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– A Communion of Churches**

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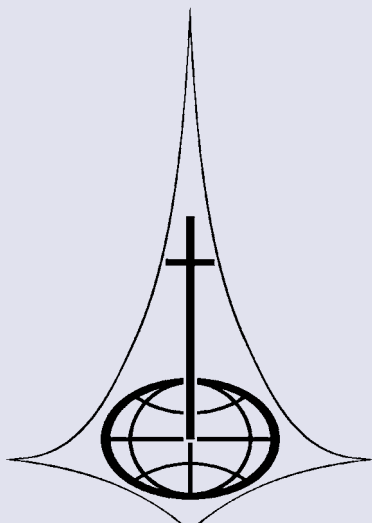
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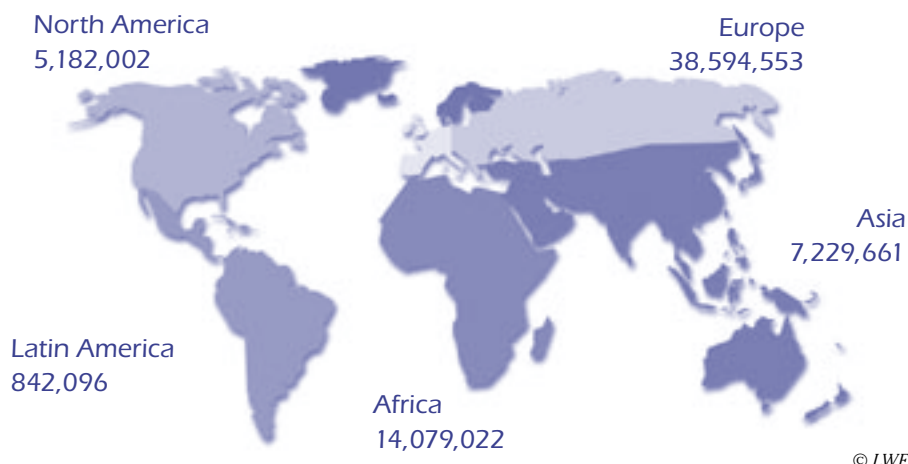
Worldwide Increase Puts LWF Membership at 66 Million

Over One Million New Members in Africa, Dutch Churches' Merger Adds 2.6 Million to LWF Europe

An overall increase of 3.63 million Christians among member churches of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) worldwide over a one-year period puts the total membership in the LWF to 65,927,334 in 2004. According to the latest statistical data from the LWF, the 138 LWF member churches, including eleven recognized congregations and one recognized council in 77 countries recorded an increase of more than 5.8 percent. In 2003, LWF member churches around the world had 62.3 million members, compared to 61.7 million in 2001.

(See page 2)

LWF 2004 Membership Figures



Highlights

Tsunami: LWF Member Churches, Partners in Asia Provide Relief Assistance 14

As the death toll of the devastating tsunami disaster rose above 150,000 early January, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) member churches in South East Asia continued to deliver most needed basic assistance to survivors, many of whom had sought shelter in community centers including church buildings.

LWF New Year Message: Call for Greater Commitment to Children's Welfare, Environmental Protection ..20

Against the backdrop of thousands of children killed in the December 26 earthquake and tidal waves that struck South East Asia and East Africa, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) New Year Message is a call to religious communities and societies in general to prioritize the welfare of children and environmental protection in their work.

LWF Encourages Israel, Palestine to Seize Opportunity for Peace 22

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) has appealed to both the Israeli and Palestinian leadership to seize the opportunity for peace presented by the recent election of Mr Mahmoud Abbas as President of the Palestinian Authority (PA).

FEATURE: Sri Lanka Still in Shock 24

It is more than four weeks since disaster hit Sri Lanka but the country is still in a state of shock. Survivors not only lost everything they had, they also mourn their loved ones who perished in the December 26 massive tidal waves (*tsunamis*) triggered by an undersea earthquake off the western coast of northern Sumatra, Indonesia.

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Worldwide Increase Puts LWF Membership at 66 Million

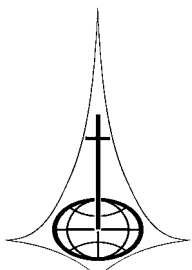
Over One Million New Members in Africa, Dutch Churches’ Merger Adds 2.6 Million to LWF Europe

GENEVA, 14 February 2005 (LWI) – An overall increase of 3.63 million Christians among member churches of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) worldwide over a one-year period puts the total membership in the LWF to 65,927,334 in 2004. This is according to the latest statistical data from the LWF. The 138 LWF member churches, the eleven recognized congregations and one recognized council in 77 countries recorded an increase of more than 5.8 percent. In 2003, LWF member churches around the world had 62.3 million members, compared to 61.7 million in 2001.

Last year, the number of LWF member churches increased from 136 to 138. This figure includes 135 churches with full membership in the LWF and three associate member churches.

The latest increase is largely due to overall growth in a number of the African churches, which recorded an increase of a total 1.1 million members; as well as last year’s admission of the recently established Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PCN). A merger of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Kingdom of the Netherlands (ELCNL), the Netherlands Reformed Church and the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands, the 2.53-million member PCN is also a member of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. Prior to the May 2004 merger, the former ELCNL, now the PCN Lutheran Synod, had been a member of the LWF since 1947.

Worldwide membership among Lutheran churches increased by 3.57 million to 69,527,817, representing



a growth of 5.4 percent. In 2003, Lutheran churches worldwide had 65.96 million people, whereas in 2001, the figure stood at 65.39 million. Membership in Lutheran churches that do not belong to the LWF decreased by around 60,177 to 3,600,483.

Africa: Further Increase of Nearly 1.1 Million

Lutheran churches in Africa once again recorded a membership increase of almost 1.1 million which accounts for a rise of 8.2 percent, pushing the total in that region to 14,133,572 members. The LWF member churches there had 14,079,022 members in 2004, an increase of 8.4 percent.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mozambique registered the largest increase, with an almost fivefold rise in membership from 1,250 to 5,987. With 500,000 new members, representing a 20 percent increase, the Malagasy Lutheran Church and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania now each have 3 million members.

The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, currently the largest Lutheran church in Africa with 4,164,066 members, recorded 130,653 new members, an increase of 3.25 percent. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe now with 130,000 had 20,000 new members, an 18 percent increase. The Lutheran Church of Rwanda obtained 3,000 new members, an 18 percent increase, bringing the total to 20,000 members.

The Lutheran Church of Nigeria reported 15,000 new members, an increase of 12.5 percent bringing the total to 135,000. The fourth largest church in Africa, the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria recorded an increase of 3.25 percent with 37,977 additional members, pushing the total to 1,205,000. In predominantly Muslim Senegal, membership in the Lutheran Church of Senegal rose by four percent to reach 3,620 members.

Several churches in South Africa recorded decreasing membership. Indeed, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa lost almost 180,000 members, a 23.4 percent decline, bringing the new total to 589,502. A slight decrease in membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Cape Church) brings down the total to 4,099 members, whereas the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (N-T) recorded a 10 percent decrease resulting in 9,900 members. The membership of the Moravian Church in South Africa remained unchanged at 100,200.

LWF Membership in Europe Up by 2.6 Million

Between 2003 and 2004, membership in Lutheran churches in Europe increased by 7.3 percent repre-

senting 2,633,955 new members, and pushing the total in the region to 38,635,572. Membership among LWF member churches rose to 38,594,553 Christians. This is largely due to the PCN admission in the LWF last year. Between 2001 and 2003, a 1.75 percent decrease pushed down Lutheran membership to 36 million.

Church of Sweden, the largest Lutheran church worldwide, recorded a one percent increase over the one-year period putting the total membership at 7,220,694. Membership in the third largest LWF member church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, fell by 0.3 percent to 4,586,414 members. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark, the fourth largest LWF member church, recorded 4,499,501 members, which corresponds to a 0.6 percent decline. The Church of Norway reported 3,922,265 members, a 3.4 percent increase. Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Norway, an associate member church of the LWF, rose by around five percent to 22,815 members.

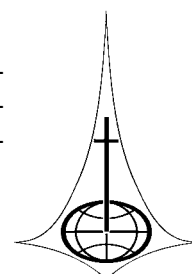
The Lutheran Council of Great Britain, representing the common work of eleven different Lutheran churches with congregations or chaplaincies there, recorded a nine percent increase in membership, pushing the total to 130,600. The Lutheran Church in Great Britain had 13.5 percent fewer members, recording a total of 2,370.

Membership in the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria decreased by 3.7 percent to 322,321 members, whereas that of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania fell by around three percent to 14,606 members. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania now has 31,250 members, a decrease of 2.4 percent.

Slight Decrease among Lutheran Churches in Germany

The total number of Lutheran Christians in Germany stood at 13,103,946 in 2004, which was 159,923 fewer members than 2003, representing a 1.2 percent decrease. Germany is still the country with the highest number of Lutheran Christians. In 2003, the churches there recorded a combined membership of 13,263,869 compared to 13.65 million members in 2001. The Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Germany, not an LWF member church, recorded the highest decline in percentage terms with 26 percent less members, reducing the total to 1,470. The Church of Lippe [Lutheran Section] recorded a 14 percent decrease with a substantially lower total of 32,600 members.

Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover, the largest church in the country, remained unchanged at 3,127,000 members. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria recorded 2.7 mil-



lion members, representing a two percent decrease. The North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church had around 2.8 percent fewer members reducing the total to 2,151,450 members. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony had 2.3 percent less members with a total of 895,000, whereas the Evangelical Church of Pomerania had 115,000 members, a six percent decrease. Among other churches that recorded a decline was the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brunswick, with 417,576 members, representing a decrease of 2.2 percent.

Membership remained unchanged in several other German churches including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Baden with 3,710 members, Evangelical Church in Württemberg with 2,346,879 members and Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mecklenburg with 225,000 members.

Significant Growth among Some Asian Churches

The number of Lutherans in Asia increased by just under one percent bringing the total to 7,391,102. Out of this total, the LWF member churches account for 7,229,661.

The West Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, a non-LWF member church, doubled its membership to 3,700. Membership in the Lutheran Church in Korea rose by 82 percent to a new total of 4,698 members. A 50 percent increase in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand has resulted in a new figure of 2,584 members.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Madhya Pradesh (India) increased membership by around 13.5 percent to reach 15,880 members, whereas that of the Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church (India) rose by 12,003 members, around 11 percent, to a new total of 120,000.

The Basel Christian Church of Malaysia recorded an increase of around 11 percent, pushing the total to 50,000. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Myanmar (Lutheran Bethlehem Church) had an increase of 11 percent, with a new total of 1,800 members.

The Chinese Lutheran Brethren Church in Taiwan (Republic of China), recorded 1,668 members, a decrease of 44 percent. The Lutheran Church of New Zealand had 22 percent fewer members, with a new total of 962.

Slight Decrease in Latin America

Lutheran churches in Latin America and the Caribbean recorded a slight fall in membership, around one percent, bringing in a new total of 1,116,913. This includes 842,096 represented in the LWF member churches. The LWF member churches had

5,069 fewer members, representing a 0.6 percent decrease.

Membership in the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil decreased by around 0.7 percent to 710,000. The non-LWF member Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil, recorded an increase of around 0.5 percent, bringing the total membership to 223,588.

Membership Decline in North America

In North America, membership in Lutheran churches between 2003 and 2004 fell by around 2.2 percent. Out of the total 8,250,658 Lutherans in the region 5,182,002 belong to the four LWF member churches there.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the second largest LWF member church recorded 4,984,925 members, a 2.25 percent decrease. A 40 percent decline in membership in the Lithuanian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Diaspora (USA) pushed down the membership to 3,000.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (USA and Canada), which is not a member of the LWF, had 2,488,936 members, down by two percent. The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (USA), also a non-LWF member church recorded a 3.2 percent decrease to reach a total of 400,622 members. The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (USA), also outside the LWF, registered an eight percent increase for a new total of 39,319 members.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada had a new total of 182,077 members, a decline by around 3.5 percent. Membership in the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (Canada) remained steady at 12,000 members.

The membership statistics are based on information received from the LWF member churches, the recognized congregations and council, as well as from other Lutheran churches, organizations, mission bodies and congregations. The figures recorded for the year ending 2003 were used for churches that did not indicate any change in statistics by the end of January 2005. (1,645 words)

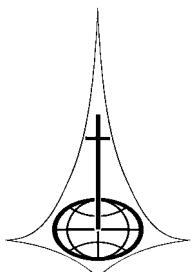
A one-page summary of the LWF Statistics 2004 is posted in PDF format on the LWF Web site under: www.lutheranworld.org/LWF_Documents/LWF-Statistics-01-2004.pdf. Full details can be found under: www.lutheranworld.org/LWF_Documents/LWF-Statistics-2004.pdf

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The Lutheran World Federation 2004 Membership Figures

Summary

The following figures give the membership of the 138 LWF member churches (M), including three associate member churches (AM), 11 recognized congregations and one recognized council (R), as well as other Lutheran churches, bodies or congregations (C).

General Summary 2004

138 LWF member churches, 11 recognized congregations and 1 recognized council	65,927,334
Lutherans outside LWF constituency	3,600,483
Total	69,527,817

Continent	All Lutherans	LWF Membership	Other Churches
Africa	14,133,572	14,079,022	54,550
Asia	7,391,102	7,229,661	161,441
Europe	38,635,572	38,594,553	41,019
Latin America	1,116,913	842,096	274,817
North America	8,250,658	5,182,002	3,068,656
Total	69,527,817	65,927,334	3,600,483

Countries with more than half a million Lutherans

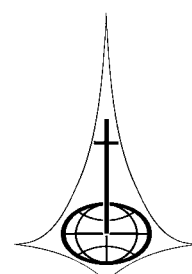
Germany*	13,103,946	Tanzania	3,000,000
USA*	7,975,094	Netherlands	2,530,000
Sweden	7,220,694	India	1,814,395
Finland	4,586,414	Nigeria	1,340,000
Denmark	4,499,628	Papua New Guinea	953,072
Indonesia	4,304,284	Namibia	946,782
Ethiopia	4,164,066	Brazil	934,638
Norway	3,945,080	South Africa	726,355
Madagascar	3,000,000		

* These figures include the membership of the Baltic churches abroad.

Lutheran churches with more than half a million members

Church of Sweden	7,220,694	Evangelical Church in Württemberg	2,346,879
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	4,984,925	North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church	2,151,450
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland	4,586,414	The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria	1,205,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark	4,499,501	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony	895,000
The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus	4,164,066	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea	815,000
Church of Norway	3,922,265	Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church	800,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover	3,127,000	Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil	710,000
Malagasy Lutheran Church	3,000,000	The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN)	640,282
Protestant Christian Batak Church	3,000,000	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa	589,502
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania	3,000,000		
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria	2,700,000		
Protestant Church in the Netherlands	2,530,000		
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**	2,488,936		

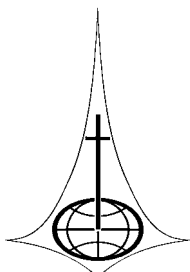
** Not an LWF member church



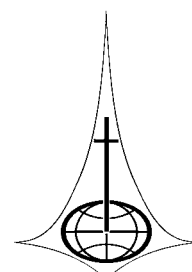
The Lutheran World Federation 2004 Membership Details

- (M) Member Church
- (AM) Associate Member Church
- (R) Recognized Congregation or Recognized Council
- (C) Other Lutheran churches, bodies or congregations

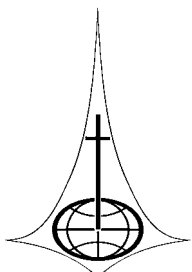
Africa	Individual Churches	National Total
Angola		22,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Angola (M)	22,000	
Botswana		21,110
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Botswana (M)	21,110	
Cameroon		282,352
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of Cameroon (M)	105,994	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon (M)	172,000	
The Lutheran Church of Cameroon (C)	4,358	
Central African Republic		55,000
Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic (M)	55,000	
Chad		21,305
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of Chad (C)	21,305	
Congo, Democratic Republic		136,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Congo (M)	136,000	
Congo, Republic		1,268
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Congo (C)	1,268	
Eritrea		12,000
The Evangelical Church of Eritrea (M)	12,000	
Ethiopia		4,164,066
The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (M)	4,164,066	
Ghana		26,400
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (M)	26,400	
Kenya		85,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (M)	55,000	
Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (M)	30,000	
Liberia		71,179
Lutheran Church in Liberia (M)	71,179	
Madagascar		3,000,000
Malagasy Lutheran Church (M)	3,000,000	
Malawi		50,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (M)	50,000	



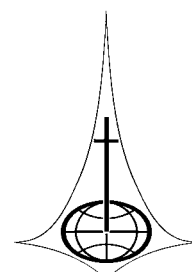
	Individual Churches	National Total
Mozambique		5,987
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mozambique (M).....	5,987	
Namibia		946,782
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN-GELC) (M).....	6,500	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) (M).....	300,000	
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN) (M).....	640,282	
Nigeria		1,340,000
The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (M).....	1,205,000	
The Lutheran Church of Nigeria (M).....	135,000	
Rwanda		20,000
Lutheran Church of Rwanda (M)	20,000	
Senegal		3,620
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Senegal (C).....	no data	
The Lutheran Church of Senegal (M)	3,620	
Sierra Leone		2,500
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone (M)	2,500	
South Africa		726,355
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Cape Church) (M).....	4,099	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (M).....	589,502	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (N-T) (M).....	9,900	
Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (C).....	2,654	
Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (C).....	20,000	
Moravian Church in South Africa (M).....	100,200	
Tanzania		3,000,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (M).....	3,000,000	
Togo		4,965
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Togo (C).....	4,965	
Zambia		5,683
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (M)	5,683	
Zimbabwe		130,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (M)	130,000	
 Asia		
Australia		75,050
Lutheran Church of Australia (AM).....	75,050	
Bangladesh		11,603
Bangladesh Lutheran Church (M)	3,000	
Bangladesh Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	8,603	
Hong Kong (China)		46,728
Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church (M)	2,459	



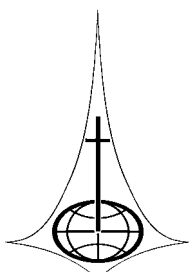
Lutheran Church, Hong Kong Synod (C).....	8,300	
The Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod (M)	14,000	
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (M)	13,789	
Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong (M).....	8,180	
India.....		1,814,395
Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	800,000	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Madhya Pradesh (M).....	15,880	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Himalayan States (C)	24,750	
Good Samaritan Evangelical Lutheran Church (C)	9,837	
Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chotanagpur and Assam (M)	380,135	
India Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	56,493	
Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	133,000	
North Western Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church (C)	106,800	
Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M)	85,000	
<i>(see Nepal)</i>		
South Andhra Lutheran Church (M)	45,500	
The Arcot Lutheran Church (M)	37,000	
The Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church (M)	120,000	
Indonesia.....		4,304,284
Batak Christian Community Church (M).....	20,000	
Christian Communion of Indonesia Church in Nias (Gereja AMIN) (M)	18,561	
Christian Protestant Angkola Church (M).....	27,986	
Christian Protestant Church in Indonesia (M).....	255,601	
Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (M)	16,895	
Pakpak Dairi Christian Protestant Church (M).....	30,490	
Protestant Christian Batak Church (M)	3,000,000	
Protestant Christian Church in Mentawai (M).....	38,211	
Simalungun Protestant Christian Church (M)	198,479	
The Indonesian Christian Church (M)	350,000	
The Protestant Christian Church (M)	338,061	
The United Protestant Church (M).....	10,000	
Israel		190
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission – Shalhevetyah Christian Center and Congregation (C).....	80	
Lutheran Church in Israel Elijah Church (C)	80	
Lutheran Church in Israel Immanuel Church (C)	30	
Japan		32,510
Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (M)	22,000	
Japan Lutheran Brethren Church (C).....	1,188	
Japan Lutheran Church (AM)	2,880	
Kinki Evangelical Lutheran Church (M)	2,742	
West Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (C).....	3,700	
Jordan		3,000
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan & the Holy Land (M).....	3,000	
Korea, Republic.....		4,698
Lutheran Church in Korea (M)	4,698	
Malaysia		92,352
Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (M)	50,000	



	Individual Churches	National Total
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia (M).....	3,000	
Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore (M).....	6,900	
The Protestant Church in Sabah (M)	32,452	
Myanmar		1,800
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Myanmar (Lutheran Bethlehem Church) (M)	1,800	
Nepal		
Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) (<i>see India</i>)		
New Zealand		962
Lutheran Church of New Zealand (C).....	962	
<i>(a district of the Lutheran Church of Australia)</i>		
Papua New Guinea		953,072
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (M).....	815,000	
Gutnius Lutheran Church – Papua New Guinea (M)	138,072	
Philippines		27,000
Lutheran Church in the Philippines (M)	27,000	
Singapore		4,126
Lutheran Church in Singapore (M)	4,126	
Sri Lanka		1,200
Lanka Lutheran Church (M)	1,200	
Taiwan		15,548
China Evangelical Lutheran Church (C).....	2,621	
China Lutheran Gospel Church (C).....	225	
Chinese Lutheran Brethren Church (C)	1,668	
Taiwan Lutheran Church (M)	8,220	
The Lutheran Church of Taiwan (Republic of China) (M).....	1,614	
The Lutheran Church of the Republic of China (C).....	1,200	
Thailand		2,584
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (M).....	2,584	
<i>(including the Lutheran Mission in Thailand)</i>		
Europe		
Austria		322,321
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria (M)	322,321	
Belgium		809
Lutheran Church of Belgium: Arlon and Christian Mission (R).....	809	
Croatia		3,500
Evangelical Church in the Republic of Croatia (M)	3,500	
Czech Republic		154,445
Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (M).....	114,445	
Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession (M).....	40,000	



Denmark (including Faroë Islands and Greenland)	4,499,628
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (M)	4,499,501
The Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Denmark (C)	127
Estonia	200,000
Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M)	200,000
Faroë Islands	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (M) (<i>see Denmark</i>)	
Finland	4,586,414
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (M)	4,586,414
<i>(including ELCF members abroad)</i>	
France	258,697
Church of the Augsburg Confession of Alsace and Lorraine (M).....	210,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church - Synod of France and Belgium (C).....	697
Evangelical Lutheran Church of France (M)	40,000
Malagasy Protestant Church in France (M)	8,000
Germany	13,103,946
Church of Lippe [Lutheran Section] (M)	32,600
Evangelical Church in Württemberg (M)	2,346,879
Evangelical Church of Pomerania (M).....	115,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Baden (M)	3,710
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria (M)	2,700,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brunswick (M).....	417,576
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oldenburg (M).....	470,471
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thuringia (M)	476,500
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover (M)	3,127,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mecklenburg (M)	225,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony (M).....	895,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schaumburg-Lippe (M)	63,915
Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Germany (C).....	1,470
Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (C).....	37,375
Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (M)	40,000
North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M)	2,151,450
Greenland	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (M) (<i>see Denmark</i>)	
Hungary	305,000
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary (M)	305,000
Iceland	250,051
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland (M).....	250,051
Ireland	3,100
The Lutheran Church in Ireland (R)	3,100
Italy	7,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Italy (M).....	7,000
Latvia	250,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia (M)	250,000



Individual Churches National Total

Liechtenstein

Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein (M) *(see Switzerland)*

Lithuania **21,000**

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania (M)..... 21,000

Netherlands..... **2,530,000**

Protestant Church in the Netherlands (M).....2,530,000

Norway **3,945,080**

Church of Norway (M)..... 3,922,265

The Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Norway (AM)..... 22,815

Poland **80,000**

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland (M)..... 80,000

Romania **45,856**

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania (M)..... 14,606

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania (M)..... 31,250

Russian Federation **266,000**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) 250,000

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia (M) 16,000

Serbia-Montenegro **50,000**

Slovak Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Serbia and Montenegro (M).... 50,000

Slovak Republic..... **372,858**

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Slovak Republic (M) 372,858

Slovenia **20,000**

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovenia (M) 20,000

Sweden **7,220,694**

Church of Sweden (M)..... 7,220,694

Switzerland *(including Liechtenstein)*..... **4,853**

Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Switzerland

and the Principality of Liechtenstein (M)..... 4,853

United Kingdom **134,320**

Lutheran Church in Great Britain (M)..... 2,370

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (C) 1,350

The Lutheran Council of Great Britain (R) 130,600

Latin America

Argentina **87,960**

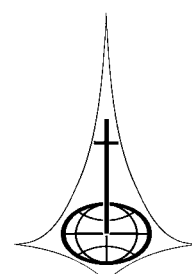
Evangelical Church of the River Plate (M)..... 45,000

(see Paraguay, Uruguay)

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (C) 30,000

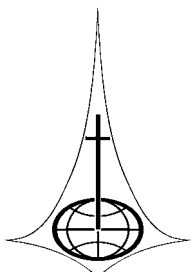
(see Chile, Uruguay)

Protestant Congregation in Tandil (C) 160



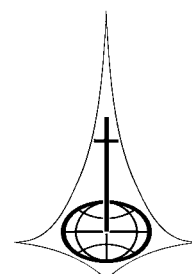
Individual Churches National Total

Protestant Society in Southern Argentina – Lutheran Church (C).....	3,800	
Protestant Society of the South-East (C).....	2,000	
United Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	7,000	
Bolivia		19,700
Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	18,000	
Christian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bolivia (C).....	no data	
German-Speaking Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Bolivia (R).....	1,000	
Norwegian Lutheran Mission in Bolivia (C).....	700	
Brazil		934,638
Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (C).....	1,050	
Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil (M).....	710,000	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (C).....	223,588	
Chile.....		14,970
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (M).....	3,000	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (C) (<i>see Argentina</i>)		
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Republic of Chile (C).....	170	
Lutheran Church in Chile (M).....	11,800	
Colombia		3,496
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (M).....	3,000	
St Martin's Congregation (R).....	160	
St Matthew's Congregation (R).....	336	
Costa Rica.....		1,737
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Costa Rica (R).....	600	
Lutheran Costarican Church (M).....	1,137	
Ecuador		2,020
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ecuador (R).....	520	
(<i>includes the El Adviento Evangelical Lutheran Church in Quito, and The Savior Church in Guayaquil</i>)		
Evangelical Lutheran Indigenous Church of Ecuador (C).....	1,500	
El Salvador.....		12,000
Salvadoran Lutheran Synod (M).....	12,000	
Guatemala		200
Evangelical Lutheran Congregation "La Epifanía" (R).....	200	
Lutheran Church of Guatemala (C).....	no data	
Guyana.....		11,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (M).....	11,000	
Haiti		no data
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (C).....	no data	
Honduras Republic		1,000
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras (M).....	1,000	
Mexico.....		9,144
All Saints' Lutheran Church (C).....	191	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico (C).....	3,000	
German-Speaking Evangelical Congregation in Mexico (R).....	3,110	



	Individual Churches	National Total
Lutheran Synod of Mexico (C).....	1,211	
Mexican Lutheran Church (M).....	1,500	
The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (C)	132	
Nicaragua		4,000
Iglesia Luterana de Nicaragua “Fe y Esperanza” (M)	4,000	
Panama		no data
Brotherhood of Popular Pastoral Action Lutheran Coordination (C).....	no data	
Paraguay		3,981
Evangelical Church of the River Plate (M) (<i>see Argentina</i>)		
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay (C).....	3,981	
Peru		3,660
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Peru (R)	400	
Evangelical Lutheran Congregation Cristo Rey (C).....	100	
Norwegian Lutheran Mission (C).....	2,060	
Peruvian Evangelical Lutheran Church (R)	1,100	
Suriname		4,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname (M).....	4,000	
Uruguay		190
Evangelical Church of the River Plate (M) (<i>see Argentina</i>)		
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Uruguay (C).....	190	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (C) (<i>see Argentina</i>)		
Venezuela		3,217
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela (M).....	2,233	
Lutheran Church of Venezuela (C).....	984	
 North America		
Canada		275,564
Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (M)	12,000	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (M)	182,077	
Lutheran Church – Canada (C).....	81,487	
United States of America		7,975,094
Apostolic Lutheran Church of America (C)	7,707	
Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (C)	39,319	
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America (C).....	14,335	
Church of the Lutheran Confession (C)	8,631	
Conservative Lutheran Association (C).....	994	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (M).....	4,984,925	
Evangelical Lutheran Synod (C).....	24,000	
Lithuanian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Diaspora (M).....	3,000	
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (C).....	2,488,936	
Lutheran Churches of the Reformation (C)	1,500	
The Protestant Conference [Lutheran] (C)	1,125	
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (C).....	400,622	

These statistics are based on data received by 31 January 2005. Compiled by Janet Bond-Nash (LWF/OCS)



Tsunami: LWF Member Churches, Partners in Asia Provide Relief Assistance

A Challenge to Assist Beyond the Emergency Phase to Full Recovery, Sustainability

GENEVA, 3 January 2005 (LWI) – As the death toll of the devastating tsunami disaster rose above 150,000 early January, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) member churches in South East Asia continued to deliver most needed basic assistance to survivors, many of whom had sought shelter in community centers including church buildings.

From the worst affected country Indonesia with over 94,000 deaths reported a week after the disaster, mainly in the northern province of Aceh, Bishop Dr Bonar Napitupulu, head of the North Sumatra-based Protestant Christian Batak Church (HKBP) said there was overwhelming support from pastors and other church members to coordinate assistance in the worst hit areas. But the situation remained critical.

The western coastline of Sumatra island was the first to be hit by the violent tidal wave following the December 26 undersea earthquake that affected 11 other countries off the Indian Ocean including India, Sri Lanka and Thailand among the worst hit, and extending further to East Africa. Millions in South East Asia have been displaced and rendered homeless. Destruction of property and livelihoods is extensive.

Napitupulu extended a wider call to all HKBP members and the ecumenical community worldwide to help “our friends in [the worst hit areas] Aceh, Pantai,



No respite, days after the tsunamis hit Indonesia's Aceh province. People, so many of whom lost loved ones when the giant waves struck, are filled with grief and despair. The landscape around them, a constant reminder of the frailty of human life and infrastructure, when confronted with the full force of nature's fury. © YEU/ACT International

Cermin (Serdan Bedagei) and Nias” through a special offering on Sunday, 2 January 2005.

Indonesia: Church Complex Destroyed, Corpses in Mud-Flooded Church

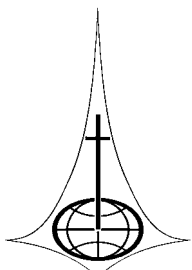
Ms Ria Sidabutar-Pardede, reporting on Aceh from Jakarta said the HKBP Banda Aceh “church is flooded with mud up to a depth of 1.5 meters high with 50 corpses” that had not yet been removed for lack of equipment. Around 100 church members had died, 300 had been rendered homeless and 70 had to be evacuated to the HKBP hospital in Balige.

The church complex in Banda Aceh, including the pastor’s home and synod building “has been wiped out” Pardede reported. Transportation by road was still impossible. Air transport was available at a nearby airport but an evacuation fee costing USD 55 per person made it unaffordable. Pardede stressed the need to evacuate 25 patients to the HKBP Balige hospital, and move another 100 homeless people to the region’s capital, Medan.

The HKBP “is badly in need of medicine, food and clothes.” Beyond current needs there would be a post-disaster phase that would include traumatic healing and the building of a new life, Pardede, a member of the Advisory Committee for Theological Education in Asia (ACTEAS), added.



Surveying the damage to the land and property in Aceh. © Orla Clinton, Church of Sweden/ACT International





Joint tsunami relief distribution efforts by the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India, LWF/DWS India program and ACT International in southeast India.
© ACT International/DWS-India/UELCI

The 3 million-member HKPB, the largest of the 12 LWF member churches in Indonesia, established three coordination posts, in Bedagei, Aceh and Nias Island. Assistance is being coordinated with support from the government and military, non-governmental organizations and other groups. The HKBP and Simalungun Protestant Christian Church are major churches in the areas south of Aceh in and around the city of Medan.

Napitupulu identified the main priorities as the search for and removal of dead bodies; provision of relief food, shelter, clothing and drinking water to survivors as well as emergency medication to the injured. The HKBP bishop said the time limit set for finding the dead was about ten days since December 28. The initial emergency assistance to survivors is expected to last three months in the posts that have been set up.

Coordination of emergency relief in Indonesia is carried out through Action by Churches Together (ACT) International, the Geneva-based global network of churches and related agencies responding to emergencies worldwide.

Thailand: Many Tourists Dead or Missing, Thousands of Fishing Boats Lost at Sea

From Bangkok, Thailand, where the official death toll was estimated at nearly 5,000 including many foreigners, Ms Sally Lim, LWF Department for Mission and Development regional coordinator for Asia reported early January that “the figures reported are a far-cry from the real situation since thousands are still missing and not reported and more than 4,000 fishing boats are still lost at sea.” But the disaster “has created such an impact on the people here that it seems the whole kingdom of Thailand has plunged into this rescue and relief work in one way or another.”

The churches, royal family, government and military, relief workers, schools, business and entertainment

sectors and foreigners have all contributed in numerous ways to help survivors of the tsunami that hit the southern part of the country. Most of the hotels in the region, to which thousands of local and foreign tourists flock annually for their year-end holidays, especially the Phi Phi island and Khao Lak beach resorts, were fully booked and estimated to have had about 20,000 local and foreign tourists during the time of the disaster, Lim said referring to Thai official reports.

Due to the great number of unidentified bodies of foreigners, corpses were ferried to Bangkok in refrigerated containers where, in most cases, identification can only be made through DNA testing, to which the Thai government had now resorted.

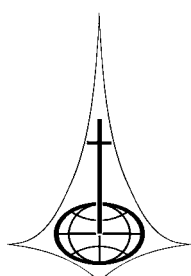
To prevent the outbreak of disease from the heavily decomposed bodies, other unclaimed bodies would be buried at a temporary burial ground prepared by the government in the provinces where the disaster struck.

India: Lutheran Churches, World Service Field Program Assist Victims Jointly

In India, the death toll is said to have reached 9,500 a week after the disaster, and hundreds of thousands were displaced in the coastal states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and the union territories of the Andaman and Nicobar islands. The United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India (UELCI), a body of 11 Lutheran churches, is jointly working with the LWF Department for World Service (DWS) field program in India to provide immediate relief support in the form of food and non-food items initially to 13,500 displaced families in Tamil Nadu, mainly comprising fishing communities. The five areas of operation in-



Listening, ministering: In the background, a group of local residents left destitute by the tsunami devastation share their stories with Bishop Visanukorn Upama (partly hidden), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (ELCT). Ms Anneli Konni (middle), director, ELCT diakonia department listens to a mother, still searching for her daughter who was swept away by the tidal waves in Kao Lak District, Phang Nga Province. © LWF/S.Lim





More than-a-week after the disaster in India, the dead have been buried, the beaches are cleared, and some fishermen are trying to fix their nets. © Hege Opseth NCA/ACT International

clude Tranquebar, Nagapattinam, Karaikal, Cuddalore and Nagercoil.

The UELCI, with the help of local resources, is providing cooked food until other alternatives can be found; cooking utensils; clothes and medical assistance; drinking water and assistance for water purification. Other priority areas include reconstruction of houses; availing communities with counseling and psychosocial support for trauma care; rehabilitating community resources like wells, schools and community centers; as well as providing *catamarans* (traditional fishing boats) and fishing nets.

While the crisis and post-crisis intervention will be the same for UELCI and DWS India the areas of operation and number of families to be covered by both partners will be different to facilitate effective implementation. Criteria for selection for relief assistance includes families who lost their land due to flooding; resource-poor families; female-headed households; family members with physical disability and those who are most vulnerable to future hazards. The teams will assess the situation in order to select the villages and families that will be included in the rehabilitation period.

Since several Lutheran churches are present in the *tsunami*-affected areas, four UELCI member churches will also directly participate in the implementation and rehabilitation process. They include the Arcot Lutheran Church, Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church, India Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The UELCI Executive Secretary, Rev. Dr Chandran Paul Martin de-

scribed the churches' and their partners' response to the crisis as "a faith struggle and a challenge too soon after celebrating Christmas. It puts the church in a very special position to bring relief and support to the affected."

He stressed the main emphasis of response should be the reduction of suffering and loss of the socially and economically marginalized people affected by the disaster. The DWS India and UELCI are working closely with another ACT member, Church's Auxiliary for Social Action.

From Sri Lanka, where the death toll was reported to have reached over 46,000 with 24,000 missing in the first four weeks, Rev. Michael Sivalingam, president of the Lanka Lutheran Church (LLC) in his appeal for emergency assistance said "many of our members are affected in the capital

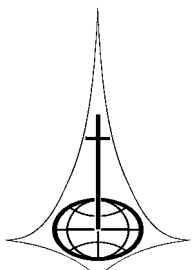
Colombo." Assistance to the LLC will be coordinated through the ACT local member, the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka.

In Geneva, LWF General Secretary, Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko, commended churches for the support they have shown in material, financial and "prayer" support for the *tsunami* victims and survivors. He pointed out that the tragedy also affected many nations outside South East Asia and Africa, as indicated by the number of dead from several countries in Europe and North America. "We are grateful for this historic example of the outpouring of human compassion toward those in critical need. The challenge is to ensure that we maintain the assistance well beyond the emergency phase to full recovery and sustainability," Noko said.

(1,424 words)



David Shanmugarajah and his wife Mary Sriyogaveni, who lost their home, one daughter and two grandchildren to the December 26 disaster, carry a pot of rice to be shared among tsunami victims living in the Holy Trinity Methodist Church in Kaddaively, Jaffna province, northern Sri Lanka. The shelter received food and other emergency supplies from ACT International. © Paul Jeffrey/ACT International



Former LWF President Krause Reaches 65

Noko Sends Greetings on Behalf of Worldwide Lutheran Communion

GENEVA, 6 January 2005 (LWI) – Former President of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Bishop emeritus Dr Christian Krause celebrated his 65th birthday, January 6. In a congratulatory letter, LWF General Secretary, Rev Dr. Ishmael Noko, recalled how the president developed bonds of friendship with many people from different cultures within and outside the church. In his greetings, on behalf of the Lutheran communion, Noko said he hoped Krause “can draw from these contacts spiritual gifts and strength as you continue to serve in God’s vineyard where every act of kindness carries the unique signature of love.”

Krause was elected LWF President at the 1997 LWF Ninth Assembly, in Hong Kong, China. His six-year presidential term officially ended in July 2003 at the LWF Tenth Assembly, in Winnipeg, Canada. During his time in office, Krause was among signatories from the LWF and Roman Catholic Church to the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ), on 31 October 1999 in Augsburg, Germany. In signing the declaration, Lutherans and Roman Catholics confirm they have reached a consensus on the basic truths regarding justification, and that the condemnations of the 16th century Reformation do not apply to the teachings presented in the JDDJ.

Krause, who studied theology in Marburg, Heidelberg and Göttingen, in Germany, as well as in Chicago, USA, was research assistant in the then LWF Department of Theology in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1966 until 1967. After a role as assistant pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover (ELCH), Germany, he was ordained as an ELCH pastor within the Geneva Lutheran congregation in 1969. Between



Former LWF President, Bishop emeritus Dr Christian Krause speaking at the Tenth Assembly in Winnipeg, Canada in July 2003. © LWF/D. Zimmermann

then and 1970, he became special assistant to the LWF Department of Theology. Between 1971 and 1972, he was a headquarters staff member of the Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service (former LWF Department of World Service) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Between 1972 and 1985, Krause was executive secretary (Oberkirchenrat) of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany, and chairperson of the LWF National Committee in Germany. He then became general secretary of the German Protestant Church Convention (Deutscher Evangelischer Kirchentag) in Fulda, Germany, until 1994.

In June 1994, Krause was elected bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brunswick, Germany. At the beginning of 2002, he retired from this position and concentrated on his responsibilities as LWF President, as chairperson of the Governing Board of the Protestant Church Development Service (EED), and as president of the Luther Center in Wittenberg, Germany.

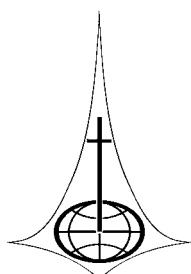
In June 1999, Krause became Doctor Honoris Causa of the Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovak Republic. In 2001, he was awarded the Knight Commander’s Cross (Badge and Star) of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany

Krause remains active in several honorary posts and currently lives in Wolfenbüttel, Germany. He continues as chairperson of the EED Governing Board, and as president of the Luther Center, Wittenberg, Germany.

(489 words)



Then LWF President Bishop Christian Krause and Edward Idris Cardinal Cassidy, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, signing the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, 31 October 1999 in St Anna Church, Augsburg, Germany. © LWF/K. Wieckhorst



Tsunami Disaster: Call to Lutherans Worldwide to Heed Cry for Assistance in South East Asia

LWF Provides Emergency Response, General Secretary Urges Support from All Churches Everywhere

GENEVA, 29 December 2004 (LWI) – As the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) responds to the tsunami disaster that struck South East Asia on December 26, LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko appealed to all member churches of the global Lutheran communion to urgently heed the cry for assistance in the region.



"I lost my husband," says Tavanashi. She can barely speak, her gaze empty and full of indescribable fear. She has been deeply traumatized by what has happened in Nagapattinam, India. © Hege Opseth NCA/ACT International

In a statement released December 29, Noko reminded "all churches everywhere" of their "inherent diaconic responsibility to provide aid and support to those who have suffered the effects. This is the calling and a true mark of the church in the face of such terrible events,"

Statement by Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko, General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation following the tsunami disaster in South East Asia

The disaster that struck the Indian Ocean coastlines of Asia on 26 December 2004 was a tragic sequel to our annual celebration of the great mystery of Christmas. Even as we commemorated the coming of the Prince of Peace, a great violence was building in the ocean floor off the coast of Sumatra. The toll of death and

he said in his appeal for aid toward a catastrophe that has left tens of thousands dead, with casualty figures rising as thousands are still reported missing. Destruction of property and livelihood is extensive.

The LWF is closely monitoring the situation in the severely affected countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka—and is undertaking initial emergency relief interventions in cooperation with its member churches and ecumenical partners, coordinated through the Action by Churches Together (ACT) International network. The LWF is a founding member of the Geneva-based ACT, a global network of churches and their partners responding to emergencies worldwide.

The 9.0-magnitude earthquake is said to be the strongest quake in the past 40 years. It struck under the sea in north Sumatra, Indonesia, generating sea surges that sped across Sri Lanka, southern India, the Maldives, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand and whose impact was later felt as far as the East African coastline.

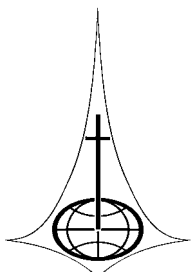
Noko pointed out that the response of the LWF and the international community called for a commitment to accompanying the people of the region in the longer-term, as they seek to "retrieve lost livelihoods and to recoup the development gains so swiftly destroyed."

While the disaster illustrates with brutal force the fragility of human life and great endeavors, Noko said, it was also "a reminder that we would do well to heed, at a time when even the relatively inadequate efforts by the international community to address climate change continue to be subverted and undermined by some of those most responsible."

It was his prayer that the shock of the present catastrophe would "awaken us all to a deeper sense of responsibility to suffering humanity in the affected areas, and of humility in our relationship to the planet we inhabit." (419 words)

The full text of the statement by LWF General Secretary Noko follows:

destruction that this violence brought, though no doubt still to rise, has already reached a scale beyond worst fears and imaginings. I pray for all those affected by this catastrophe, for the bereaved, for the destitute, and for the children so heavily represented among the victims.



The meaning of such an unparalleled natural disaster and its devastating impact on the earth's surface cannot be fathomed. But we also know that the Earth is God's Earth, and that God watches over us all, and that God is love. How then to understand such an overwhelming calamity, and each of the tens or hundreds of thousands of individual human tragedies of which it is comprised? No consoling explanation can be offered to those who have lost loved ones, their homes, their possessions and their livelihoods.

But though we may be unable to explain why these things have happened, all churches everywhere have an inherent diaconic responsibility to provide aid and support to those who have suffered the effects. This is the calling and a true mark of the church in the face of such terrible events. I appeal to all member churches of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to urgently answer the cry for assistance in South East Asia.

The LWF is closely monitoring the situation in the affected countries, and is undertaking initial emergency relief interventions in southern India in cooperation with its member churches in the country and ecumenical partners, coordinated through the Action by Churches Together (ACT) network. However, the scale of the catastrophe is such that it will take some time before the full impacts, both immediate and long-term, can be assessed. It is already clear, however, that the international community's response—and the LWF's response—will need to include a commitment to accompanying the people of the region in the longer-term, as they seek to retrieve lost livelihoods and to recoup the development gains so swiftly destroyed.

This disaster illustrates with brutal force the fragility of human life and of all our great endeavors, compared with the awesome and indifferent power of the natural forces unleashed on December 26. It is a reminder that



A woman whose home was destroyed by the tsunami sits in despair amidst the wreckage in the town of Moratuwa, south of Colombo, Sri Lanka.
© Paul Jeffrey/ACT International

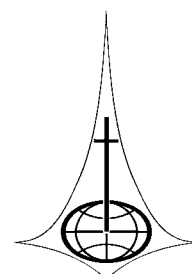
we would do well to heed, at a time when even the relatively inadequate efforts by the international community to address climate change continue to be subverted and undermined by some of those most responsible. The lands temporarily inundated by the severe tidal waves could be claimed permanently, along with all other similarly low-lying coastal areas, by rising sea levels caused by global warming. The lives, livelihoods and futures affected by such an outcome would probably make the recent disaster, though more immediate and dramatic, pale to insignificance. Though this disaster may have been caused by the seemingly brutal mechanics of the earth's surface, undoubtedly the moral responsibility for the effects of global warming will lie with us, this present generation, if we continue to refuse to act.

I pray that the shock of the present catastrophe in Sri Lanka, southern India, Indonesia, Thailand, Somalia, Kenya and elsewhere will awaken us all to a deeper sense of responsibility to suffering humanity in the affected areas, and of humility in our relationship to the planet we inhabit.

Geneva
29 December 2004



This woman lost 11 family members when giant waves swept over her village in Muara Batu, Aceh Utara, Indonesia. © YEU/ACT International



LWF New Year Message: Call for Greater Commitment to Children's Welfare, Environmental Protection

The Pain of Children's Vulnerability in Tsunami Disaster

GENEVA, 31 December 2004 (LWI) – Against the backdrop of thousands of children killed in the December 26 earthquake and tidal waves that struck South East Asia and East Africa, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) New Year Message is a call to religious communities and societies in general to prioritize the welfare of children and environmental protection in their work.

In the message released December 31, and addressed to all LWF member churches, national committees and related and supporting agencies, LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko noted that 2005 begins with pain in view of the tragic images of helpless children swept away by the *tsunami* tidal waves and their parents' inability to save them.

"The vulnerability of children has been brought home to all of us in a significant way during the Christmas season," he said. "We should learn from this in such a way that we place the needs of children at the center of our priorities and planning in our religious communities and in our societies."

According to media reports, children comprise about one third of the over 120,000 people confirmed dead in the *tsunami* disaster by December 31. The catastrophe occurred when a 9.0-magnitude undersea earthquake struck the island of Sumatra, triggering violent tidal waves in Indonesia, Thailand, India, Sri Lanka and East Africa.

Noko pointed to the urgent need to shift priorities in the area of environmental protection. Deforestation along the coastlines, in part to make room for resorts, has contributed significantly to the destructive impact of the recent tidal wave, he said. "Would children, estimated to make up one third of all the casualties and wounded, have



Displaced by the tidal waves, this family now lives in Karikattukoppam, a small camp several miles from the beach in southeast India. © Hege Opseth NCA/ACT International

fared better in this catastrophe had more of the natural habitat been protected?" he asked.

The LWF in its diaconal work is also concerned about other aspects of children's vulnerability worldwide including recruitment as child soldiers, increasing sexual exploitation and drug trafficking. Equally important are the increasing numbers of HIV/AIDS orphans and child-headed households in communities severely affected by the pandemic, Noko said in his New Year Message.

Pointing to the LWF member churches' great educational resources, the general secretary called for a rethinking of the churches' contribution to the welfare of children and future of societies. Education, he concluded, "can truly be the key to a world without discrimination and violence, to a world of tolerance and peace."
(411 words)

The full text of the New Year Message from LWF General Secretary Noko follows:

New Year Message from the General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko

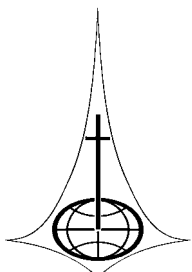
To:
LWF Member Churches
LWF National Committees
Related and supporting agencies

For my New Year's message to the LWF member churches this year, I had intended to focus my reflection on the general situation of children.

Before issuing my message, however, the entire world was gripped by the catastrophe that has struck

so many different countries. The continents of Asia and Africa have suffered enormous human and material losses. But many nations outside these two regions have also been tragically affected by loss of human life, and high numbers of people are still unaccounted for.

As the international community including the LWF does its utmost to respond to this disaster, the vulnerability of children has been brought home to all of us in a significant way during the Christmas season. Fresh are the images of frightened children torn from



their parents' arms, unable to swim and hold on to anything or run fast enough to safe ground.

This rare incomprehensible tragedy reminds us starkly of the needs of children worldwide also in the longer perspective. The flood tragedy has shown movingly that adults, faced with extreme threats, do all they can to save children. We should learn from this in such a way that we place the needs of children at the center of our priorities and planning in our religious communities and in our societies.

There is an urgent need for a shift of priorities in the area of environmental protection. It seems entirely clear that environmental destruction, e.g. by deforestation along the coastlines, in part to make room for resorts, has contributed significantly to the destructive impact of the recent tidal wave.

Would children, estimated to make up one third of all the casualties and wounded, have fared better in this catastrophe had more of the natural habitat been protected?

In addition to a healthy natural environment, children require adequate social welfare, which is lacking in many countries. Children need effective protection from corrupt intentions of some adults, with sexual exploitation and trafficking of drugs to children apparently being on the rise.

In many countries children continue to be recruited and used as soldiers, and to be obliged to take part in the most violent and atrocious acts, leading to the destruction of their still fragile personhood.

Children are among the most vulnerable to the ravages of the HIV/AIDS crisis, and the situation of AIDS orphans and child-headed households is of particular concern to the LWF in its diaconal work. In some countries, children continue to be subjected to the death penalty, in contradiction to established international norms.

I think also about the enormous needs for children's education as a means of equipping them for life and of enabling them to contribute to the development of their societies and of the whole 'global village'. Education can truly be the key to a world without discrimination and violence, to a world of tolerance and peace. Many LWF member churches have great resources for education. Can we rethink our contribution in this area to the welfare of children and the future of our societies?

As we begin this New Year, it is my sincere prayer that every parent, grandparent, godparent, citizen, church and government will do everything within their power and imagination to work for the improved conditions of children.



While her mother watches, a child left homeless by the devastation sleeps in a refugee camp near Palattadichchenai, Sri Lanka. Residents of this camp, located inside territory controlled by the Tamil Tigers separatist group, received assistance from a variety of organizations, including the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka, a member of ACT International. © Paul Jeffrey/ACT International

May we as religious communities uphold the importance of the rehabilitation of infrastructure after the tidal wave flooding, ensuring at the same time that children are not marginalized in the rehabilitation process itself.

As we begin the New Year 2005 with pain that none of us can fathom, may God comfort those who mourn and strengthen every home, community and country for the sake of all. We recognize with gratitude all who are providing social and pastoral care during this difficult time.

In Christ,
 Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko
 General Secretary
 Geneva, 31 December 2004

Rev. Jean A. Ravalitera New President of Malagasy Protestant Church in France

Rev. Jean A. Ravalitera was elected the new President of the Malagasy Protestant Church in France. He succeeds Rev. Paul Solohery. The Malagasy Protestant Church is

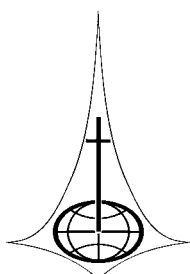
one of the three member churches of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in France. With 8,000 members, it joined the LWF in 1999. *(61 words)*

Rev. Rolando Holtz Interim-President of Chilean Church

Rev. Rev. Rolando Holtz is the interim president of the Lutheran Church in Chile (ILC) succeeding Bishop Kurt Gysel, who stepped down from his post last April. The ILC

is one of the two LWF member churches in Chile. It has 11,800 members and joined the LWF in 1991.

(56 words)



LWF Encourages Israel, Palestine to Seize Opportunity for Peace

Election of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas a "New Chance"

GENEVA, 13 January 2005 (LWI) – The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) has appealed to both the Israeli and Palestinian leadership to seize the opportunity for peace presented by the recent election of Mr Mahmoud Abbas as President of the Palestinian Authority (PA).

In letters addressed to the PA president-elect and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon respectively, January 13, LWF General Secretary, Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko said the election of Abbas offers both sides "a new chance for peace" in the Holy Land.

Noko requested Sharon to grasp this new chance "with both hands" and resume negotiations with the elected PA leadership "at the earliest possible juncture in order to strengthen the renewed hopes for peace that are growing in the hearts of Palestinians and Israelis alike."

Congratulating PA President-elect Abbas, the LWF general secretary underlined the major responsibility of leading the Palestinian people toward peace and self-determination and in "negotiating an end to the occupation that has caused so much conflict and suffering in your region."

Palestinians in the Occupied Territories elected the 69-year-old Abbas as PA president on January

9. Abbas claimed victory over six other candidates with 62 percent of the votes cast. He succeeds Yasser Arafat who died 11 November 2004 after leading the Palestinian people for four decades.

In his letter to the PA President-elect, Noko pointed to the LWF presence in the Holy Land especially through its member church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan (ELCJ) headed by Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan. "He has been a powerful witness to all of us in the LWF family of the plight and struggle of the Palestinian people, and a consistent voice for political dialogue and inter-faith cooperation in overcoming violence and occupation," he wrote of Younan, whose church has congregations in Israel, Jordan and Palestine.

Noko also recognized the PA's cooperation with the LWF in facilitating the delivery of essential health services through the Augusta Victoria Hospital and other humanitarian activities of the Jerusalem-based Department for World Service regional program.

The general secretary registered the LWF's appreciation of Arafat's commitment to protecting the rights of all religious communities in Palestine, saying such dedication was an important foundation for the yet-to-be established state of Palestine.

(387 words)

LWF Sends Fact-finding Team to Indonesia

Australian Group Leader Commends Lutheran Generosity

GENEVA, 18 January 2005 (LWI) – The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) has sent an assessment team to Indonesia to determine ways of assisting LWF member churches there and respond in concrete ways to the devastating impact of the *tsunami* disaster that struck on 26 December 2004.

The seven-person LWF Pastoral Team appointed by LWF General Secretary, Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko, would also provide pastoral care and support to the affected churches in visible expression of the solidarity of the global Lutheran communion.

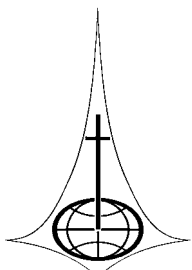
The team led by Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) Secretary and Mission Director, Rev. Wayne Zweck, gathered in Sumatra's northern city of Medan on January 16 prior to the two-week mission.

Indonesia is the worst affected among South East Asian and East African countries that were struck



Rev. Saro Gea, general secretary, Christian Communion of Indonesia Church in Nias, near a damaged house in Sisarahilli II village in Nias Island. ©LWF/HKBP

by the massive tidal waves (*tsunamis*) triggered by a strong undersea earthquake of which the epicenter was



near the northwestern coastline of Sumatra. Indonesian authorities say the country's death toll from the catastrophe had risen to 110,229, representing more than two thirds of the over 158,000 total deaths reported three weeks after the catastrophe.

According to its terms of reference, the assessment team would among other tasks look into the needs of children, large numbers of whom have been orphaned, and women, both of whom even in normal times are among the most vulnerable. It would also explore the potential role of the LWF Departments for World Service (DWS) and for Mission and Development (DMD) both in the short and long term. In addition to determining the churches' capacity to effectively respond to the crisis, the team would verify how best their programs and people's needs can be met through Action by Churches Together (ACT) International, the Geneva-based global network of churches and their partners responding to emergencies worldwide. A report of the group's finding with recommendations would be delivered to the LWF general secretary by 3 February 2005.

Continued "Support to Our Neighbours" Critical

"Although immediate relief is the priority it is also critical that we continue to support our neighbors as they begin to recover from this tragedy," Zweck said. "Too often in the past after the initial emergency phase has passed and the TV crews have gone the funding has dried up leaving communities to struggle to fully recover. That is why we are so pleased that Lutheran members have opened their hearts so generously."

Others on the team included LWF Council members Rev. Dr Jubil R. Hutauruk (Indonesia) and Ms Diadem Depayso (Philippines); Mr Peter Schirmer, executive secretary of the LCA overseas aid and resettlement agency, Australian Lutheran World Ser-



In Banda Aceh: The LWF Pastoral Team to Indonesia, from left to right, Neville Pradhan (LWF/DWS Geneva); David Mueller (LWF/DWS Cambodia); Diadem Depayso (LWF Council member - Philippines); joined by local driver; Rev. Dr Jubil R. Hutauruk (LWF Council Member - Indonesia); a local pastor; and Rev. Ginda Harahap (LWF/DMD Geneva). ©LWF/HKBP

vice; and LWF staff persons Rev. Ginda Harahap, DMD Area Secretary for Asia; Mr David Mueller, LWF/DWS representative in Cambodia; and Mr Neville Pradhan, DWS program officer for emergencies, refugees and internally displaced persons.

The LWF has 12 member churches in Indonesia including three located in the worst affected areas of Aceh, Sumatra Utara and Nias where some entire congregations have been completely wiped out.

In India, the LWF/DWS program and United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India are collaborating in their response to the needs of affected people in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. In Sri Lanka, the Lanka Lutheran Church is part of the ACT response, coordinated by the National Council of Churches. Although the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand and its congregations are not directly affected by the disaster, the church is providing resources for others who are implementing assistance programs.

LWF member churches from the Asian region, as well as from other continents, are visiting the affected countries. (596 words)

Rev. Rainer Kiefer to Leave LWF German National Committee

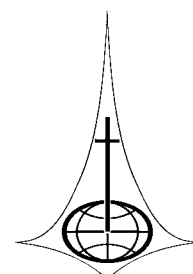
Rev. Rainer Kiefer, executive director of the Board for Church Cooperation and World Service at the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) German National Committee (GNC), will next April take up a new post as chairperson of the Committee for Church Cooperation in Mission and Service in Hanover. Kiefer, an ordained pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover has worked with LWF/GNC since 1998. He will succeed Oberlandeskirchenrat Jörg Homann, who retired on 30 August 2004.

Kiefer was born on 8 October 1959 in Celle, Germany. Upon completing his theological studies at home, he

studied in South Africa between 1985-86. His training to become a vicar, 1989-1990 in Germany, was followed by extended study with the Church of England in London, United Kingdom. Until 1994, he worked as a pastor in Gretesch-Lüstringen near Osnabrück, Germany, and subsequently as a church official of the Hanover regional church office, Germany, before his appointment to the LWF/GNC.

The LWF/GNC represents 13 Lutheran churches with a combined membership of over 13 million members.

(179 words)



FEATURE: Sri Lanka Still in Shock

Norwegian Church Aid Calls for Comprehensive Reconstruction

GALLE, Sri Lanka/GENEVA, 24 January 2005 (LWI) – It is more than four weeks since disaster hit Sri Lanka but the country is still in a state of shock. Survivors not only lost everything they had, they also mourn their loved ones who perished in the December 26 massive tidal waves (*tsunamis*) triggered by an undersea earthquake off the western coast of northern Sumatra, Indonesia. At community level, people are crossing different social and religious backgrounds to help each other. Within this context, Norway’s ecumenical development aid agency, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), is calling for a comprehensive development program.

Tamara Mendis, wife of Rev. Eardley Mendis, also died as a result of the *tsunamis*, which caused widespread destruction, killing over 30,000 people along Sri Lanka’s coast. Fifty-five-year-old Tamara and her daughter Eranthie were travelling by train from Colombo to Galle in the south to visit relatives when the tidal waves struck.

Then The Second Wave Struck

Her husband, 59-year-old pastor of a Southeast Asian congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in



Methodist pastor Sathy Thambyrajah of City Mission in Colombo (second from left) with a colleague and Buddhist monks at the site of the train wreck. © LWF/R. Lang

America and his son visited the disaster site near Galle where, according to official figures 1,700 people lost their lives. Survivors say the train stopped after the first wave. The water was only up to platform level. Then the second wave struck, carrying several wagons along with it. Mendis described how 24-year-old Eranthie had tried to save her mother, in vain.

“Sri Lanka has been very badly hit,” says Hans Einar Hem, NCA South Asia representative. NCA, a partner organization of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Department for World Service is providing assistance in the context of the global church network, Action by Churches Together (ACT) International, of which the LWF is a founding member.

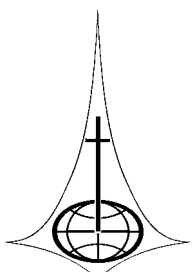
Hem had arrived in Sri Lanka four days earlier to set up a new NCA regional office. Then everything changed. A day after the tidal waves, he was able to promise back-up funds to local ACT partner, the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL).

He travelled to Galle one day after the waves wreaked havoc. Thousands of bodies recovered from the rubble were lined up, wrapped in plastic bags. “This is a terrible loss of human life,” he says of the estimated 6,000 people who died just in this area.

The poorest sections of the population (up to 90 percent) were among the worst affected by the disaster, according to Rev. Sumithra Fernando, executive secretary, NSCCL Women’s Commission. The fishing communities that lived very close to the sea not only lost their homes but their very



*Rev. Eardley Mendis stands beside the wagons at the site where his wife Tamara died as a result of the *tsunamis*, which caused widespread destruction. Over 30,000 people died along Sri Lanka’s coast. © LWF/R. Lang*



means of survival, with boats and nets either destroyed or washed out to sea.

Entire families were wiped out. Twenty-five-year old Suranja Padhum from Galle lost 50 relatives. Only four of more than 60 handicapped children in a home close to the sea are said to have survived.

Fernando wonders how people will cope with this immense loss. She is currently developing projects for survivors' psychosocial care. Jayasiri Peiris, NCCSL General Secretary emphasizes spiritual and psychological support as a priority contribution of the churches. "This helps people get back on their feet, and not only the infrastructure."

Psychosocial Care Crucial in Reconstruction

Hem also cites psychosocial care as crucial, and stresses the need for an integrated development program. Concerning funds for such assistance, he says, "We have never experienced such a degree of solidarity."

But there is still concern as Sri Lanka's economy has been seriously affected. There are fewer tourists following the damage to hotels along the coast. It will take years before the sector fully recovers. Two decades of conflict between the Tamil rebels and government forces only compounds the situation.

Prior to the disaster, it was normal to experience tension between the different ethnic and religious groups but this has now changed, according to Hem. "Many congregations were quite divided," particularly in the east where Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and Christians co-exist alongside Tamil and Sinhalese populations.

They are now working together to respond to the needs created by the disaster. The NCCSL general secretary affirms "people have crossed cultural and religious barriers, and are helping each other." Peiris, an Anglican, and Hem, a Lutheran, advocate support for groups that seek to bring about a new spirit of community.

Besides the reconstruction of houses and infrastructure, congregations need to be rebuilt and strengthened, a process that requires psychosocial care. Hem considers close cooperation with the NCCSL, and NCA's many years of experience, as the right prerequisites for this task.

(746 words)

(Adapted from the original LWI German article by Stuttgart (Germany)-based journalist, Rainer Lang.)

***This article is part of the ongoing LWI Features on Healing under the LWF Tenth Assembly theme, "For the Healing of the World."**



A young boy standing near the ruins of his house in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka. © LWF/R. Lang

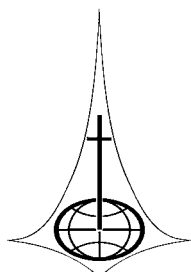
Palestinian Church Has New Name

Effective January 2005, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan & the Holy Land (ELCJHL) is the new name of the former Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan (ELCJ). A member church of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) since 1974, the 3,000-member ELCJHL has six congrega-

tions, five of which are in Palestine, clustered around Jerusalem and Bethlehem. It also has a congregation in Jordan. The church is headed by Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan, who is also LWF Vice-President for the Asia region.

(86 words)

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The Lutheran World Federation

Consultations 2005

The consultations listed below are currently planned and will take place providing funding has been procured.

DMD	=	Department for Mission and Development
DTS	=	Department for Theology and Studies
DWS	=	Department for World Service
OCS	=	Office for Communication Services
OGS	=	Office of the General Secretary
OEA	=	Office for Ecumenical Affairs
OFA	=	Office for Finance and Administration
OIAHR	=	Office for International Affairs and Human Rights

JANUARY

Date	Unit	Place	Title
25-31	LWF Geneva Secretariat & DWS Field Programs	Porto Alegre / Brazil	World Social Forum

FEBRUARY

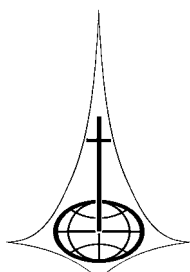
Date	Unit	Place	Title
19-21	OGS	Geneva / Switzerland	LWF Executive Committee

MARCH

Date	Unit	Place	Title
03-06	OEA	Mainz / Germany	Drafting Group Meeting, Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity
05-13	DTS	Jos / Nigeria	Case Study: Lutheran-Muslim Dialogue on Conflict and Peace
14-18	DWS	Zambia	Southern Africa Regional Consultation
14-18	DTS	Nairobi / Kenya	Worship in African Contexts
17-18	OFA	Geneva / Switzerland	Endowment Fund Board
17-22	DTS	Cape Town / South Africa	Study Team: Intercultural Ethical Deliberations
3 rd wk	DWS	Addis Ababa / Ethiopia	Human Resources Development Workshop
31.03-02.04	DMD	Chicago / USA	Regional Consultation, Deepening the Bonds of Communion
Undetermined	OEA	Geneva / Switzerland	Joint Staff Meeting, LWF-Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity

APRIL

Date	Unit	Place	Title
04-07	OGS	Undetermined	First Meeting of the LWF Task Force for Discussion on Family, Marriage and Sexuality Capacity Building Workshop
04-08	DMD	Lumbumbashi / Dem. Rep. of Congo	Capacity Building Workshop
05-08	DMD	Bogota / Colombia	Latin American Church Leadership Conference
11-12	OCS / DWS	Geneva / Switzerland	Roundtable: Editorial Planning for DWS/OCS Publication



18-25	OGS / OIAHR	Johannesburg / South Africa	Second Inter-Faith Peace Summit in Africa
25-29	DMD	Nairobi / Kenya	Africa Regional Consultation on Water
25-29	OCS / DMD	Lyón / France	International Consultation: Towards a Communicating Communion – A Youth Vision

MAY

Date	Unit	Place	Title
02-03	DWS	Montreux / Switzerland	Annual Forum
04-05	DWS	Montreux / Switzerland	Standing Committee
06	OEA	Geneva / Switzerland	Preparatory Meeting: Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions
06-10	DMD	Bulawayo/ Zimbabwe	Capacity Building Workshop
17-20	DMD	Montreux / Switzerland	Project Committee Meeting
23-27	DWS	Cobán / Guatemala	Latin America & Caribbean Regional Consultation
Undetermined	OIAHR	Norway (to be confirmed)	Core Group Consultation on Indigenous Issues

JUNE

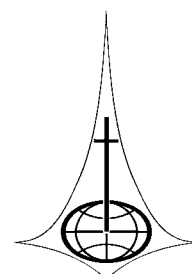
Date	Unit	Place	Title
01-03	OGS	Geneva / Switzerland	LWF Agencies, National Committees & Church Representatives Consultation
06-10	DWS	Rwanda	Advocacy & Rights-Based Approach Workshop
08-13	DMD	Iceland	European Church Leadership Consultation
2 nd wk	DWS	Southern Africa	Human Resources Development Workshop
16-19	DMD	Geneva / Switzerland	Consultation of Women Bishops and Presidents
24-30	DTS	Warsaw / Poland	Regional Seminar: Authority of the Bible
27.06-01.07	OCS/DWS	Kampala / Uganda	Regional Workshop: Communication Capacity Building for DWS Field Offices
27.06-01.07	OEA	Strasbourg / France	Lutheran-Mennonite International Study Commission
Undetermined	DMD/DWS	Zambia	HIV/AIDS Skills Building Workshop
Undetermined	DTS	Valparaiso / Chicago/USA	Concluding Meeting: Study Team, Lutheran-Muslim Dialogue on Conflict and Peace

AUGUST

Date	Unit	Place	Title
28-30	DMD	Jerusalem / Bethlehem	Pre-Council Youth Workshop
30	OGS	Jerusalem / Bethlehem	LWF Executive Committee
31.08-06.09	OGS	Jerusalem / Bethlehem	LWF Council Meeting

SEPTEMBER

Date	Unit	Place	Title
19-23	DMD	Bratislava / Slovak Republic	Capacity Building Workshop for Member Churches in Eastern Europe
20-23	DMD	Argentina	International Consultation on Illegitimate Debt
22-30	OEA	Bari / Italy	Plenary, Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity



24-25	OIAHR	Buenos Aires / Argentina	Human Rights Training Workshop for LWF Member Churches in Latin American & Caribbean Region
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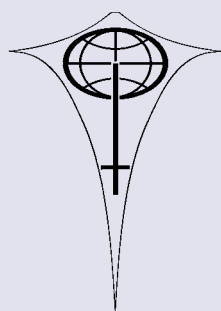
OCTOBER

Date	Unit	Place	Title
07-11	DTS	Nuremberg / Germany	Final Global Consultation on Spiritualism as a Global Challenge to Churches
08-13	OEA	Erlangen / Germany	Preparatory Meeting, Lutheran-Orthodox Joint Commission
Wk of 10-14	OCS	Geneva / Switzerland	Workshop: Audit of LWF Publications
14-20	DWS	Geneva / Switzerland	Field Directors Meeting
16-20	OEA	Geneva / Switzerland	Conference of Secretaries / Christian World Communions Plenary
18-22	DMD	Bangkok / Thailand	Consultation: Diakonia in the Asian Context
27-28	DMD	Chennai / India	Capacity Building Workshop, Finance and Consolidated Audits
25-30	OCS/World Council of Churches	Havana / Cuba	Global Communicators' Network Conference: Communication and Power – Independence and Responsibility in a Globalized World
Undetermined	DMD	St. Petersburg / Russia	Regional Meeting, LWF Member Churches in the Baltic States and Russia
Undetermined	OCS	Geneva / Switzerland or Frankfurt / Germany	Roundtable with Lutheran Publishing Houses: Between Market and Church

NOVEMBER

Date	Unit	Place	Title
02-07	DTS	Sao Leopoldo / Brazil	Global Consultation on the Diaconal Ministry
10-13	DMD	Namibia	50 th Anniversary, All Africa Lutheran Consultation
10-15	OEA	Undetermined	Anglican-Lutheran International Commission
14-18	DWS	Tanzania	Advocacy & Rights-Based Approach Workshop
21-22	DWS	Geneva / Switzerland	Standing Committee Meeting
21-23	DMD	Bangkok / Thailand	Planning Meeting, LWF Women in Church and Society Regional Coordination
21-25	DMD	Buenos Aires / Argentina	Capacity Building Workshop
24-27	DMD	Bangkok / Thailand	LWF Global Women's Consultation

The 2005 consultations' calendar will be regularly updated on the LWF Web site. Further information can be found at www.lutheranworld.org/Essentials/LWF-Calendar.html



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