

## Haiti: Earthquake Survivors Urgently Need Rain-Proof Housing



*A woman builds a temporary home in a camp north of the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince. The LWF provided rain-proof shelter for Haitians who lost their homes in the 12 January earthquake. © Paul Jeffrey/ACT Alliance*

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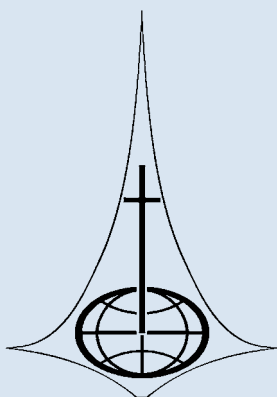
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### LWF World Service Director Impressed by Global Relief Response

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti/GENEVA (LWI)** – One month after the devastating earthquake in Haiti, the first strong tropical rain surprised the survivors in their sheet-roofed shacks and caught them unprepared. Spontaneously a lot of people gathered in the center of the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince, demanding material for new accommodation, reported Bobby Waddell, the Haiti emergency senior adviser for the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Department for World Service (DWS).

Erecting rain-proof housing for hundreds of thousands of homeless Haitians remains a top priority. The first showers only heralded the imminent rainy season.

In the past few weeks the DWS Haiti country program staff had supplied thousands of people with clean drinking water, food and essential supplies. The demand remained enormous. The government said the earthquake cost at least 217,000 lives and injured about 300,000 people. The UN estimates that about 1.2 million people were currently homeless or living in makeshift accommodation.

DWS Haiti was working closely with other organizations in the ACT Alliance, and had provided over 150,000 people with water, food, hygiene sets and basic supplies.

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### Historic Decision on Women's Ordination by Middle East Churches

Representatives of Lutheran, Anglican and Reformed churches in the Middle East voted unanimously in favor of women ordination as pastors.

"This is historic and allows us to move forward in a leading role," said Jerusalem Lutheran Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan after the 12 January decision at the General Assembly of the Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches (FMEEC) in Harissa, Lebanon.

Younan, FMEEC outgoing president and bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), said the decision meant the body's 16 member churches were urged to open the door to the ordination of women pastors.

The Lutheran church, the Cairo presbytery of the Evangelical Church in Egypt, and the Khartoum diocese of the Episco-

pal Church in Sudan had accepted the ordination of women as pastors. Several other churches ordain women as elders.

The Harissa statement said: "The sixth General Assembly supports the ordination of the women in our churches in the position of ordained pastor and [their] partnership with men as an equal partner in decision making. Therefore, we call on member churches to take leading steps in this concern."

The statement was drawn up in response to a report by the fellowship's theology committee, which found no biblical or theological reasons to oppose women's ordination.

The FMEEC was formed in 1974 to strengthen the mission and ministry of its member churches and to promote unity through joint work and education. The 3,000-member ELCJHL joined the Lutheran World Federation in 1974.

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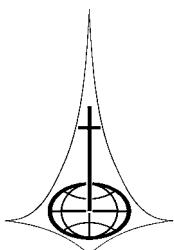
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**Includes Assembly Update No. 7**



# LWF Congratulates Former President Krause on His 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday

## Tribute to Christian Krause's Commitment to Lutheran Communion

**GENEVA (LWI)** – The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) sent congratulatory greetings to former LWF president Bishop em. Dr Christian Krause, praising him for his long-standing commitment to the Lutheran communion, to the church globally and its fundamental role in the world.

president as a committed “interpreter of the Lutheran communion to the world, listening to the voices of the world and interpreting those voices for us.” He noted that Krause had “known when to challenge us, when to encourage us, to let us struggle and when to bring us together again.”

Church in Brunswick, Germany, from June 1994 to the beginning of 2002, when he took an early retirement to concentrate on his LWF leadership responsibilities, and as chairperson of the governing board of the Protestant Church Development Service (EED), and president of the Luther Center in Wittenberg, Germany.

He began working with the LWF as a research assistant in the then Department of Theology from 1966 until 1967. Following his 1969 ordination as an Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover pastor within the Geneva (Switzerland) Lutheran congregation, he took up the position of special assistant in the LWF Department of Theology from 1969 to 1970. From 1971 to 1972, he worked at the headquarters of the Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service (LWF Department of World Service) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

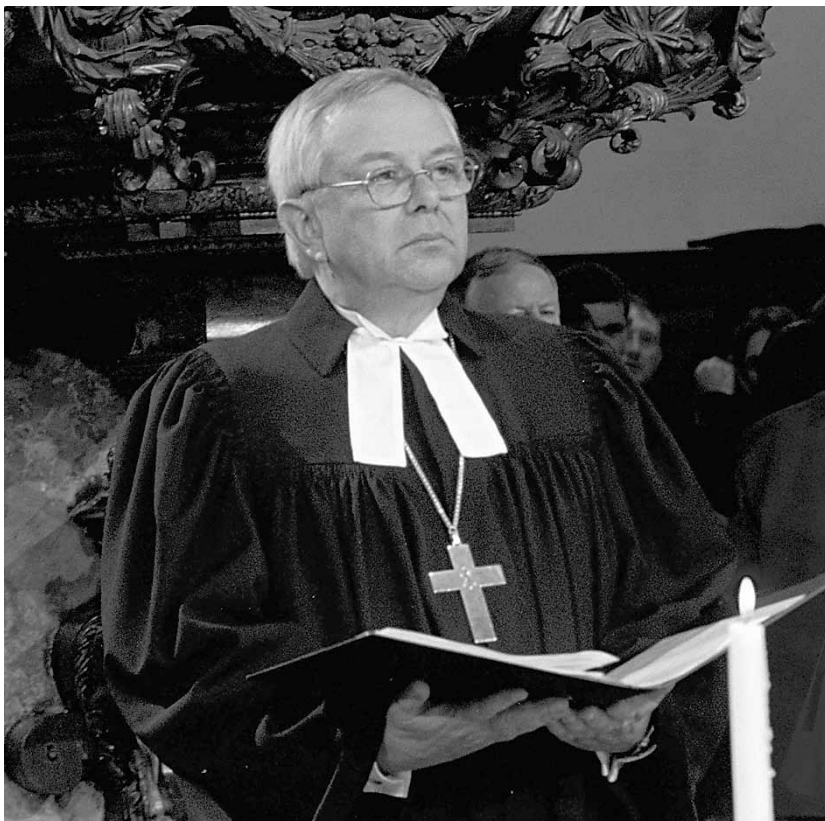
Between 1972 and 1985, Krause was executive secretary (Oberkirchenrat) of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany, and chairperson of the LWF National Committee in Germany. He was general secretary of the German Protestant Church Convention (Deutscher Evangelischer Kirchentag) in Fulda from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

Krause was born on 6 January 1940 in Dallgow-Döberitz, Brandenburg, Germany. He studied theology in Marburg, Heidelberg and Göttingen in Germany, and in Chicago, USA.

In 2001, he was awarded the Knight Commander's Cross (Badge and Star) of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. He is a recipient of honorary doctorates from the Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovak Republic (1999) and from the Academy of Ecumenical Indian Theology and Church Administration in Madras, India (1994).

Krause currently lives in Wolfenbüttel, Germany.

6 January 2010



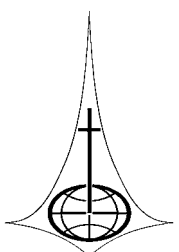
Former LWF President Bishop em. Dr Christian Krause © LWF/K. Wieckhorst

In a letter to Krause on the occasion of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on 6 January, LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko expressed gratitude for Krause's contribution to the Federation not only as president but also in other capacities including as staff person at the Geneva secretariat and as executive secretary of the LWF German National Committee.

Noko reiterated a tribute to Krause at the July 2003 LWF Tenth Assembly in Winnipeg, Canada, by his successor Bishop Mark S. Hanson, praising the former LWF

Noko praised Krause's active participation in the 1999 signing of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ) between the LWF and the Roman Catholic Church. “I was pleased that you were able to celebrate this milestone accomplishment on its tenth anniversary last October in Augsburg,” added the general secretary, referring to the 2009 JDDJ anniversary celebrations in Augsburg, Germany.

Krause was elected LWF President at the July 1997 Ninth Assembly in Hong Kong, China. He served as bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran



## LWF Calls for Urgent International Support to Sudan's Peace Process

### Donors Urged to Increase Emergency Funding amid Deteriorating Humanitarian Situation

**GENEVA (LWI)** – The Lutheran World Federation called for urgent action from the international community in supporting the effective implementation of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in 2005, and in preventing recurrence of conflict in the country.

In a statement released on 11 January, coinciding with the CPA's fifth anniversary on 9 January, LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko pointed out that the people of South Sudan were yet to see any "peace dividend in terms of improved security or development, and their confidence in the peace process has been badly undermined."

The CPA, signed between the Government of the Republic of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement / Sudan People's Liberation Army granted a six-year interim

period of administrative autonomy to South Sudan, which would be followed by a referendum in January 2011 to decide whether South Sudan should become an independent country.

Noko expressed the LWF's grave concern about the deteriorating situation in South Sudan in view of rising violence, chronic poverty, political tensions, and the growing risks of renewed conflict.

He noted the rising insecurity increasingly impedes access by the LWF Department for World Service (DWS) program in South Sudan to remote communities. DWS work is focused on the peaceful reintegration of returnees including the rehabilitation of infrastructure and promoting agricultural self-sufficiency.

"Donors must in the meantime address the terrible—and deteriorat-

ing—humanitarian situation in South Sudan through a significant increase in emergency funding, and increased support for local religious entities and NGOs which have the best capacity to reach South Sudan's most remote and vulnerable communities," the general secretary stated.

He affirmed the LWF support for recommendations of a January 2010 report by ten non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in South Sudan, which particularly emphasizes the international community's crucial role in supporting the southern Sudanese government capacity to provide internal security and protect civilians.

"All key outstanding issues between CPA partners, particularly in relation to the 2011 referendum, should be resolved through concerted international mediation," said Noko.

He reiterated the LWF's commitment for continued collaboration with local churches and other partners in the framework of the Sudan Ecumenical Forum to strengthen the peace process in the country and improve the lives and prospects of all the people of Sudan.

LWF/DWS initial work in Sudan began in the mid-1970s with emergency relief response to famine in Juba and Malakal. Compelled to withdraw its operations in 1986 for security reason, the LWF resumed emergency response to food insecurity again in 1997. The current DWS country program based in the southern town of Torit was re-established in 2007.

11 January 2010



Local residents gather in Ikotos, South Sudan, to receive non-food items through the LWF/DWS program.  
© LWF/ALWS/Chey Mattner

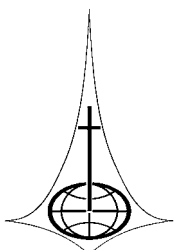
## LWF General Secretary Expresses Deep Regret at German Bishop's Resignation

### Margot Käsmann Resigns from Office of Hanover Bishop and EKD Chairperson

**GENEVA (LWI)** – The General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko

expressed deep regret at the resignation of Dr Margot Käsmann as bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran

Church of Hanover and chairperson of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) Council.



In a 24 February statement, Noko said his “thoughts and prayers go to the person—Margot Kässmann herself and to her family. I pray also for the faithful in the Hanover church congregations, the staff and governing bodies of the Hanover church, as well as of the EKD.”

Kässmann announced her resignation at a press conference in Hanover on 24 February. Her announcement came a few days after she was apprehended for a traffic offense.

In an earlier statement, the 14-member EKD Council had expressed support for Kässmann. They said she had their undivided confidence to make a decision over the path that would then be pursued together.

In his statement, Noko praised Kässmann for her “invaluable contributions to the work of the LWF and



Bishop Dr Margot Kässmann © LWF/D.-M. Gröttsch

to the wider ecumenical circle not only in Germany but globally.” He cited her October 2009 installation as EKD Council chairperson as an occasion that he took to “affirm the crucial role she plays as ‘a provocative public spokesperson’ for the Chris-

tian faith in her own society and around the world.”

The LWF general secretary expressed his prayer that Kässmann’s apology to the institutions and the people she served would “find acceptance as she continues to be a pastor in the Hanover church and as she ministers the means of grace to God’s people.

“I pray that she will find strength in the community of the church in her next steps,” added Noko.

Kässmann had served as bishop of the Hanover church since 1999. Upon her 28 October 2009 election as EKD Council chairperson, she became the first woman to lead the umbrella body of German Protestant churches.

24 February 2010

*The full text of Dr Noko’s statement is as follows:*

### Statement by Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko, LWF General Secretary on the Resignation of Hanover Bishop Dr Margot Kässmann

It is with deep regret that I have learned today that Bishop Dr Margot Kässmann has resigned from her position as bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover and as chairperson of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) Council.

My thoughts and prayers go to the person—Margot Kässmann herself and to her family. I pray also for the faithful in the Hanover church congregations, the staff and governing bodies of the Hanover church, as well as the EKD.

As a church leader, Kässmann has made invaluable contributions to the work of the LWF and to the wider

ecumenical circle not only in Germany but globally. Her October 2009 installation as EKD Council chairperson was an occasion for me to affirm the crucial role she plays as “a provocative public spokesperson” for the Christian faith in her own society and around the world.

I recall vividly her keynote address at the 2003 LWF Tenth Assembly in Winnipeg, Canada, during which she emphasized the biblical vision of the hope that we the people of God are called to give for the world. She expressed the strong need to continue with the struggle “to trace the contours of an alternative society in the here and now, a society that does

not follow the law of the strongest, of power and assertiveness, but practices solidarity, loves justice, makes peace, and safeguards creation.”

Kässmann has publicly asked the institutions and the people she served for forgiveness. I pray that her apology will find acceptance as she continues to be a pastor in the Hanover church and as she ministers the means of grace to God’s people.

I pray that she will find strength in the community of the church in her next steps.

Geneva

24 February 2010

### Danish Church Votes to Join Regional Anglican-Lutheran Fellowship

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark voted to sign the Porvoo Declaration on joint collaboration between Lutheran and Anglican churches in the Nordics, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Baltic countries.

The church’s Council on International Relations decided in December 2009 in favor of the signing, which would eventually make the Danish church a member of the Porvoo Communion. Churches in the other Nordic countries have been members of the body from the start in 1996 but the Danish church has had observer status only.

The Council on International Relations plans to conduct an official signing of the Porvoo Declaration in 2010. This means

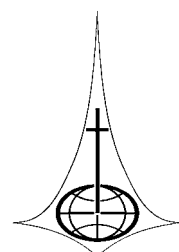
that ministers who are ordained in Denmark’s Lutheran church will be able to serve in other churches in the group.

In 1995 the Danish Lutheran church chose not to join the fellowship. However, the Anglican bishops have changed their positions on the recognition of women bishops and other issues.

Danish bishops had also made it known that there were no doctrinal obstacles to membership.

The 4.5-million member Danish Lutheran church joined the LWF in 1947.

*(Church News from Denmark & Ecumenical News International)*



**GLOBAL LUTHERAN COMMUNION RESPONSE  
TO HAITI EARTHQUAKE**

**LWF World Service Director Calls for Substantial  
International Response to Haiti Earthquake**

Caribbean Country Already Ranked among the World's Poorest Nations

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti/GENEVA (LWI)**  
– The director of the Department for World Service (DWS) at the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Rev. Eberhard Hitzler called for an immediate, substantial emergency response following the devastating earthquake in Haiti.

The 7.0 magnitude quake which struck on 12 January at 16:53 local time (22:53 CET), lasting over one minute, was the most powerful in 200 years in the Caribbean state, according to media reports. The quake's epicenter was only 15 kilometers southwest of the capital Port-au-Prince. DWS personnel reported that large numbers of buildings in the capital were toppled and many people were feared dead. Numerous aftershocks followed the earthquake.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with our staff and the people of Haiti,” said Hitzler. “At the moment, we first have to reestablish contact with our staff in Haiti.” According to the DWS director, telephone lines were destroyed in the quake and all communication channels broke down during the night, and reestablishing contact took several hours.

According to information provided by Ms Sylvia Raulo, director of the DWS country programs for Haiti and the Caribbean since September 2007, no program staff had been injured and they were currently organizing emergency relief assistance.

Hitzler pointed out that the disaster's direct impact on United Nations buildings and a large number of UN personnel would hamper the coordination of emergency relief efforts. It also constitutes a supplementary risk for the population's security, since one of



*The widespread devastation has left many in despair. A resident sits amid rubble in the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince, following the devastating earthquake on 12 January. © Jorge Silva/Reuters*

the tasks of the UN in Haiti is to help rebuild government institutions including law enforcement. Thus it was extremely important that the UN become operational again as soon as possible, emphasized the DWS director.

Hitzler said LWF/DWS was preparing together with ACT Alliance, the global network of church and church-related relief and development organizations, a “substantial” emergency response. “We are thankful for all the compassionate support we have already received from partners in Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, USA and Sweden,” he said. He expressed DWS’ commitment to assist the millions of people affected by the earthquake and help them to restore the perspective of a sustainable livelihood.

Hitzler said he feared that the next morning Haiti would be confronted

with a major catastrophe. The country, he noted, was already one of the poorest in the world, and had experienced over the past decades poor governance, and frequent natural disasters such as hurricanes and floods. According to UN data, around 70 percent of Haiti's population of nine million people lives in extreme poverty.

You can help the LWF Department for World Service's relief effort by making a donation on-line at:

**[donations.lutheranworld.org](http://donations.lutheranworld.org)**

Further information about the LWF/DWS Caribbean/Haiti program is available at:

**[www.lutheranworld.org/  
What\\_We\\_Do/DWS/  
Country\\_Programs/  
DWS-Caribbean-Haiti.html](http://www.lutheranworld.org/What_We_Do/DWS/Country_Programs/DWS-Caribbean-Haiti.html)**

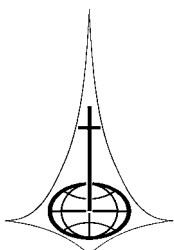
*13 January 2010*

**Haiti: Unimaginable Suffering and Devastation**

“It looks like a war zone.” This was how Eric Celiz, finance officer of the LWF/DWS Caribbean/Haiti program,

described the situation in the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince, following the 7.0 magnitude earthquake.

“So far no real help is in sight,” Celiz reported. He said streets were crowded with people fleeing their homes for fear



of aftershocks that continued to rattle the earth, or whose homes had been destroyed. The magnitude of the catastrophe had left a shocked feeling of helplessness. People linger stunned before mounds of rubble with no genuine means of intervening. Others remain buried under the rubble and cry out for help, but the necessary equipment is lacking. "It is an enormous moral dilemma for everyone, including our staff," added Celiz.

assist local organizations in assessing the damage and required assistance.

Speaking to *Lutheran World Information (LWI)*, LWF/DWS director Rev. Eberhard Hitzler said the top priority was coordinating the collaborating members and their relief operations "When such a disaster strikes, everyone wants to help. As good as that may be, we must avoid a situation in which a multitude of organizations work in an uncoordinated manner,"

As DWS currently chairs the ACT Forum in Haiti, it was responsible for coordinating the massive relief assistance being offered by churches and related agencies to ensure that it reached people quickly and effectively. "We can only thank God that we have such experienced people whom we can rely on," said Hitzler.

It was also important that efforts be coordinated locally with the Red Cross, UN agencies and other partners, emphasized the DWS director. "Unfortunately, we do not have the equipment to rescue trapped victims," noted Hitzler, "but we are able to participate in relief work such as water and food distribution."

Another short-term measure would be the setting up of temporary shelters for those who lost everything they had, including the roof over their heads. According to Hitzler, DWS has broad international experience in this sector—assisting refugees and internally displaced persons—and collaborates closely with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Hitzler also pointed out another crucial coordination problem in relation to international aid. As DWS had extremely limited food and fuel reserves for its own staff that would last for only a short time, all relief work volunteers were being requested to bring their own food, gear such as sleeping bags and sufficient cash with them to Haiti.



*A couple surveys a collapsed house in the capital. © DCA/ACT Alliance*

Ms Sylvia Raulo, director of the DWS Caribbean/Haiti program said between 60 and 80 percent of the buildings in Port-au-Prince had been destroyed or were uninhabitable. The Haitian Red Cross Society reported that as many as 50,000 people had died and up to 3 million were injured or homeless.

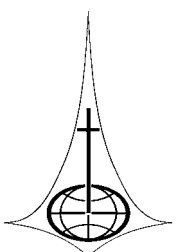
Raulo said the immediate priority was to assess the extent of damage and assistance required. One of the DWS program's other major tasks would be to set up temporary shelters for people who had lost everything. For the moment it appeared that no country program staff had been injured, although one staff member had not been accounted for, she said.

Meanwhile, the ACT Alliance began providing extensive emergency assistance. A first rapid support team in which the LWF is participating was dispatched to Haiti and would

he said. DWS was fortunate in that the Haiti program office was intact and most staff were well, he noted. Before the quake, the LWF program had been coordinating its activities within the ACT Alliance framework.



*A girl stands among the makeshift shelters of this Port-au-Prince camp for people left homeless by the Haiti earthquake. © ACT Alliance/Paul Jeffrey*



## LWF Launches “Communio in Action” Twitter Initiative

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is using the social networking and micro blogging service Twitter to share information about the Lutheran communion’s response to the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti on 12 January. The Haitian Red Cross Society reported that the 7.0-magnitude quake had left as many as 50,000 people dead and up to 3 million injured or homeless.

The twitter initiative offers member churches, related agencies and other LWF partners an opportu-

nity to communicate related actions, news and resources through “tweets”—short messages sent via mobile texting, instant message or the Web—marked with a special hash tag.

The *Communio in Action* tweets also feature updates from the LWF Department for World Service (DWS), which is coordinating the response by the ACT Alliance, a global coalition of churches and agencies engaged in development, humanitarian assistance and advocacy.

Tweets are aggregated on the LWF Web site so that browsers can follow involvement by and news from different members of the communion.

LWF member churches and partners can send news via Twitter, including the hash tag **#lwf-haiti** at the end of each message.

Follow *Communio in Action* on the LWF Web site at:

[www.lutheranworld.org/Haiti\\_Quake.html](http://www.lutheranworld.org/Haiti_Quake.html)

## Towns and Other Regions Outside Port-au-Prince Also in Ruins

Reports from staff of the LWF/DWS Caribbean/Haiti program the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Department for World Service (DWS) indicate that the severe damage from earthquake goes beyond Haiti’s capital, Port-au-Prince.

The towns of Gressier, Carrefour and Leogane, west of Port-au-Prince, have also been destroyed, said Sylvia Raulo, DWS Caribbean/Haiti program director. Getting through anywhere outside the capital takes a long time, she noted, adding that many towns and areas in which DWS has been working for years were hit hard by the quake.

Raulo pointed out that many people who lost their homes in the capital were now moving to other towns and regions. Receiving and caring for these internally displaced persons was one of the major challenges for the LWF program, she emphasized.

The LWF representative pointed out that while many locals welcomed the arrival of international aid into the devastated country, “during the first 48 hours, it was Haitians who helped fellow Haitians, taking matters into their own hands in a spirit of solidarity.” She noted the current situation was particularly aggravated by the fact that so many public servants perished, leaving the already weak institutions completely destroyed. The security situation is an additional problem, she added.



*This family is among hundreds of earthquake survivors huddled in tents and makeshift shelters in a soccer stadium in the Santa Teresa area of Petionville, Haiti. © ACT Alliance/Paul Jeffrey*

Raulo said the DWS Port-au-Prince office was “not damaged and is functional,” and most of the personnel were unhurt. However, the offices of some of its partner organizations in the ACT Alliance had been severely affected, and DWS was providing accommodation for many ACT colleagues. The LWF program’s employees and those from partner organizations who lost their homes were camping on the DWS office compound, which Raulo said “can accommodate about 20 people in our backyard.”

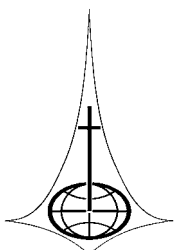
### Need for Long-Term Aid

Raulo pointed out that “Internet communication is working and most

communications are by Skype.” Very fortunately, the water tank had been filled just before the earthquake struck, but “depending on usage,” she cautioned, “lack of water could become a problem.”

The DWS program director emphasized Haiti’s need for long-term aid. Aid efforts and construction programs “should go beyond the provision of food, water and shelter to include the building and reconstruction of the public infrastructure,” she added.

DWS program staff had begun assessing the scale of assistance required in the capital and other towns. “We are in permanent contact,” said Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, DWS







An earthquake survivor gives her daughter a bath amidst the rubble in a Port-au-Prince neighborhood.  
© ACT Alliance/Paul Jeffrey

program coordinator at the Geneva secretariat. “This weekend alone, we held at least 12 conference calls with our office in Haiti and with other ACT member [organizations].” He underlined the immediate need for temporary camps outside the capital to accommodate people who had lost everything.

On 19 January, a convoy was scheduled to set off from Santo Domingo, capital of the neighboring Dominican Republic, carrying urgently needed aid supplies. Bueno de Faria reported that the LWF was currently purchasing basic supplies including water, food, fuel, tents, mattresses and blankets as well as sanitary items for

## First LWF Relief Convoy Arrives in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

The LWF Department for World Service (DWS) plans to scale up operations and strengthen logistics capacity in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic following the arrival of the first DWS convoy with urgently needed relief supplies on 20 January in the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince. DWS Program Coordinator Rudelmar Bueno de Faria underlined the need to expand LWF/DWS response in order to address quickly and effectively the needs of the stricken population.

Reports from DWS country program staff in Haiti indicate that a 6.1-

magnitude on 20 January had caused further destruction. Buildings that had already been damaged collapsed completely and more people were injured. It was still unknown, however, whether the death toll had increased as a result of the aftershock.

An ACT Alliance rapid support team had now arrived in the region and was providing assistance to partner organizations locally in assessing the extent of the damage and the support required. The support team is led by Elsa Moreno, LWF/DWS staff member in Geneva from 2006 to mid-2009.

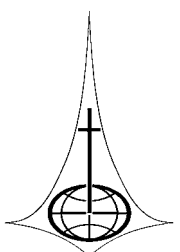
immediate transportation to people in need. Logistics expert Yvon St Martin, sent by the Danish church aid agency DanChurchAid to assist the DWS program, was responsible for organizing transportation. Haitian by birth, St Martin speaks Creole as well as French, English and Spanish.

In order to provide adequate response to the quake’s devastation, the LWF program planned to recruit more local workers, said Raulo. In addition, ACT Alliance partner organizations had promised staff support to the network. Through Church of Sweden, Thomas Brundin, deputy director at the Department for Development Policy with the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs would be seconded to the LWF program for three weeks as coordination and communication officer. He travelled to Port-au-Prince on 19 January with former DWS Geneva program staff Elsa Moreno, who was leading an ACT Alliance rapid support team to the Haitian capital.

Nora Serpas from the DWS Central American regional program in El Salvador had been dispatched to Santo Domingo with the primary responsibility of procuring relief supplies and fund-raising.

A senior emergency advisor would be recruited to assist the DWS team in Haiti in planning and implementing the relief program for at least six months, added Bueno de Faria.

In an interview just before leaving Denmark for Haiti, Moreno told *Lutheran World Information (LWI)* that in the days to come the ACT Alliance would focus on delivering as much assistance as possible to the population in Port-au-Prince, as well as around the city and in other areas devastated by the earthquake. Some of the towns included those closest to the epicenter, Leogane and Petit Goave. According to the UN, 80 to 90 percent of buildings in Leogane, 19km west of the capital, were destroyed. Petit Goave, to the west of Leogane, was also badly hit.



Moreno and DWS collaborators in Haiti said that many people had fled Port-au-Prince and returned to their places of origin, putting a great deal of pressure on local communities to host them.

“The ACT Alliance will continuously try to assess the number of people going to those areas which are away from response of other agencies. The main work will focus on water, shelter and care for children,” Moreno stated.

Moreno told *LWI* that two important components now needed to be put together—emergency response and long-term development. “Our response is not only focused on the immediate needs, but also to help people recover in the long-term and start the process for development,” said Moreno, a native of Colombia.

A key task of the DWS country program in Haiti would be bringing relief to people who had lost everything. DWS aimed to engage and focus attention on internally displaced persons (IDPs) given the department’s expertise in camp management, indicated Bueno de Faria. International relief organizations estimated the number of IDPs to be as many as 600,000.

The program’s main operational areas before the earthquake were in the southwestern zone of Macaya in Grande Anse and Forêt des Pins, Bueno de Faria noted. “Our target population has always been small-scale farmers, disaster-affected communities and migrants. The LWF will continue focusing on sustainable livelihoods and environment, and food security and advocacy. We are working to continue supporting these communities,” he explained.

## Logistics’ Coordination

Meanwhile, the LWF/DWS Geneva office has sent two collaborators to Haiti to reinforce its team there. Mr Bobby Waddell, consultant for resource mobilization, takes up the task of senior advisor for emergency for three weeks; Ms Sophia Gebreyes, program officer for Latin America and the Caribbean, will be in Haiti to assess the situation and identify models for optimal coordination between Geneva and Haiti.

Waddell said a major challenge was in dealing with the reality of logistics and coordination on the ground. Gebreyes wants to “contribute to the emergency response in the crisis phase as well as help plan the early and long-term recovery phases with our frontline staff.” Another, larger LWF/DWS convoy was destined for Haiti with more relief supplies.

In collaboration with other members of the ACT Alliance, DWS

plans to set up comprehensive, long-term psychosocial counseling structures for frontline staff as quickly as possible.

These collaborators are under tremendous emotional stress and are stretched to their psychological limit, Bueno de Faria noted. It was therefore crucial, he said, to offer them respite and professional accompaniment in dealing with their experiences and trauma.

DWS Director Rev. Eberhard Hitzler said he was “overwhelmed” by the solidarity of Lutheran churches all around the world. “Their prayers and financial contribution are a great support for our work in Haiti,” he noted.

The fact that DWS staff members in Sudan donated to the relief effort is “another fantastic symbol of this solidarity,” Hitzler commented. “This is the LWF at its best.”



*Clutching her ticket that guarantees provisions, a woman waits for an LWF-sponsored distribution of food and other emergency supplies. © ACT Alliance/Paul Jeffrey*

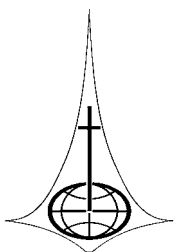
## LWF General Secretary Calls for New and Lasting Engagement with Haiti

In view of the tremendous loss of human life and the extent of devastation as a result of the January earthquake in Haiti, LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko called for a new and lasting engagement with Haiti “going beyond emergency

response and recovery to a deeper solidarity with Haiti’s struggle for stability and development.”

Even after the earthquake and its consequences disappear from the international news headlines, “the international community must

continue to accompany Haiti in new long-term partnership based on a clear analysis and acknowledgement of the historical, political and economic processes that already before the earthquake had led Haiti into such a vulnerable situation,” he said.



The disaster devastated the whole nation, destroying the infrastructure of most basic services, and crippling the machinery of government and its capacity to help its own citizens. As a result, the global emergency response to this disaster must match its unprecedented circumstances. Noko emphasized that the conditions for effective and comprehensive distribution of essential supplies to all affected areas must be secured as a matter of utmost priority.

For Noko, the time had come “to reverse Haiti’s history of disaster and impoverishment, and to build hope in Haiti’s future.” He added that the prospects of the world’s first black republic had been poisoned from the outset by external economic and political oppression. Haiti had descended into a spiral of debt and underdevelopment from which it has never recovered, he said.

In light of Haiti’s history of international and domestic exploitation, the environmental and social devastation it had suffered as a result, and now the calamitous effects of the earthquake, it was illegitimate for these debts to continue to be claimed, Noko said.

“I call for an immediate and complete moratorium on Haiti’s debt service obligations and cancellation of the remaining debt. I call for international assistance to Haiti—including that now offered by the International



People move buckets of food and other emergency supplies into the Santa Teresa camp in Petionville, Haiti, on 1 February. LWF/DWS sponsored this distribution which also included buckets and hygiene kits.

© ACT Alliance/Paul Jeffrey

Monetary Fund in the context of this emergency—to be provided in the form of grants, not loans such as that which set the newly-born republic on the road to intractable poverty.”

The LWF general secretary also called for “international cooperation in repatriating funds stolen from the people of Haiti by former dictators.” For the post-disaster period, Noko urged long-term international cooperation for education and the promotion of investment in Haiti.

The worldwide Lutheran communion through LWF/DWS in collaboration with ACT Alliance and UN partners is working hard

to bring aid to the people of Haiti under exceptionally difficult conditions. The LWF was scaling up its emergency relief activities there while maintaining the regular development work to support livelihoods for Haitians.

Noko pointed out that, in the aftermath of the earthquake, large population shifts were taking place, with people moving from the worst-hit cities to other communities and the countryside. The exact numbers of internally displaced persons were still unclear, but could easily reach 500,000 to 600,000 people.

Noko assured that the LWF was planning to work, in cooperation with other ACT Alliance members and UN organizations, on giving secure and durable shelter to the displaced people.

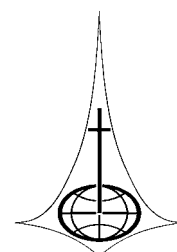
“I pray for the people, the government, and the churches of Haiti—including the Église Luthérienne d’Haïti—as they struggle to rebuild lives, communities and hope in the wake of this calamity,” Noko concluded.

The full text of LWF General Secretary Noko’s statement is available in pdf format at:

[www.lutheranworld.org/LWF\\_Documents/LWF\\_Statement\\_Haiti-2009-EN.pdf](http://www.lutheranworld.org/LWF_Documents/LWF_Statement_Haiti-2009-EN.pdf)



Families fill their buckets with water from a truck in the Bel Air neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, where the ACT Alliance set up water treatment and distribution systems. © ACT Alliance/Paul Jeffrey



## Haiti: Earthquake Survivors Urgently Need Rain-Proof Housing

*Continued from p. 1*

Medical care, emergency shelter and latrines remain a priority.

Yet aid distribution does not always run smoothly, as pointed out by Sylvia Raulo, director of the DWS Caribbean/Haiti program. One such operation had to be discontinued when it led to skirmishes, she explained. The basic principle is first to deal with the most vulnerable, which would mean primarily pregnant women and families with small children. But Raulo also understands the people's plight; they are traumatized and in a desperate situation, which can lead to unpredictable over-reactions.

aid agencies were immense. While the fragile state institutions and problems like corruption only exacerbated the situation, in the end the solution would depend on whether "people have faith in the future" and are "able to demonstrate a will to rebuild, and perseverance to overcome the very difficult months and years to come," she added.

### Accommodation for 15,000 Families

After the initial emergency relief phase, the LWF planned to scale up its aid program in Haiti, said Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, DWS program coordinator. Preparations were underway for reha-

homes destroyed, de Faria explained. Tarpaulins and tents would be distributed for emergency accommodation. He underlined the need for close cooperation with local partners "to ensure orderly and trouble-free distribution."

According to de Faria, the LWF planned to provide shelter for 15,000 families (about 75,000 people) in four rural communes, 35 kilometers west of the capital. This was particularly urgent in view of the March/April rainy period, he said. The DWS program coordinator emphasizes the need to adhere to strict UN regulations for the new temporary accommodation: there must be 18.5 square meters per family, a corrugated iron roof, and wood, bamboo or steel frames well covered with plastic sheeting.

In the longer term, DWS Haiti would also focus on building more permanent housing. Plans for the next six to 18 months would include working with families to recycle existing materials on a "cash for work" principle. With the assistance of local masons and carpenters solid houses can be constructed on stable foundations, using "already distributed iron sheets and at least some blocks and concrete base." The exact designs are "yet to be agreed," de Faria explained.



*The quake destroyed more than 80 percent of Port-au-Prince, including this downtown area.  
© ACT Alliance/Paul Jeffrey*

### Regaining Hope Essential

Another factor is that the Caribbean state was one of the poorest countries in the world even before the earthquake. Decades of domestic and foreign exploitation, poor management, corruption and the consequences of numerous natural disasters drove the country to ruin. Nevertheless, remarked Raulo, the last few weeks have proven beyond any doubt, "Haitians are an extremely resilient people."

Raulo pointed out it was important that people regain hope. She said the challenges confronting the country and

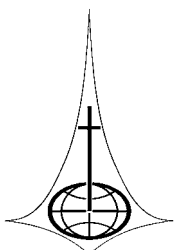
bilitation and reconstruction in close coordination with the ACT Alliance partner agencies. The next phase would include provision of education facilities, water and sanitation, temporary and permanent shelter, psychosocial care, agricultural tools and seeds. De Faria emphasized the importance of agricultural recovery, adding that farmers were being encouraged to sow right away in anticipation of a harvest this year.

DWS efforts are concentrated in cities like Leogane and Gressier, and areas outside Port-au-Prince, where 80 percent of the population had their

### Overwhelming Support

DWS Director Rev. Eberhard Hitzler said he was very impressed by the worldwide offers of assistance after the Haiti earthquake. Donations and aid were not just coming from the Northern hemisphere. In the whole of Latin America, in Africa and Asia, churches and agencies had launched appeals and provided aid. Many of them had also sent relief workers to Haiti to give practical back up.

Hitzler cited the decision by staff of two DWS associate programs to donate their wages for one day to support projects in Haiti. It was an impressive sign of solidarity, he stated,



that 2,000 members of the Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS) in Bangladesh and the entire staff of Lutheran World Service India (LWSI) unanimously supported this initiative.

Furthermore, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone, which was expecting a container

from the US-based Lutheran World Relief, decided to divert it to Haiti.

For Hitzler, such efforts were evidence that the LWF is a communion of churches in solidarity with the poor and needy. "Diakonia and giving are not a privilege of the rich churches," he said.

LWF member churches see World Service as "their arm and in-

strument for global diakonia," Hitzler concluded.

**\*The article is in the continuing LWI features' series focusing on the topic "Give Us Today Our Daily Bread," the theme of the LWF Eleventh Assembly, which will take place 20-27 July 2010 in Stuttgart, Germany.**

### Emile Mpanya Heads DRC World Service Program

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) has appointed Mr Emile Mputu Mpanya as head of the Department for World Service (DWS) country program in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Mpanya, 51, took up his new position on 1 March 2010. He becomes the first LWF/DWS representative for the now autonomous DRC program.

LWF's humanitarian and development work in the country has until now been coordinated under DWS' operations in neighboring Rwanda. Started as an emergency response initiative after the 1994 genocide in the country, DWS Rwanda is winding up its activities, and the office will close down in June 2010. The decision to phase out from the country was attributed to several factors, including a successful transition from relief to development. The program also experienced declining financial contribution from traditional donors.

Mpanya brings several years of experience to his new position, having held leadership positions in DWS Rwanda/DRC for around eight years. From mid-2005 until his recent appointment, he was DWS/DRC program coordinator, overseeing activities



Mr Emile Mpanya  
© LWF/DWS DRC/K. Ngenda

mainly in the eastern part of the country. From 2002 to 2005 he was DWS emergency project coordinator in eastern DRC. Prior to joining the LWF he worked for nine years at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) field offices in northeastern DRC: as program secretary at the UNHCR Aba office, from 1999 to 2001; and as administrative secretary in the Dungeni office, 1992 to 1999.

He worked as an English and French language instructor for staff of an HIV and AIDS project at the "Hôpital Général" (main hospital) in Kinshasa, DRC between 1989 and 2001. From 1988 to 2000, he worked as a French and English

language translator and instructor for an automobile company in Kingabwa, near Kinshasa. From 1982 to 1985, he was a secondary school English language teacher in Lubumbashi, DRC.

Mpanya holds a bachelor's degree in English studies from the National Pedagogical Institute in Kinshasa. He has pursued several short-term training courses in humanitarian work policies and management.

Mpanya is married, and he has five children.

### Degefa Leads LWF Program in Ethiopia

Since September 2009, Dr Lemma Degefa is the new representative of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Department for World Service (DWS) in Ethiopia and director of the country program there.

Before taking up his new position, Degefa, 59, an Ethiopian national, had worked for the LWF for nearly 30 years in various DWS positions at the Geneva secretariat and as country program staff. He succeeds Rev. John Halvorson from the USA, who led the country program from 2004 to 2008.

From 1997 to 2007, Degefa worked at the LWF secretariat in Geneva, first as program secretary for emergencies (1997 to 2002) and then as DWS program officer for East Africa and the Great Lakes region (2003 to 2007). From 1993 to 1996 he was the LWF representative and DWS country program director in Malawi. He worked as program coordinator and deputy director of the DWS Zambia country program, 1984 to 1993, prior to which he was project coordinator for the DWS Ethiopia program, 1977 to 1983.



Dr Lemma Degefa  
© LWF/H. Putsman Penet

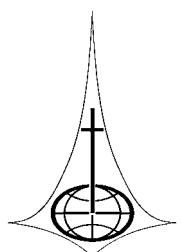
Before joining the LWF, Degefa was a relief worker for the Norwegian Church Aid program in Ethiopia, 1975 to 1976.

Degefa holds a PhD (2006) in human resource management development from the Trinity College and Seminary, Newburgh, Indiana, USA/Liverpool, United Kingdom. He has a master's degree (1988) in management from the California University for Advanced Studies, Novato, California, USA. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in public administration from the Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, in 1977. He has pursued several short-term training courses

in the humanitarian and development field.

Degefa is married, and has three children.

The DWS Ethiopia operations began in 1971 as a drought response program jointly with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY). The program's current activities target remote areas prone to natural disaster and food insecurity, where there is limited or no intervention by other organizations.



## ELCA Delegation Concludes Ecumenical Journey through Europe

A 12-member delegation from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) concluded in mid-February a two-week “2010 Ecumenical Journey” through Europe, aimed at strengthening relationships for ecumenical commitment.

Led by ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, who is president of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), the delegation of official representatives of the church met with Roman Catholic, Anglican, Orthodox, Reformed and Lutheran church leaders across Europe.



From left to right: ELCA Church Council member Rev. Susan Langhauser with LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko during the ELCA delegation's visit to Geneva. © ELCA News Service/John Brooks

“For me and the ELCA this journey provides an occasion to strengthen relationships, renew commitments and deepen conversation,” said Hanson.

“Our relationships as the ELCA in the United States and as Lutherans in the LWF have given priority to our ongoing dialogues with the Anglicans, the Orthodox and Roman Catholics. In recent years we have seen the fruits of these dialogues, and this journey seeks to build upon them,” he noted.

The journey was part of the church’s declaration of ecumenical commitment, adopted by the 1991 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The delegation met with Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican; the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan D. Williams, in London; and

the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, in Istanbul. In Geneva it met with general secretaries of world church bodies based at the Ecumenical Center—Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, World Council of Churches (WCC); Rev. Dr Setri Nyomi, World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC), and Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko, LWF.

The continuing dialogue between Lutherans and Roman Catholics was a key theme in the exchange of messages between the delegation and the Pope. They called the dialogue a sign of hope.

Hanson and Williams discussed how to strengthen relationships between Anglicans and Lutherans in light of full communion agreements in Canada, Europe and the United States, noting how they might in Hanson’s words, “provide new opportunities for us to be engaged in ways we haven’t yet imagined.”

Bartholomew I emphasized the need to continue the dialogue between Orthodox and Lutherans “because it is the only way to achieve progress. We count on the necessity and success of the dialogue.”

During meetings on 15 February in Geneva, Noko told the delegation that the LWF Eleventh Assembly, in July in Stuttgart, under the theme, “Give Us Today Our Daily Bread” would be groundbreaking because of the ecumenical actions being considered, including a statement of reconciliation with Anabaptists.

“Let us not underestimate what we can do if we pray for one another,” Noko told the delegation.

WCC’s Tveit, a Lutheran, praised the ELCA’s ecumenical commitment and said, “We are called to ‘be one’ even when this cross is a very heavy one to follow.”

Nyomi told the delegation that the churches of WARC “are your other cousins” as they share a common identity rooted in the Reformation.

The delegation began its journey on 4 February visiting St Anne’s Lutheran Church in London, a congregation that serves more than 30 nationalities.

*(Summarized from ELCA News Service)*

## North American Lutherans Forge New Partnership for Overseas Work

Two North American Lutheran churches are collaborating on their overseas missions and ministries in a unique new partnership.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) will work together to “facilitate” companion relationships with Lutheran churches across the world, and form new church-to-church relationships.

Rev. Carla Blakley, ELCIC assistant to the bishop for Global Mission, said, “I’m thrilled about the new partnership. In a situation where churches are dividing over issues, we are forging a strong partnership for work in the world.”

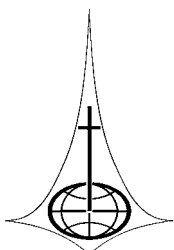
Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director for ELCA Global Mission, added, “It is very unique for two churches to share deeply in global mission.” We are looking forward to developing the organic implementation of this agreement and the programmatic collaboration between both churches.”

The ELCA’s 65 synods have “companion relationships” with more than 120 international Lutheran churches. ELCA congregations and individual members visit and host their companions in mutually dependent ministries.

The five ELCIC synods also share companion relationships with Lutheran churches overseas.

The ELCA has about 250 mission personnel in 50 countries serving as teachers, health workers and in church administration. ELCIC members who qualify may be placed by ELCA Global Mission staff in similar positions.

Information about the partnership is at: [www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Global-Mission/ELCIC-ELCA-GM-Partnership.aspx](http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Global-Mission/ELCIC-ELCA-GM-Partnership.aspx)  
*(ELCA News Service)*



# The Lutheran World Federation

## Consultations 2010

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
IERS	=	Institute for Ecumenical Research, Strasbourg (France)
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
5–22	DTS	Geneva, Switzerland	International Theological Course: “The Ecumenical Church in a Globalized World”
13–17	OEA	Louisville, USA	Symposium of Biblical Scholars
16–25	DMD	Pematang Siantar, Indonesia	Workshop: LWF National Committee in Indonesia
28.01 – 04.02	OEA	Svätý Jur, Slovak Republic	Lutheran-Reformed Joint Commission
29–31	DMD	Kitchener, Canada	North America Pre-Assembly Consultation

### February

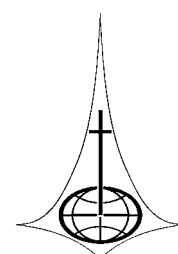
Date	Unit	Place	Title
9–14	DMD	Bethlehem, West Bank	Capacity Building Workshop

### March

Date	Unit	Place	Title
12	OEA	Geneva, Switzerland	LWF-Anglican Communion Joint Staff Meeting
13–17	DMD	Bratislava, Slovak Republic	European Pre-Assembly Consultation
15–16	DMD	San José, Costa Rica	Latin American Consultation on Regional Lutheran Web Site
16–23	DMD	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Consultation on Establishing Networks of Lutheran Theological Institutions
19–21	OGS	Geneva, Switzerland	LWF Executive Committee Meeting
22–23	DTS	Wuppertal, Germany	Meeting on Theological Formation
24–28	DMD	Abuja, Nigeria	Africa Lutheran Church Leadership Conference; and Africa Pre-Assembly Consultation

### April

Date	Unit	Place	Title
5–8	DMD	Helsinki, Finland	Consultation on African Theology and the HIV & AIDS Epidemic
12–16	DMD	Bogotá, Colombia	Consultation on Building Communion in Latin America and the Caribbean; and Latin America and Caribbean Pre-Assembly
15–16	IERS	Strasbourg, France	Board Meeting: Strasbourg Institute
17–24	OEA	Columbus, USA	Anglican-Lutheran International Commission
20–21	DWS	Montreux, Switzerland	DWS Annual Forum
20–27	DMD	Antananarivo, Madagascar	Capacity Building Workshop and Roundtable
22–23	DWS	Montreux, Switzerland	Standing Committee for World Service Meeting
22–25	OEA	Strasbourg, France	Preparatory Meeting for the second plenary of the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity
28.04 – 3.05	DMD	Hong Kong, China	Mekong Mission Partners Meeting



## May

Date	Unit	Place	Title
18	OGS	Geneva, Switzerland	Steering Committee Meeting: Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions
18–21	DMD	Montreux, Switzerland	LWF Project Committee Meeting
25–31	OEA	Jerusalem/ Bethlehem, West Bank	Preparatory Meeting for the 15 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Lutheran-Orthodox Joint Commission
To be determined	OEA	Vatican City	LWF – Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity Joint Staff Meeting

## June

Date	Unit	Place	Title
4–7	DTS	Münster, Germany	Consultation on Lutheran Ecclesiology

## July

Date	Unit	Place	Title
10–17	DMD	Dresden, Germany	Pre Assembly Youth Conference (PAYC)
18	OGS	Stuttgart, Germany	LWF Executive Committee Meeting
18–20	OGS	Stuttgart, Germany	LWF Council Meeting
20–27	OGS	Stuttgart, Germany	LWF Eleventh Assembly
21–22	OFA	Stuttgart, Germany	Endowment Fund Board Meeting
28–29	OGS	Stuttgart, Germany	LWF Council Meeting

## August

Date	Unit	Place	Title
22–27	DTS	Hong Kong, China	“Engaging Structural Greed” – Christian-Buddhist Dialogue Addressing the Global Economic Crisis

## September

Date	Unit	Place	Title
15–22	DMD	Moshi, Tanzania	African Region Pastoral and Leadership Seminar
18–19	DWS	To be determined	Related Agencies’ Meeting

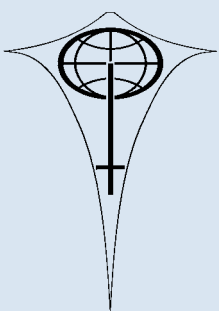
## October

Date	Unit	Place	Title
5–8	DMD	Montreux, Switzerland	Global Consultation on Education and Training Impact and Strategy
22–29	OEA	Regensburg, Germany	Meeting: Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity

## November

Date	Unit	Place	Title
1–2	DWS	To be determined	Standing Committee for World Service Meeting
1–4	OGS/ OEA	Geneva, Switzerland	Plenary: Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions
To be determined	DMD	Budapest, Hungary	European Region Women in Church and Society (WICAS) Consultation on Gender and Power

For an updated version, see the LWF Web site: [www.lutheranworld.org/Essentials/LWF-Calendar.html](http://www.lutheranworld.org/Essentials/LWF-Calendar.html)



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