

Workers Together

Kansas District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

'Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts'

Volume 9, Issue 1
January 2003

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A monthly publication of The Kansas District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod for congregations, schools, professional church workers and lay leaders.

If you have any news to share with congregations in our district, please direct them to:

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What does a District President do in St. Louis?

In May 2003, the delegates to the triennial convention of the Kansas District, Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod will, among other convention responsibilities, elect a new District President, four Vice Presidents, a Board of Directors as well as other leaders to serve for the next three years. This might be a good time to offer Kansas District leaders and readers a few insights into the work and hopefully the ministry of the Kansas District President.

These insights begin, not where most of the service to the church takes place, that is in Kansas, but when and where the responsibilities of the office are exercised outside the state and district.

Perhaps the most demanding in terms of time is the Council of Presidents' meetings and related COP responsibilities. The meetings themselves vary somewhat in frequency and length, but generally are scheduled four to five days, four times each year. The "COP" includes the 35 district presidents, the five synod vice presidents and the President of the Synod. The Synodical Handbook specifies that the COP is to meet in order to receive from and give counsel to the president of Synod; to counsel with one another concerning the doctrine and administration of the Synod and district; to edify and support one another in their work; serve as the board of assignments for the first calls to ordained and commissioned candidates for ministry and to carry out

other assignments given to the COP by the Synod. The agenda for the days is long, filled with reports from various Synod entities, study documents, stewardship of the roster of professional workers, various COP committee updates, and frank discussion of a variety of issues facing the church.

As additional areas of responsibility to the COP I also serve as its representative on the Concordia Seminary Fort Wayne Board of Regents, as a member of the Synod's Theological Convocation Task Force, as part of the DELTO (Distance Education Leading to Ordination) oversight and curriculum development committees, and as resource for the varieties of lay ministry initiatives in the church.

The COP is sometimes perceived as a rather powerful and influential force in Synod. In reality the work of the Council is fairly circumscribed by Synod bylaws and whereas there may be significant authority and responsibility within a district, synodically the Council itself has influence, but possesses very little constitutional or legislative authority. Because of this there has been a reluctance on the part of the Council to develop any corporate position statements or make any public pronouncements with respect to our present synodical controversies. At times, however, moral influence may be more important than bylaw mandate.

(continued to page 7)

Calls Accepted

Donald Ehrke, St. Paul, Ellsworth to Active Duty in LCMS Ministry to Armed Forces

Tim Kersten, Faith, Abilene to Active Duty, Army Reserve Chaplaincy

Paul Hoppe, Hope, Shawnee, to St. Matthew, Conway, Arkansas

Carl Groh, Topeka, to St. Peter, North Bend, Nebraska

Natalie Reder, West Chester, Ohio to King of Kings, Gardner (Tchr)

Calls Pending

John Drosendahl, Grace, Larned to Our Savior/Peace, Pratt/Greensburg

Gary McClellan, Shattuck, Oklahoma to Immanuel, Hoxie

Chad Eckels, St. John, Oberlin to St. Paul, Evansville, Indiana

Jody Katzberg, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska to Bethany Lutheran School, Overland Park (Tchr)

Calls Declined

Keith Kohlmeier, Ascension, Wichita to Trinity, Clinton, Michigan

Ramdall Jahnke, Holy Cross, Dodge City to St. John, Burns, Tennessee

Paul Hoppe, Hope, Shawnee to Redeemer, Staplehurst, Nebraska

Calling Congregations

Atchison—Trinity (Tchr)

Gardner—King of Kings (Child Care Center Director)

Overland Park – Bethany Tchrs)

Wichita—Holy Cross (DCE)

Theological Convocation

You may be too late for the hotel registration that was due on Dec. 19th, but you can still register for the Theological Convocation scheduled for Jan. 27-28, 2003 in conjunction with the Pre-Lent Conference. Pastors, Commissioned Ministers and up to three laypersons from each congregation are invited to attend the convocation. Let Marie Holt [1-800-357-4421, x219] know if you need registration forms. Other hotel rooms are available in Wichita.

The convocation will feature round-table discussion around church fellowship issues. To get the discussions started, four papers read by District Vice-Presidents will represent differing positions on the church

fellowship issue. The convocation also will feature worship, Bible study based on Acts 15 led by Prof. Jeffrey Gibbs of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and an opportunity for confession and forgiveness among participants.

The convocation will begin with registration at 5 pm Mon., Jan. 27 at the Sedgwick County Extension Center at Ridge and 21st St. in western Wichita and end by 8:30 pm on Tues., Jan. 28 with the closing worship at Holy Cross on Greenwich Road.

The Pre-Lent Conference will be at the Extension Center on Wed., Jan. 29 through noon. Prof. Jeffrey Gibbs will speak on biblical texts for Lent.

Prayers

We continue to keep Charlie Glanzer, Director of Finance at the District Office, in our prayers as he continues treatments for leukemia.

We remember the family of Pastor Cliff Winter, St. Andrew's, Wichita, as his mother, Ruth Winter, has been called home to her eternal rest. Services were held on December 11 in Brooksville, Florida.

Thank You

Even though I still have several months of recovery and hospitalization for additional treatment, I want to thank everyone for their prayers, calls, visits and cards while recovering from my leukemia.

Charlie Glanzer

Area Chaplains

Wichita - Reverend Rocky Mease. Home: 316-788-9627, Cell: 316-993-0746 or email: chaprm@aol.com.

Topeka - For hospital visits in Topeka, contact Reverend George Bruening at 785-273-5769.

Statewide - For assistance with special needs ministries, contact Dcs. Jenny Wendling at Bethesda/Faith Village in Shawnee Mission at 1-800-750-5566, locally 913-469-5566, or email: jwendling@blhs.org.

Mission & Stewardship

Reverend Gary D. Rueter, Executive

We get what we measure

In his Strategic Ministry Planning Process LCEF Planner Rich Brumfield tells congregations that “we get what we measure.” If we measure our buildings and our acres then we focus on property. If we measure our members and their attendance, we focus our efforts on retaining and maintaining that membership. The principle is that when we think something is important we measure it in some way. And when we measure it we pay more attention to it and thus get more of it.

This could get to be fun. How many kisses have you given your wife in the last week? How many times have you hugged your kids? How many balls have you tossed to your son in the last month? How many minutes did you spend with your daughter last week? But I digress.

What should we measure in our congregations? LCMS World Mission has set a goal of reaching 100 million people with the good news of Jesus Christ in the next fifteen years. What does reaching a person mean? What will we have to measure to decide if we have reached that goal?

World Mission is narrowing its definition of reaching to three activities: 1) a verbal witness to Jesus Christ; 2) a positive response by the hearer; and 3) an ongoing relationship is in place. A person will be counted as reached when they can be included in this last category.

Rich Brumfield’s quote and the LCMS goal have led me to suggest that we might measure the following, hoping that we will indeed get more of what we measure. Suppose we measured these every week in our congregations:

Great Commandment Assistance – Number of people we have helped in response to the Lord’s commandment to do acts of loving kindness and mercy for our neighbors [Love God and love neighbor].

Good News of Jesus Spoken – How many people heard us tell “the old, old story of Jesus and his love?”

Positive Response from Hearer – How many times did one of those who heard the Gospel respond in a positive way?

Followup Relationship Begun – How many people were willing to

set up an additional contact with you, wanting to hear and learn more?

Continuing Followups – How many contacts did you have this week with those with whom you are in continuing witnessing relationships?

These five measure our activities in joyful obedience to Jesus’ sending out into the world. Now let’s measure six things among those with whom we gather in our congregation.

How many attended worship services in the last week?

How many guests were in worship?

How many people attended one of our small group activities?

How many people volunteered in ministry?

How many adult baptisms have we had in the last year? [To measure conversion growth]

What amount of tithes and offerings have we received?

Those are the six results that Rich Brumfield suggests we should measure. Would we focus more attention on these activities and results if we measured them? Would we be more faithful to the Lord’s sending if we measured these? It makes sense to me. I invite you to try it.

By the way, soon you will receive your forms for submitting 2002 Annual Statistical Reports to the LCMS. Give them your attention and send them in. The data helps us celebrate the Lord’s benefits in our midst and alerts us to difficulties.

Taking reservations

Reservations are being taken to reserve the Buffalo River Retreat Center for 2003.

This 3 bedroom, 2 bathhouse is located in the Ozark mountains southwest of Harrison, Arkansas.

Cost is \$30 per night (minimum of \$120)

If you are interested call Doris in the district office at 785-357-4442 extension 101.

Educational Services

Al Gunderman, Executive

Youth Ministry course offered online

Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska is once again offering a Youth Ministry course (EDUC 388) online through the world wide web. This course is targeted for lay practitioners of youth ministry interested in a higher education experience that will enhance their ability to work with young people. This is one more avenue for lay practitioners serving the church to grow in their knowledge and skills and their relationships with others who are doing youth ministry.

The course will be offered during the spring semester 2003. The on-line version of EDUC 388 will be equivalent to the on-campus version both in terms of course objectives and the academic credit that is earned. To participate, students will need a personal computer with a modem and a connection to the web through an internet service provider. Tuition for the 3 credit hour course is \$714 (\$238 per credit hour), the same as our on-campus cost for part time students taking one course.

If you would like to view the course information, you can access it by going to <http://www.cune.edu:2217/public/EDUC38802/index.html>. You can also access the site through Concordia's homepage at <http://www.cune.edu/>. For more information please contact Professor Paul Schoepp at 1-800-535-5494 x7437 or by email to: pschoepp@seward.cune.edu.

Upcoming events

- ✓ Professional Workers Marriage Retreat, February 14-15, 2003
- ✓ Youth Summit 2003, February 21-23, 2003, Crosswinds/Hesston
- ✓ Pastor's Wives Retreat, February 21-23, 2003 Country Inn & Suites, Salina
- ✓ Kansas DCE Retreat, January 12-14, Crosswinds/Hesston

ER - Every Relationship

Over 600 Kansas High School Youth and Adults converged at Topeka's Capital Plaza Hotel to Celebrate Every Relationship under the District Youth Gathering theme ER.

The ER theme enabled the youth to view their spiritual life as critical in living out one's Christian calling. ER – Every Relationship – means just that. Having a proper Christian relationship with parents, family, girl friends, boy friends, teachers and yes, even to those we treat unfairly in a spirit contrary to Christ's.

Speakers Dan and Dave Scharnhorst lead the gathering in Bible study and discussion groups while the newly labeled Christian band, Matthew West, brought all to their feet as they shared their gift of music honoring God's work. Saturday's servant projects dispersed

the 600 throughout Topeka for Park clean ups, cookie baking, leaf raking and other other-serving activities. Making a beautiful gathering better, an outpouring love offering of a \$1900+ was received for Volunteer Center of Topeka.

God has richly blessed this year's gathering participants, with safety in travel, a renewal of giving and a new look at how God can be shared in "Every Relationship." Please pray for the youth in your congregation that they may continue steadily in their Christian walk, that through them, other's will see Jesus.

For those who received new calendars for Christmas, Topeka will once again host next year's District Youth Gathering scheduled for November 21-23, 2003.

Retreat information

Information on the February 14-15, 2003 Professional Church Workers Marriage Retreat brochure and application can now be accessed on our web page. Go to: http://www.kslcms.org/ks_registrations/index.htm.

Lutheran Witness reminder

Lutheran Witness Subscriptions- are now due. If you have not done so, please remit your payment at this time to avoid cancellation or missing any issues.

2003 Kansas District Convention Nominations Report

The following nominations have been received by Kansas District Secretary, Rev. David E. Meier.

President

Rev. Keith Kohlmeier, Wichita - 40
Rev. Allen Hoger, Wichita - 20
Rev. Gary Rueter, Topeka - 6
Rev. Robert Schaedel, Salina - 5
Rev. James A. Keltner, Ellinwood - 3
Rev. Joel Hiesterman, Phillipsburg - 2
Rev. Richard Bruenger, Clay Center - 1
Rev. Gene Holtorf, Palmer - 1
Rev. Peter Lange, Topeka - 1
Rev. David Meier, Humboldt - 1
Rev. Robert Roberts, Lakin - 1
Rev. Warren Schmidt, Batesville, AR - 1

Vice President Region 1

Rev. Ed Trost, Overland Park - 7
Rev. Peter Lange, Topeka - 1
Rev. Norbert Tegtmeier, Emporia - 2
Rev. Roland Boehnke, Mission - 1
Rev. Mark Eichler, Emporia - 1
Rev. Tom Krause, Leawood - 1
Rev. Mike May, Kansas City - 1
Rev. David Schemm, Topeka - 1

Region 2

Rev. Alan Stahlecker - 6
Rev. Richard Bruenger, Clay Center - 2
Rev. Rodney Fritz, Hanover - 2
Rev. Jeffrey Geske, McFarland - 2
Rev. Robert Grimm, Alma - 2
Rev. David Gruoner, Linn - 2
Rev. Gene Holtorf, Palmer - 2
Rev. John Ryding, Hillsboro - 2
Rev. Charles Adams, Salina - 1
Rev. Don Adolf, Haven - 1
Rev. John Drush, Barnes - 1
Rev. Kevin Hahn, Wheaton - 1
Rev. Joseph Jones, Manhattan - 1
Rev. Rick Marrs, Junction City - 1
Rev. LeRoy Pralle, Salina - 1

Region 3

Rev. Keith Kohlmeier, Wichita - 5
Rev. Tom Harmon, Wichita - 4
Rev. David Meier, Humboldt - 3
Rev. Mark Boxman, Arkansas City - 1
Rev. Garry Dassow, Hoisington - 1
Rev. Dennis Fangemeyer, Nashville - 1
Rev. Michael Schotte, Preston - 1
Rev. Steve Sweyko, Fort Scott - 1
Rev. Mark Wenzelburger, Girard - 1
Rev. Michael Wolff, Wellington - 1

Region 4

Rev. David Hutson, Kensington - 4
Rev. Randall Jahnke, Dodge City - 3
Rev. Don White, Atwood - 2
Rev. Robert Roberts, Lakin - 1
Rev. Lyle Stuehrenberg, Garden City - 1
Rev. Timothy Wangerin, Downs - 1

Those whose names are underlined will appear on the ballot pending acceptance of the nomination.

Those whose names are underlined will constitute the slate of Circuit Counselors to be ratified by the Convention.

Circuit Counselor Circuit 1

Rev. Mark Janzen, Sabetha - 4

Circuit 2 (will re-ballot)

Rev. Galen Burrow, Bonner Springs - 1
Rev. Ed Mease, Leavenworth - 1
Rev. Ken Nettling, Kansas City - 1
Rev. Ray Schiefelbein, KC - 1
Rev. Frank Eberhardt, Roeland Park - 1

Circuit 3 (will re-ballot)

Rev. Ron Flentgen, Olathe - 2
Rev. Roland Boehnke, Mission - 1
Rev. Jerry Peck, Paola - 1
Rev. Kurt Rutz, Paola - 1

Circuit 4

Rev. John Duran, Ottawa - 3
Rev. Thomas Harries, Vassar - 1
Rev. Don Haselhuhn, Burlington - 1

Circuit 5

Rev. Richard Peckman, Coffeyville - 5
Rev. Ted Cook, Pittsburg - 1
Rev. Bruce Kristalyn, Iola - 1

Circuit 6

Rev. John Hopkins, Topeka - 4
Rev. Roger Goetz, Topeka - 1

Circuit 7 (will re-ballot)

Rev. Donnie Hofman - 5
Rev. Rodney Fritz, Hanover - 4
Rev. John Drush, Barnes - 1
Rev. Gene Holtorf, Palmer - 1
Rev. David Ersland, Greenleaf - 1

Circuit 8

Rev. Larry Brackenhoff, Alta Vista - 5
Rev. Robert Grimm, Alma - 2

Circuit 9

Rev. Alan Stahlecker, Lincolnville - 5
Rev. Clark Davis, Tampa - 3
Rev. Tim Kersten, Abilene - 1

Circuit 10

Rev. Dean Von Stroh, Andover - 2
Rev. John Einem, Augusta - 1

Circuit 11

Rev. Rick Hathaway, Winfield - 3
Rev. Michael Wolff, Wellington - 1
Rev. Luke Russert, Wichita - 1

Circuit 12

Rev. Don Adolf, Haven - 5
Rev. Michael Brockman, Hutchinson - 2

Circuit 13

Rev. Richard Andrus, Ellsworth - 5
Rev. Clark Brown, Sylvan Grove - 1
Rev. Gerald Radke, Lincoln - 1

Circuit 14

Rev. James Keltner, Ellsworth - 6
Rev. Michael Schotte, Preston - 3
Rev. Garry Dassow, Hoisington - 1
Rev. John Sharp, Holyrood - 1

Circuit 15 (will re-ballot)

Rev. Joel Hiesterman, Phillipsburg - 4
Rev. David Hutson, Kensington - 2
Rev. Chad Eckels, Oberlin - 1
Rev. Dick Kazcor, Hays - 1
Rev. Don White, Atwood - 1

Circuit 16

Rev. Robert Roberts, Lakin - 5

Business Office
Larry Crume, Business Manager

Year-end checklist

- ✓ **Housing Allowances-** Should be designated now if it hasn't already been done. This allowance cannot be made retroactive!
- ✓ **W-4 Forms-** All employees should complete new W-4's to ensure accuracy.
- ✓ **2003 Mileage Rate-** has decreased to 36 cents per mile. This is a decrease from 2002.
- ✓ **Retired Workers from 62-65-** can earn up to \$11,520 in 2003 without having social security benefits reduced. For every \$2 above this level, benefits are reduced by \$1.
- ✓ **Order IRS tax forms-** The 2003 IRS Circular E (withholding tables), and copies of Forms W-2, W-3, 1099 and 1096 that will be issued for compensation paid in 2002. Visit www.irs.gov or call 1-800-829-3676 toll free.

LCEF Rates

Congregational Certificates

Demand	2.25%
Steward Acct	2.625%

Individual Steward Accounts

Less than \$1,000	1.375%
\$1,000 - \$4,999	1.625%
\$5,000 - \$9,999	1.875%
\$10,000 and over	2.375%

Get Online

Online deposits and withdrawals are now available for your LCEF StewardAccount to make deposits to or transfers from your local bank account. This service is available for both individual and congregational StewardAccounts.

This added convenience now eliminates the need to send deposits by mail or transfer funds to your regular account by writing checks from your LCEF account. It's fast, convenient and FREE from service fees. Call or e-mail Larry at lcrume@kslcms.org or phone 1-800-357-4421 extension 205.

Congregational mission commitments for 2002-03

A reminder that commitments pledged for 2003 need to be received at the Kansas District Office by Wednesday January 15, 2003. Also, the commitment forms for 2003 should be sent to the District Office at this time.

Make it electronic

Electronic Offering and Tuition Payments? It is available and it is free to LCMS Congregations and schools. This service is provided by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund and is called *Joyful Response*. The cost for set-up and administering the program is paid for by LCEF. If you are interested, call Larry Crume at the District Office, or e-mail at lcrume@kslcms.org.

Convention assessments

2003 Kansas District Convention assessments were mailed to all congregations in October. Although the remittance is not due until next year, you may remit them sooner.

The convention will be held in Topeka at the Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel and Covention Center. The convention will begin Thursday, May 1 and conclude at noon Saturday, May 3. The theme for next year's convention is "Christ Be My Vision."

Treasurer's manual

The 2003 Congregational Treasurer's Manual is now available. The cost is just \$7.00, shipping included. To get your copy, call us or send an e-mail to brenda@kslcms.org. A number of pastors received their copy at the Pastor's Conference in Kansas City. If you received one at that time, you also received a discounted price of \$5.00.

Fiscal year to close

The District will close its 2002 fiscal year on Wednesday, January 15, 2003. Any receipts received after that date will be credited to the fiscal year 2003. Please work to meet this deadline. In order to meet the standards for a not for profit corporation audit, we cannot credit any 2002 mission gift received after the close of our fiscal year.

If you are sending any 2003 gift prior to January 15, 2003, please indicate that the gift is for 2003 so that we may credit it correctly for your congregation.

What does a District President do

(continued from page 1)

For this reason I and a number of other presidents have encouraged the Council to create and promote pastoral initiatives to address some of the reactive, irresponsible, offensive, and frankly unchristian words and actions which have unfortunately scarred our corporate life in the last eighteen months. If left unaddressed, the rhetoric will continue to become more hysterical and the actions even more mean-spirited. At the Council's November meeting the following "Statement" was adopted unanimously by the Council, published in the Lutheran Witness Reporter, and will now be presented to all 35 districts for counsel, encouragement, and practice. The statement hardly plows new ground or offers initiatives that have not always "been there". It simply reminds and admonishes the church to live into and out of the peace that Christ gives us and to which He calls us. This simple commitment of the Council of Presidents seeks in the words of St. Paul to, "Let the peace of Christ rule in (our) hearts, since as members of one body (we) were called to peace." Col. 3:15

Statement of the Council of Presidents On Harmony and Trust in Synod

To Restore Harmony and Trust within The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for the sake of Christ's Mission. Because Jesus Christ is our peace and has made us one, the Council of Presidents renews its commitment to lead the Synod in addressing:

1. The need to work toward agreement in doctrine and practice.
2. The need to provide safe places for responsible theological and doctrinal discussion on the basis of the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.
3. The need to avoid party spirit, rancor and name calling, and to treat one another in Christian love.
4. The need throughout the synod for God's people to seek that humility which leads to genuine repentance and forgiveness.
5. The need to support the President and all other elected officers of the Synod in every effort to focus our church on the Great Commission and to work for harmony within the Synod.

Finally, perhaps the greatest value for the district president himself is the informal conversation, face-to-face sharing, and ministry that takes place between district leaders that represent very diverse regions of the country, with very different challenges to mission, yet with one common goal of serving the church in order to reach the lost. The rich fellowship and deep friendship with these extraordinary leaders has been without question one of the highlights of my service to Christ's Church in Kansas.

(Next month: "What Does A District President Do In Kansas")

District Calendar

January

- 5 Immanuel/Bethlehem, Bremen Installation
- 17-19 Lay Ministry Training Weekend
- 23-25 Board of Directors
- 24-26 Family Life Academy, Faith, Topeka
- 27-29 Theological Convocation/PreLent

Phone system reminder

We have made changes to the menu that we hope are easier to use and ask your feedback. A complete listing of the available options and extensions follows. When the system answers, you may immediately enter the extension you desire. The menu is:

Business Office press 3
 Brenda Hoke (200)
 Larry Crume (205)
Mission & Stewardship press 4
 Debbie Crites (223)
 Gary Rueter (222)
Educational Services press 5
 Joyce Tate (206)
 Al Gunderman (208)

Media Library
 Beth Eubanks Library (100)
Planned Giving press 6
 Doris Wilson (101)
 Garry Niehoff (102)
President's Office press 7
 Marie Holt & Pres. Patten (219)
Directory press 8
Extension by name press 9
Operator press 0

District email

President's office

Rev. Howard Patten - patten@kslclms.org
 Marie Holt - marie@kslclms.org

Mission & Stewardship

Rev. Gary Rueter - garyr@kslclms.org
 Debbie Crites - debbie@kslclms.org

Educational Services

Al Gunderman - agunderman@kslclms.org
 Joyce Tate - joyce@kslclms.org

Business Office

Larry Crume - lcrume@kslclms.org
 Charlie Glanzer - charlieg@kslclms.org
 Brenda Barton - brenda@kslclms.org

Planned Giving

Garry Niehoff - servanttwo@kslclms.org
 Doris Wilson - servanttwo@kslclms.org

Media Library

Beth Eubanks - beth@kslclms.org

Guinea Prayers

Please pray:

“God will give the Heiney family peace about the decision they made to return to Guinea, and that He will prepare the way for them there. And pray for the church in Guinea.

“for those, both in St. Louis and on fields, whose positions were eliminated.

“for those studying to be pastors and church leaders.

“for the safety of our workers and church leaders in the Toulepleu; the safe travel for those heading or have headed to Liberia; return of peace and harmony in this trouble torn region and country, and thank God for Dr. William Foster’s personal comfort and for safe travel when the time comes. Ask God to provide for Dr. Foster in the western Ivory Coast, safety, care, and comfort as he works with the ngos there serving the injured. Please pray also for the wisdom for the World Mission staff and the US embassy trying to get him to safety.

“a prayer to thank God for working out Kristen’s tricky Liberian visa problem so she can work there over Christmas and New Years at Phebe Lutheran Hospital in central, northern Liberia.

“for Phebe hospital, that the medical staff may provide the best care to all God sends them to treat.

“for all the refugees- from the Ivory Coast, fleeing across the western border of Liberia for safety, that they find food, shelter and security, but mostly they may have peace that God is in control and know He loves them. May the refugees know this, may Kristen be able to share the good news.

“for all the ngos and local medical aid teams serving there and in the Ivory Coast to guide and direct them in service to the people who need their help.

“for the Toulepleu Lutherans Kristen has worked with. Pray as you are led, because her heart is filled with sadness that they are almost all evacuated from Toulepleu. Pray that there will be a way for her to encourage them or see them in camps outside of Liberia, and that he will make that clear to her. May they know peace this Christmas and the safety and love in Jesus.

“for baby Numo who has significant congenital abnormalities since birth and the chance of advanced care is minimal.

“for French language opportunities for Kristen while she is with the MSF or other French ngos.

“thanksgiving for the initiative shown by “I” and Mr. Sanogo to announce the kingdom of God.

“a prayer of thanksgiving that “O” and “K” are interested in studying the Bible from start to finish.

“for “J” that the Holy Spirit would continue to work in his life, and he would be encouraged in spite of opposition.

“for the Norton’s continued perseverance against the many challenges to their work here.



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