

# Handling the Word of Truth

Supporting Theological Education in Togo and West Africa

Missionary Rev. Jacob W. Gaugert

Sept/Oct. 2017

Vol.5 Issue 2

**How can technology skills help our students and their church bodies?**

- less time spent writing out and editing sermons by hand
- access to online journals
- clearer and more frequent communication with colleagues and international church partners
- more efficient means to prepare and manage budgets and finances
- preparation of presentations for local teaching seminars
- advantageous for finding supplemental employment



The Pastoral 1 students (second year) participate in a computer class over the summer.

*For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints.*

*Proverbs 2:6-8*

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Another academic year has come and gone here at the CLET in Dapaong, Togo. We had five students successfully complete their studies. They have returned to their home countries of Congo-Brazzaville and the Ivory Coast to begin their vicarages.

The thirteen students who are staying to continue with their second year of formation spent several weeks over this summer taking a course on computer skills. They were able to learn the basics of Windows and programs such as Word, Excel, and Powerpoint. These skills will be very important in their studies at CLET and at other institutions if they choose to pursue higher studies. This will also help to have more church leaders with competence in communication to aid in collaboration and transparency in church organization and financial projects.



## Deaconess Program?

***This year the CLET community was blessed to have 6 of the students' wives who have arrived with or gained an adequate command of French to pursue a level of theological education while their husbands are studying in the pastoral program. It is hoped that this could develop into a more formal deaconess program. I will be sure to update you on the progress of these women in their studies.***



The current CLET students and their families after opening service on August 26<sup>th</sup> 2017.

The new school year brought seventeen new students to begin their studies. This brings our student body up to twenty-eight students – the highest it has been at CLET for several years now.

Another positive development is that fellow missionaries, Ms. Molly Christensen and Rev. Ryan McDermott and his family will be getting settled in Dapaong in the next few months. Ms. Christensen will be serving as a nurse for our seminary community and working with intermittent Mercy Medical Teams in West Africa. Rev. McDermott will be teaching sign language and helping our West and Central African partner churches to reach out to the deaf populations in their respective countries.

Please pray that the Lord would guide and protect the new missionaries and the new students as they begin to get established in work and study in Dapaong.

### Guinea Teaching Trip

I had the privilege of traveling and working with Rev. Tim Heiney in Guinea this July. You may remember that when I first accepted the call to serve as a theological educator in Africa my first experience on the continent was a two week trip in Guinea with Rev. Heiney and his wife, Beth.

The Heineys have been active in Lutheran mission work in West Africa for decades. They specialize in evangelizing in unreached areas where no other missionaries have yet been active. By God's grace, they shared God's Word in Ghana and in Guinea. A tool that Rev. Heiney developed is a picture catechism, called "La Parole Dessinée," which explains basic Christian doctrine, the Reformation, and the differences between Christianity and Islam. This picture Catechism has traditionally been given out to the faithful

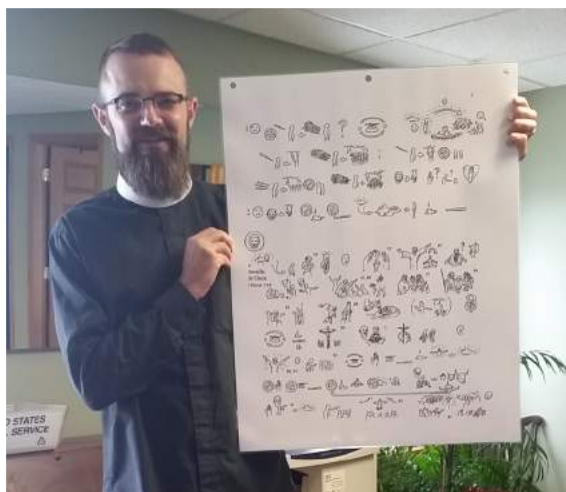
and the leaders on single photocopied sheets. Thanks to a generous donor through Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa, we have been able to print out laminated poster-size flip chart form. In this way, each evangelist, pastor, and congregation can have their own set that they can easily set up in the church building, or on a tree or post in a market area for instruction. These poster charts have just been printed in Wisconsin and will be sent to West Africa in the large shipping container that will depart in late 2017.



Participants in the theological seminar on Confession and Absolution in Gueckedou, Guinea pose with copies of the hymnal in French and copies of the Lutheran Confessions in French – courtesy of the Kansas District.

Missionaries Timothy Heiney, Gary Schulte, and I are in the left rear of the picture.

I was also accompanied by my supervisor, Rev. Gary Schulte and his wife, Stephanie. Rev. Schulte serves as the Area Director for West and Central Africa. Stephanie is a licensed nurse and helps with planning medical mission teams to West and Central Africa. For both Rev. Gary and Stephanie, this was their first time back in Guinea since they had served the LCMS in Africa 15 years ago. Gary was able to see how the church and leadership has developed over the years and to discuss the projects and goals that the church has for their further work. This visit was an important benchmark in the history of this church body because I, a theological educator at CLET, came to Guinea for an official teaching



A proof page of the “Word Illustrated” poster catechism. Rev. Michael Larson of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wittenberg, WI graciously helped check the quality of the printing.

seminar. In the long history of the LCMS mission work in Guinea and the CLET, this was the first time a CLET missionary had done this kind of instruction in Guinea.

### Container Project

Shortly after returning from Guinea, I had to hurry to the United States to take care of some final matters with the container project that has been in the works since January. I had to be on the ground to meet some contributors face to face and to help get some of the items to Wisconsin. The Lord has abundantly blessed our collection so far.

Our original plan was to acquire a few thousand hymnals and several hundred Book of Concord in French for the pastors and churches. Additionally, we wanted to acquire books for



Bill Gaugert helps with unloading a pallet of bells to prepare them for shipment.

the libraries at the seminaries in Dapaong, Togo; Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo; and Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. We also wanted to collect large bells and instruments

So far, due to the fantastic cooperation of various organizations and individuals, we have acquired:

- 2,000 Hymnals in French – donated by the Lutheran Church -Canada
- 600 sets of a 3 volume dogmatics textbook in French by Dr. Wilbur Kreiss – in cooperation with Lutheran Heritage Foundation
- 2,500+ copies of an abridged dogmatic text in French by Dr. Wilbur Kreiss – in cooperation with Lutheran Heritage Foundation
- 400+ copies of the “Children's Garden of Bible Stories” in French – in cooperation with Lutheran Heritage Foundation
- 400+ copies of “God's Yes and God's No” an abridged French version of C.F.W. Walther's “Law and Gospel” - in cooperation with Lutheran Heritage Foundation
- 585 copies of “The Word Illustrated” in French in poster form – from a generous gift from Mission Central
- 1000+ theological academic books in French for the seminary libraries in Dapaong, Brazzaville, and Kinshasa – from a generous gift from Mission Central and in cooperation with Rev. David and Carla Maffett in Paris, France
- 2,500+ volumes of theological academic books in English for the libraries at Dapaong, Brazzaville, Kinshasa, and the training Institutes in Sierra Leone and Guinea – donated by the Chemnitz Library Initiative of Concordia Theological Seminary library in Ft. Wayne (CTSFW) with outstanding cooperation and effort by Rev. Dr. Robert and Kay Roethemeyer and the library staff. \* It is worthy of recognition that a significant portion of these books were generously donated by the family of the late Rev. Dr. Ronald Feuerhahn of Concordia Seminary St. Louis. We pray that these books help train future pastors and theologians in Africa in a way that would continue the faithful legacy of Dr. Feuerhahn\*
- 80 copies of “The Lutheran Hymnal” in English for Ghana – donated by the Chemnitz Library Initiative of the CTSFW Library.
- 8,000+ copies of Good News Magazine in English and French – generously donated by Good News Magazine
- 18 large cast iron church bells – donated by various individuals and congregations and also purchased with a gift through Mission Central
- various vestments, church banners, communion ware, instruments - donated by various individuals and congregations and also purchased with a gift through Mission Central

All logistics of shipping and customs have been covered by a generous gift through Mission Central of Mapleton, Iowa.

I had spent three weeks making a large route in a Uhaul and later a Penske truck through Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, and Michigan to pick up numerous pallets of donated goods.



Loading up copies of the Lutheran Confessions in French into my truck to be taken up north to the CLET seminary for distribution.



Above right: Loading up books at Lutheran Heritage Foundation offices in Macomb, MI.



Left: Rev. David Moffett in Paris, France, carts copies of the Book of Concord in French into storage until they can be shipped to Africa.



Right: The collection display of St. Mark Lutheran Church of Rhineland, WI.



Route taken to pick up donations in August 2017.



Donated bells, shelving, and books from the Ft. Wayne Seminary library Chemnitz Library Initiative.

**Pray:**

Thanksgiving for a successful beginning of the academic year with 28 students at CLET.

Thanksgiving for the generosity of so many organizations and individuals who contributed to the container project.

Thanksgiving for the generosity of many faithful donors to the budget of CLET, the dorm construction project, the shipping container project, and for my work.

That the container shipment would arrive safely in Burkina Faso and be easily processed through customs.

That the pastors and leaders of our francophone partner churches would be appreciative and make good use of the books and resources given to them.

That the Lord would grant hearts of humility and service to our students even as they grow in abilities and knowledge.

For continued support of this and other ministries of our Synod with gifts and prayer.



Jeff Rahn and I at the Lutheran Heritage Foundation headquarters, showing the resources that LHF generously donated to this container project.

I thank the Lord for his safe-keeping along the way. I also thank my father, Bill Gaugert, and my grandfather Larry Lange, other members of my family, and the members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Sullivan, Wisconsin, for their help with this project.

By the time you receive this newsletter the container will probably be on its way or the items in the final stages of shipping preparations. Please pray that all would go smoothly with the transport and shipping and that we will be spared from unexpected and costly surprises in dealing with customs in Burkina Faso.

These resources will help the local African pastors and leaders to be better informed of Lutheran theology and practice so that they can be united and informed as they address cultural and ministerial challenges in their contexts and as they seek to share the Word of God in its truth and purity.

I will certainly keep you posted on the impact of these many gifts.

Furlough in 2018

I also want to inform all of you, my patient and faithful supporters, that I will be back in the United States starting in July 2018 for 4-8 months of home service. This is the time that a missionary comes back on furlough to



Rev. Dr. Robert Roethemeyer, Director of the CTSFW library, prepares books for shipment.

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Or

CLET  
B.P. 53  
Dapaong  
TOGO

To support this ministry of our Synod:

Make checks payable to LCMS and note "Gaugert # A106198-69350" in the memo line. Please send to:

Lutheran Church  
Missouri Synod  
PO Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861  
1-888-930-4438

Or contact:

Gary Thies  
Mission Central  
40718 Hwy E 16  
Mapleton, IA 51034-7105  
712-882-1029

To give online:  
[www.lcms.org/gaugert](http://www.lcms.org/gaugert)

reconnect with parishes and donors to give a personal report on the impact of their support and prayers. Normally a missionary comes back after two years in the field to conduct these visits. Because of pressing involvement in our field and changes in our team in West Africa, I have been putting off my furlough for a few years to focus on the tasks I have needed to do with my African and American colleagues. In light of the unfortunate fact that I have found it very difficult to keep up on regular newsletters, I want to make a point to make as many visits as possible to let you all know the fruits of the work to which you give.

In order to try to keep the visits in the same area I will be trying to stick to a general travel schedule of:

- July 2018 – Missouri/Kansas
- August/September 2018 – Wisconsin
- October/November 2018 – Iowa/Nebraska/Kansas
- December 2018 – Indiana/Ohio
- January/February 2019 – California/Florida/New Jersey/Pennsylvania

This travel schedule is a general guide and not established in stone. I share it so that I can use the limited travel resources to make shorter hops from one parish/area to another, rather than making large plane trips or crossing entire states to do one presentation. Please send an email to me to let me know of a particular Sunday or time when I might be able to visit you and your parishes and church groups. Even though we are still a year away from my furlough visits, I look forward to reconnecting with many of you and letting you know what the Lord is doing in the mission field.

Thank you again for your faithful, sacrificial giving and your prayers.

In Christ,



Hundreds of theological books in French at my home in Dapaong. They are being stacked and organized according to their final destinations at the three theological libraries.



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