previously in the Indian army, extremely energetic and friendly.

Pastor Deepak Immanuel, district chairman, is very good with many languages, including English, Tamil, Hindi, and Odia. He also makes visits to Odisha and the Andaman and Nichobar Islands.

CLCI - India

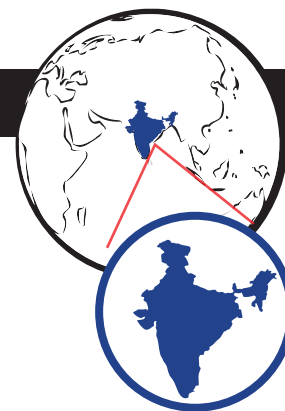
Church of the Lutheran Confession India (CLCI)

STATUS

In Fellowship ☒

STATISTICS

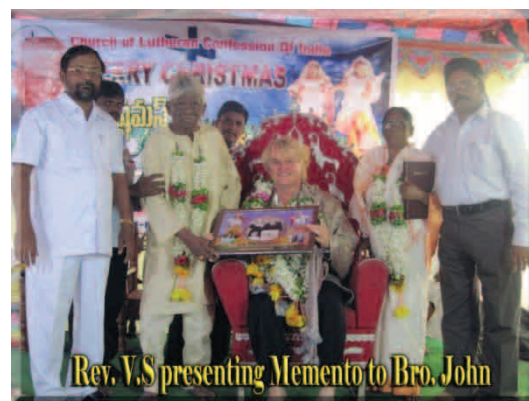
Ordained Pastors	<u>322</u>	Congregations	<u>308</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>42</u>	Preaching stations	<u>235</u>
Evangelists	<u>n/a</u>	Adult Members	<u>14,670</u>
Evangelists in Training	<u>n/a</u>	Child Members	<u>n/a</u>



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The CLCI is glad to receive the 2016 Mission Helper Trip to India. Both the leaders and members of the CLCI are greatly encouraged to meet and greet the young brothers and sisters who come so far to share the gospel with them.

Also in 2015, they reached out with the Gospel to 1,855 children who participated in their annual VBS program. The CLCI Seminary students spent time educating volunteers who were then well equipped to go out and teach the children.



SCOPE AND FOCUS OF MINISTRY

The CLCI works throughout much of middle and northern Andhra Pradesh, as well as into the southern tip of Odisha. Their work includes:

Pastoral Seminars are organized by the CLCI among its various districts on a regular basis for the continued training of its pastors.

Public Gospel Meetings, including film programs, are held in various villages. Anywhere from 500-1000 attend these three-day meetings. In 2015, the CLCI conducted 34 of these meetings.

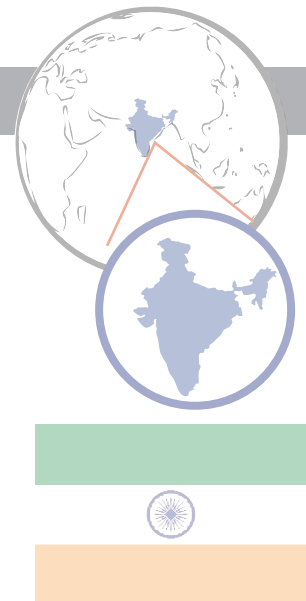
Outreach and Evangelism programs have met with success. Many young men who attended the CLCI youth camps at Nidubrolu have become evangelists for these outreach programs.

Constructing Churches And Prayer Sheds is also a priority. The CLCI does its best to help its pastors and churches with the construction of places of worship.

Tribal Outreach is another important opportunity of which advantage is taken. Many of the tribal people of India are neglected and downtrodden. The CLCI reaches out to them with the word of God, but also helps them in other areas including education.

Orphanages are more common in India than in the States. With the help of KINSHIP the CLCI supports and educates a large number of orphaned children.

HIV/AIDS Awareness programs are used to spread the Gospel. HIV/AIDS is not only a serious problem, but is also surrounded by a great deal of superstition and misinformation. The CLCI works to educate people about HIV/AIDS and to give help and assistance to those who are infected, most importantly to share the love of Christ with them.



HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The CLC has been working with the CLCI in India since 1981, when a CLC member, John Rohrbach, put the CLC in contact with Pastor V. S. Benjamin.

In April of 1983, the CLC Board of Missions sent money for the building of a mission house in Nidubrolu, Andhra Pradesh, India. This mission house was to be a home for V. S. Benjamin. It was also the headquarters for Pastor Benjamin's church, the CLCI. Later it would grow to include both a Bible school and an orphanage.

In 1984, KINSHIP helped with the building of an orphanage in Nidubrolu with a capacity of 25 to 30 orphans.

In September of 1989, Jyothi Benjamin, son of Pastor V. S. Benjamin, flew from India to the US to begin training for two years at ILC, in Eau Claire, WI.

In May 1998, Jyothi Benjamin began a Bible School in Nidubrolu, Andhra Pradesh.

In June 2000, the first two men, Isaiah and Jacob, graduated from the Bible School in Nidubrolu under the teaching of Jyothi Benjamin. The CLCI is based in Nidubrolu, Andhra Pradesh, a town just south east of Guntur.

PERSONNEL

Pastor V. S. Benjamin, founder and current president of the CLCI.

Pastor Jyothi Benjamin is the son of Pastor V. S. Benjamin. Pastor Jyothi is the active head of the CLCI. He is also the main teacher at the CLCI Seminary, and does much of the work of organizing the various programs of the CLCI.

Nireekshana Benjamin is another son of Pastor V.S. Benjamin and brother to Jyothi. Nireekshana works closely with Jyothi as the CFO of the CLCI as well as doing much to organize children's programs such as the VBS.

FUTURE PLANS

The CLCI is always looking to reach out further with the Gospel. They are hoping to increase their Sunday school program, and the number of Gospel meetings. They are also praying for the funds to build more churches and prayer sheds.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

\$4,500 per month from mission offerings is sent by the CLC Board of Missions. This includes subsidy for Pastor V. S. Benjamin, Jyothi, and Nireekshana, and KINSHIP support of Orphans and Seminary students. On top of this, money is regularly sent for Christian literature including Bibles and catechisms, help with church building construction and aid in other forms as it is needed.

Nepal

The Himalayan Church of the Lutheran Confession of Nepal (HCLC-Nepal)

STATUS

In Fellowship ☒

STATISTICS

Ordained Pastors	<u>9</u>	Congregations	<u>21</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>10</u>	Preaching stations	<u>14</u>
Evangelists	<u>3</u>	Adult Members	<u>2400</u>
Evangelists in Training	<u>8</u>	Child Members	<u>485</u>

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

On April 25th of 2015, the first of two major earthquakes hit Nepal. CLC President Eichstadt authorized a special fund to assist the HCLCN in offering aid to victims. Earthquake relief efforts have occupied much of the time and attention of the HCLCN for the past year. There is still much work to be accomplished.

In May of 2015, Raju Bhitrakoti graduated from Immanuel Lutheran Seminary. He returned to Nepal earlier than expected to assist in the earthquake recovery and aid efforts.

In January of 2016, five pastors completed seven years of training and were the first ordained pastors of the HCLCN.

They continue to make an effort to take the Gospel to villages and the remote districts of western Nepal where there has been little or no Gospel presence. They have had a welcome response and have established small congregations in Humla, Mustang, and Dhankuta.

Some congregations have recently been lost from fellowship because of doctrinal disagreements. This led to a significant decrease in membership of the HCLCN.

SCOPE AND FOCUS OF MINISTRY

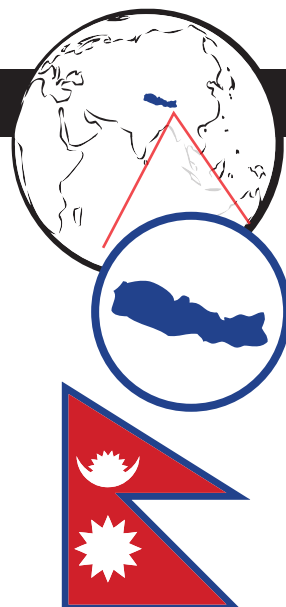
The HCLCN works in several different areas of Gospel ministry such as regular pastoral meeting and training along with a regular schedule of visits to the congregations and organizing seminars and conferences. They are also working to develop new mission fields in the eastern and western regions of the country.

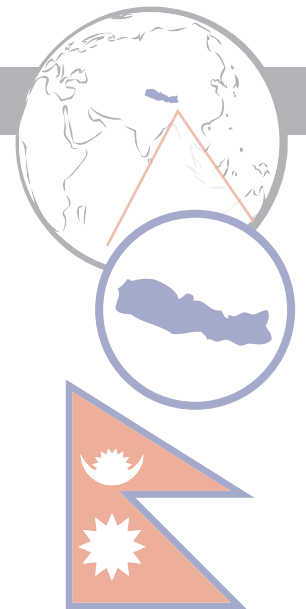
Ongoing Pastor and Evangelist Training - Pastors continue to be trained and encouraged in the truth of God's Word through monthly pastoral training meetings.

Orphanage - Ten children are being cared for through CLC KINSHIP sponsorship.

Movie Evangelism - Gas generators and video projection equipment is carried into distant Himalayan villages to show videos that depict the life of Jesus.

Himalayan Bible Institute - In January of 2016 the Himalayan Bible Institute of the HCLCN was dedicated. In March of 2016 the school approved for and granted Kinship sponsorship for ten students who began classes in April of 2016. These ten students attend full-time classes for one week each month and are assigned to a congregation for on-the-job training the other three weeks of each month. Students will attend the HBI for 3-6 years depending on their level of Bible training at the time of enrolment.





HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The CLC has been working in Nepal since contact was first made in 2007. The CLC in convention declared fellowship with the HCLCN in 2010. The HCLCN is based in the Lalitpur district of the Kathmandu valley. Mission fields are spread out to the central and western regions of Nepal. As the terrain of the country is mostly hilly and mountainous, the transportation system is not yet well developed so much of the work of spreading the Gospel is done on foot.

PERSONNEL

Pastor Raju Bhitrakoti is an ILC graduate. The HCLCN does not pay any salaries or provide any kind of financial support to local parish pastors. Pastors support their families and the work of the ministry through the meager offerings of the congregation they serve along with secular employment.

FUTURE PLANS

Development and organization of the newly dedicated Himalayan Bible Institute(HBI).

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Mission offerings, through the CLC Board of Missions, subsidize the work being done in Nepal in the amount of \$1400.00 per month. This includes subsidy for Pastor Raju Bhitrakoti and the HCLCN along with KINSHIP support of orphans and seminary students.



CHALLENGES

Some false teaching organizations continue to attempt to lead members away from the HCLCN to their own congregations. Leadership of the HCLCN has made it a priority to defend the truth of God's word by strengthening the members in their knowledge of the Scriptures as they encourage them to avoid those who would lead them away from the truth.

The HCLCN is also faced with the efforts of extremist Hindu political parties who continue to encourage anti-conversion laws that could make it unlawful to preach the Gospel openly.

Myanmar

The National Lutheran Church of Myanmar (NLCM)

STATUS

In Fellowship ☒

STATISTICS

Ordained Pastors	<u>1</u>	Congregations	<u>1</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>n/a</u>	Preaching stations	<u>6</u>
Evangelists	<u>n/a</u>	Adult Members	<u>119</u>
Evangelists in Training	<u>n/a</u>	Child Members	<u>n/a</u>

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In 2015, Pastor Todd Ohlmann, representing the CLC Board of Missions, taught and preached at various locations during his visit. Every year's visitation includes traveling to see individuals and the preaching stations. In 2016, a three day seminar is planned.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

As far back as 2008, the CLC Board of Missions chairman, Pastor Todd Ohlmann, had correspondence with at least five inquiries from Myanmar. One that continued was with Pastor Charles Edwards in Yangon. Initially, the correspondence with Pastor Edwards was through CLC President John Schierenbeck. In September 2010, Missionary David Koenig took over correspondence with Pastor Edwards subsequently meeting with him and his congregational leaders as well as holding a two day seminar. He was trained in country by the LC-MS and ordained by them in 2000.

In 2013, Pastor Edwards requested fellowship. In April of that year, under the CLC President Eichstadt's direction, the CLC Board of Doctrine carried out extensive correspondence with Pastor Edwards.

By May of 2014, the last of the responses to the questions submitted to Pastor Edwards were sent in his own words. He also allowed for any follow up questions. President Eichstadt declared fellowship writing Pastor Edwards,

"I send you heartfelt greetings from your fellow saints in the Church of the Lutheran Confession and fervent prayers for your safety and wellbeing as you carry out our Lord's commission to preach the good news to all creation. I am happy to report that the CLC Convention, held on June 16-18, 2014, gratefully acknowledged our agreement with you in the doctrines of Holy Scripture and declared our fellowship with the National Lutheran Church of Myanmar. May the Holy Spirit continue to bless our fellowship in the kingdom of our Savior Jesus Christ."



CHALLENGES

The big challenge for Pastor Edwards is to make the rounds to his far flung preaching stations as one can see below:

Hlaing Thar Yar is where he has his home, church building and attendance between 70-100 preaching each Sunday.

Bogalay is 180 miles away and he preaches there once every two months.

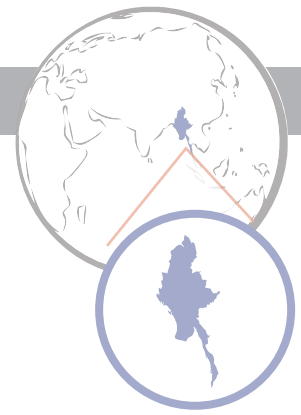
Oakan is 80 miles away and he preaches there once every two months or more if he can.

Shwephyther is where he preaches twice a month.

Kyawin's house is where he preaches twice a month.

86th bus gate is where he preaches weekly. Pastor Ohlmann baptized some from there last year.

Thingangyum is where he preaches once a month.



SCOPE/FOCUS OF MINISTRY

Pastor Charles Edwards is Tamil (his family originates in India) and he seeks to reach out to all ethnic groups. While he has one congregation, he has many preaching stations. In visits to individuals and preaching stations in 2016, opportunities were afforded to pray with and share the encouragement of the Gospel with many individuals in need of their Savior.

PERSONNEL

Pastor Charles Edwards

FUTURE PLANS

Pastor Edwards' son, Sam, who is 22 wants to train to be a pastor. The question is how much can be done in country and online.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

While the CLC does not send any regular monthly support, the CLC Board of Missions does give periodic support for outreach. An opportunity to set up four roadside shops in front of the church has developed. The rent from these booths could provide enough consistent income to be used for outreach. The cost of set up is about \$1200 with monthly income estimated at \$166.



Myanmar

Zomi Lutheran Church of Myanmar (ZLC)



STATUS

In Fellowship ☒

STATISTICS

Ordained Pastors	<u>9</u>	Congregations	<u>56</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>n/a</u>	Preaching stations	<u>2</u>
Evangelists	<u>n/a</u>	Adult Members	<u>5630</u>
Evangelists in Training	<u>n/a</u>	Child Members	<u>n/a</u>

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In 2016 we reduced our yearly seminar from four days down to three days due to costs. The big project they now are considering is to build on the land we bought for them. The cost of the building will need to be born by us, though they will do what they can. Once the construction is done, we can reduce the subsidy we give them each month for rent for the two lead pastors.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Burma – The presence of Christians in the kingdom of Malea (North Burma) in the ninth century is recorded along with other south Asia centers by Didacus de Couto. It should be remembered that Marco Polo discovered Nestorian Christians amongst the Shans when the Mongol armies entered Burma in 1252. The first American foreign missionary, Adoniram Judson and his wife Ann, arrived around 1812. And now here we are long years later, and the work is still there. Some things don't change - the barefoot monks are still trudging about with their begging bowls. Some things do change - the traffic is heavier, and construction is going forward. When the new democracy began recently the prices went up but are stabilized now. But one thing does not ever change - the need for the Gospel.

This sister church is located mostly in the Chin State and are of the Zomi people subdivision of the Chin.

In 2008, and beyond, contact was made and correspondence and visitations were carried forward. The situation progressed, with the Lord's blessings, to the point that in 2010, fellowship with the ZLC was declared by the CLC.

Yearly visitations and seminars are held. Pastor Todd Ohlmann, representing the CLC Board of Missions, was present for the seminar in 2015.

FUTURE PLANS

Reaching out to Zomi Chin where they live as well as Burmese is their goal. Building the church and housing in Kalay would be relatively quick once the money is available.

CHALLENGES

They have to consider how better to bring in preachers who will remain faithful.

PERSONNEL

Pastor Thang is president of the ZLC.

Pastor Kham is secretary of the ZLC.

SCOPE/FOCUS OF MINISTRY

Pastor Thang as President of the church and Pastor Kham as Secretary carry on the work of overseeing the ministry. They work with an executive committee made up of pastors and elders. While the vast majority of the membership are Chin, they are still trying to reach out to the Burmese. In the Kalay area they are still working in the same region as last year, but the growth has not yet happened.



Pursuing Opportunities

ARGENTINA

Pastor José Luis Podestá contacted President Eichstadt in July of 2015 with a request for fellowship and a desire to work together in spreading the Gospel in Argentina. They have requested assistance in training pastors for the ministry. With the assistance of individuals within the CLC who are conversant in Spanish, Pastor Nathanael Mayhew continues the initial phases of correspondence Pastor Podesta Podestá. No visitation has yet been considered or scheduled.

HAITI

In 2013 the CLC Board of Doctrine received an email from Pastor Emmanuel Julien requesting affiliation with CLC. This email was then forwarded to the Board of Missions by President Eichstadt. Since that time, several emails have been exchanged by members of the Board of Missions and Pastor Julien. Pastor Mark Gullerud (former secretary of the Bd of Missions) continues to correspond with Pastor Julien as he leads him through a course of Christian doctrine and introduction to the CLC. Pastor Julien works with a group of independent pastors who desire more pastoral training. An official CLC visitation is being planned for November of 2016.

ROME, ITALY

Pastor Guido Travaglioni was first introduced to the CLC when he met Pastor Wayne Eichstadt several years ago. In October 2015 Pastor Travaglioni contacted President Eichstadt with a request for fellowship and a desire to work together in the proclamation of the Gospel. The Board of Missions has asked Pastor Wayne Eichstadt to continue correspondence with Pastor Travaglioni. Pastor Eichstadt has been working with individuals within the CLC who are conversant in Spanish to determine if there is doctrinal agreement. No visitation has yet been considered or scheduled.

ZIMBABWE

Pastor Liberty Atawa first learned about the CLC through internet searches in 2009 which led him to contact the CLC and begin correspondence with Pastor Todd Ohlmann. Following the initial correspondence, Pastor Mark Gullerud led Pastor Atawa through a correspondence course. In 2011 Pastor Todd Ohlmann, Pastor Matthew Ude, and Pastor Ibrahim from Zambia visited Pastor Liberty and conducted a seminar for evangelists in Bulawayo. They presented an overview of CLC doctrine using the CLC Statement of Faith and Purpose as an outline. Individuals in attendance expressed their agreement with CLC doctrine and requested ongoing training in the Word. The number of evangelists in training has decreased since the initial meetings due to the fact that the CLC does not pay salaries and the prevalence of Pentecostalism in the area where they are working. Pastor Gullerud continues correspondence with Pastor Atawa.

