



Witness Mercy Life Together Witness Mercy Life Together Witness Mercy Life Together
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Praise God that our very first Central African Seminary is producing Laborers for the Harvest field!

Pray that we would be able to return soon. We will need to be patient. A few of the African nations that have recently re-opened have had immediate spikes and are already talking about another shutdown.

Pray for the persecuted Church of sub-Saharan African. Last week 6 Frenchmen and 3 locals were gunned down in Niger. We hear about these things. The day to day suffering of the common people under the cloud of Islam goes largely unreported.

Updates from Domestic Exile

Dear Christian friends and ministry partners,

It's usually not a struggle to put together an exciting newsletter; being engaged as we are with so many Lutheran Churches across Africa. However, as I sit down to write this, we are now in day 138 of our Covid-19 induced domestic exile here in Unit 1B of the student apartments at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. I thank God, I honestly do, that we both have longterm projects that are keeping us busy. Just a brief update... I'm on week 16 of updating and translating 25 weeks of daily biblical theology meditations I've been sending out via email. Steph, meanwhile, is continuing to expand her online CHE Training to the wider LCMS community, and she already has 31 participants eager to take part. However, sitting at a desk day in and day out in the end bedroom and talking about the same longterm projects is not very good fodder for a monthly newsletter.

Well, the Lord doth provide in so many big and small ways! On my birthday last week, I received a fairly rare update email from Pastor Joseph Mavoungou, President Emeritus of the Lutheran Church in the Congo and current Director of our brand new Central African Seminary - CLETCO. What a wonderful birthday gift! Here's a translation of what Pastor Joseph wrote:

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus in whom we have being, life for eternity. By this message I would like to inform you of the closure of our academic year and also the granting of the certificates of end of studies to the first graduating class of our center. We want to recognize that it was not easy, but with your prayers and support from our partner the LCMS-OIM, who helped support the faculty and all the students and their families, we closed the year. The "COVID-19" pandemic disrupted our program but we we took the faithful step to finish and it happened under the blessing of our Heavenly Father. All the students returned to their families and parishes in very good health. I am sharing with you some highlights of the certificate granting ceremony for the greater honor of our God.

Yours,
 Rev Joseph TCHIBINDA MAVOUNGOU
 Director of CLETCO

Page 2 is filled with the pictures he sent. Meanwhile, we also got an email from our embassy in Brazzaville. They appear to be planning to soon re-open the airport there for international flights. I can't at all say our domestic exile has been like the Israelites in Bablyon, but, nevertheless, we too are longing for home.



Your Joyful Response?

If you would like to support our work as we continue the bringing of Christ to the nations, you may send a tax deductible gift either to:

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-66861

or

Mission Central
40718 Highway E-16
Mapleton, IA 51034
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writing "Support of the Schultes" in the memo line.

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Love in Christ,