



## Supporting LCMS Mission Work in West Africa



### SPECIAL CONNECTION

## Guinea

**Founded:** 1958

**Population:** 12.5 million

**Capital:** Conakry

**Languages:** French (official) + various local languages (around 40)

**Religions:** Islam (89.1%), Christianity (6.8%), animist (1.5%) (est. 2014)

**Literacy rate:** around 30%

**Economic strengths:** mineral resources, including the largest of the world's reserves of bauxite

**Start of LCMS mission work:** 1996. The Kansas District became an official supporter of work in Guinea in 1997.

**Lutheran church body:** Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guinea (ELCG)



**Seminary:**

Centre Novitiate Luthérien de Guinea

**Lutheran personnel:** ELCG President Julien Kotembedenou, Vice-President Thomas Tolno, missionaries James Marrah and Rev. Tim and Beth Heiney, + Guinean CLET students. Please keep them all in your prayers!

## Our Partners

The Kansas District formed a collaborative partnership in 2017 with **Mission Central** and **LCMS Mission Advancement** to strengthen work in Guinea/West Africa. The District also has a partnership agreement with the **LCMS Office of International Mission (OIM)**.

### CURRENT FOCUS

## Theological Education

In 2017, the Kansas District expanded its focus to include all of French-speaking West Africa, notably through support for theological education at the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) in Dapaong, Togo. The CLET, which produced its first pastors in 2002, aims to form well-trained Lutheran shepherds who can preach and teach in the many languages spoken in the region. The seminary in Togo has educated students from many countries, including Guinea.



French-language copies of the **Book of Concord**—a welcome resource for theological education in Franco-phone West Africa.

In an exciting development, **two new CLET seminary sites have been established, one in Guinea and one in the Republic of Congo.** “I consider the new CLETs to be tremendous successes so far because the churches in Congo and Guinea are generally strong,” said Rev. Gary Schulte, theological educator in West and Central Africa. Thanks be to God! Please keep the seminaries, students, missionaries and families, and churches in your prayers.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ▶ Kansas District website (Missions > Guinea/West Africa): [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org)
- ▶ LCMS Office of International Mission website: [international.lcms.org](http://international.lcms.org)
- ▶ Mission Central website: [missioncentral.us](http://missioncentral.us)
- ▶ Missionary information and prayer requests at [lcms.org](http://lcms.org): **Rev. Gary and Stephanie Schulte** ([lcms.org/schulte](http://lcms.org/schulte)) and **Rev. Jacob Gaugert** ([lcms.org/gaugert](http://lcms.org/gaugert)). **Phillip Magness** ([lcms.org/magness](http://lcms.org/magness)), music specialist, also makes teaching trips to the region.

### TO GIVE A GIFT

- ▶ Donate online: [kslcms.org/donate](http://kslcms.org/donate) (choose the West Africa fund)
- ▶ Mail a gift to LCMS Kansas District, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS, 66604 with “West Africa Partnership” in the memo line.

