

## Highlights

### North American Lutherans Prepare for LWF Assembly.....3

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada Eastern Synod hosted the North American region's preparatory meeting for the July 2010 Eleventh Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation...

### Connected across Different Contexts .....9

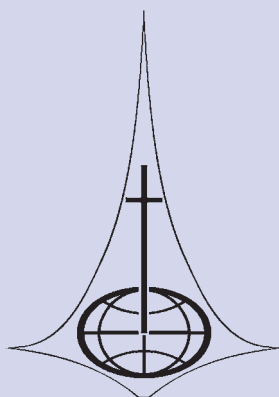
When students and teachers of theology from around the world gathered in Geneva for an annual ecumenical study course, many of them emphasized the deep faith connections they discovered in interacting with others from situations significantly different from their own...

### LWF General Secretary Conveys Prayers and Condolences to Victims of Violence in Northern Nigeria .....11

LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko conveyed the Lutheran communion's prayers and condolences to victims of violence in the recent attacks in northern Nigeria...

### FEATURE: Dance Gives Courage and Strength to Haiti's Children .....12

Eight-year-old Rosedaline Revolis' smile lights up the room as she plays the *pandeiro* (tambourine)...



## LWF General Secretary Noko Urges Prayers for Earthquake-Struck Chile



An earthquake-damaged building in the city of Maipú, central Chile © Pablo Ordenes/flickr

### Chile: 8.8 Magnitude Pacific Coastline Quake Leaves Hundreds Dead, 1.5 Million Homes Destroyed

**GENEVA (LWI)** – The General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko called for prayers for the people of Chile, after a powerful earthquake measuring 8.8 on the Richter scale struck the Pacific Ocean coastline on 27 February at 3:34 a.m. (local time). According to news reports, an estimated 300 people died and nearly 1.5 million homes were damaged.

The earthquake's epicenter was some 100 kilometers northeast of the coastal city of Concepción southwest of the capital Santiago. A tsunami warning was issued for the entire Pacific basin as a result of the quake. There were reports of aftershocks

near the epicenter, and as far as the capital city.

“Let us continue to earnestly pray for the people of Chile, as they try to come to terms with the extent of this large-scale disaster. While many have to deal with the painful loss of loved ones, serious injuries and utter destruction of homes, others are still waiting to hear news from family members and friends caught up in the earthquake,” said Noko, speaking to *Lutheran World Information (LWI)*. He told *LWI* that the LWF was preparing a pastoral

*Continues on page 10*

# Contents

## Communio

North America Pre-Assembly Consultation

- 3.....North American Lutherans Prepare for LWF Assembly
  - 4..... Global Justice Issues as Daily Bread
  - 5..... Lutheran Youth Appreciate Participation but Yearn for Alternative Ways of Being Church
  - 6..... Women Delegates Urge Lutheran Communion to Address Human Trafficking Issues
- 9.....Connected across Different Contexts
- 1, 10...LWF General Secretary Noko Urges Prayers for Earthquake-Struck Chile
- 11 .....LWF Pastoral Message Underlines Calling to Action and Compassion in Calamities

## LWF Secretariat

- 12.....LWF General Secretary Conveys Prayers and Condolences to Victims of Violence in Northern Nigeria

## Features & Themes

- 13.....FEATURE: Dance Gives Courage and Strength to Haiti’s Children
- 15 .....FEATURE: Bio-Shields against Furious Winds and Waves

## News in Brief

- 2.....Hinrich Manzke Installed as Schaumburg-Lippe Bishop
- 7.....Correction: LWI No. 01/2010
- 8.....Pope Benedict XVI Makes First Visit to Rome Lutheran Church
- 8.....August Kruse Is the New ELCROS Archbishop
- 11 .....Superintendent Jantzen Elected Interim Bishop for Hanover Church
- 12.....LWI German Editor Gröttsch Named Media and Public Relations Chief in Oldenburg
- 16 .....Presiding Bishop Jerzy Samiec Heads Polish Church

## Assembly Update No. 8 ..... I-VIII

### Hinrich Manzke Installed as Schaumburg-Lippe Bishop

**Bishop Dr Karl-Hinrich Manzke** is the new head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schaumburg-Lippe (Germany). Manzke, 51, who served the church as district superintendent for Aurich in East Frisia was installed into his new position on 9 January 2010.

In his homily during the special installation service, the presiding bishop of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany (VELKD) Dr Johannes Friedrich emphasized the importance of ecumenical coexistence among churches. “Today many people simply cannot understand why there are different churches,” Friedrich said during the worship in the Bückeberg city church, Germany. “It is the particular task

of a bishop to do his or her utmost to promote harmonious coexistence among churches,” he added.

Manzke led the Evangelical Lutheran church district of Aurich in East Frisia between 1998 and 2009. He grew up in Celle and studied theology and philosophy in Tübingen, London (United Kingdom) and Munich. He served as a pastor in Soltau for seven years and was dean of studies for three years at the preaching seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover in Imbshausen near Northeim. Manzke is married and has two grown-up children.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schaumburg-Lippe has 60,600 members, and has been a member church of the LWF since 1947.

#### The Lutheran World Federation

– A Communion of Churches  
150, route de Ferney  
P.O. Box 2100  
CH-1211 Geneva 2,  
Switzerland

**Telephone** +41/22-791 61 11  
**Fax** +41/22-791 66 30  
**E-mail:** info@lutheranworld.org  
www.lutheranworld.org

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Karin Achtelstetter  
ka@lutheranworld.org

#### English Editor

Pauline Mumia  
pmu@lutheranworld.org

#### German Editor

Dirk-Michael Gröttsch  
dmg@lutheranworld.org

#### Layout

Stéphane Gally  
sga@lutheranworld.org

#### Circulation/subscription

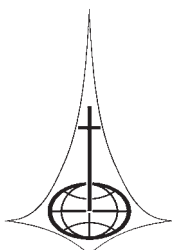
Colette Muanda  
cmu@lutheranworld.org

Lutheran World Information (LWI) is the information service of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

Unless specifically noted, material presented does not represent positions or opinions of the LWF or of its various units.

Where the dateline of an article contains the notation (LWI), the material may be freely reproduced with acknowledgment.

**Includes Assembly Update No. 8**



## NORTH AMERICA PRE-ASSEMBLY CONSULTATION

29 to 31 January in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

### North American Lutherans Prepare for LWF Assembly

An Opportunity for Contextualized Response to Local  
and Global Challenges

KITCHENER, Ontario, Canada/GENEVA

– The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) Eastern Synod hosted the North American region's preparatory meeting for the July 2010 Eleventh Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). The assembly will take place in Stuttgart, Germany, under the theme "Give Us Today Our Daily Bread."

The North America Pre-Assembly Consultation (NAPAC), held from 29 to 31 January in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, brought together around 40 delegates, youth stewards and advisers from the three LWF member churches in the region as well as staff.

"The LWF Eleventh Assembly theme 'Give Us Today Our Daily Bread,' is an important opportunity for a contextualized reflection and envisioning of new ways to respond as members of a global communion to challenges such as world hunger, eradication of poverty and other related global issues amid the current financial crisis and high unemployment rate, while also responding to great calamities and disasters," said Rev. Teresita Valeriano, the LWF Regional Officer for North America. "It is also important to be prepared as a region to engage in other global communion matters such as the election of new leaders, ecumenical relations and diakonia."

Welcoming the NAPAC to Kitchener, ELCIC Eastern Synod Bishop Michael J. Pryse said the LWF event coincided with significant preparations in the church. "I am delighted that our synod has been granted the opportunity to host this important event in the life of the global Lutheran communion, particularly as we prepare to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our predecessor body, the Evan-



North American church leaders, ELCIC National Bishop Susan C. Johnson and ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, with NAPAC youth delegates and stewards (left to right) Jeff Buhse, Mary Button, Allison Beebe, Mikka McCracken and Mae Helen Jackson. © LWF North America

gelical Lutheran Synod of Canada in 2011," he noted.

"I trust that the delegates to the pre-assembly gathering will experience many blessings during their time in our midst and be further strengthened and prepared for their important work at the Stuttgart Assembly later this year," he added.

The three LWF member churches in North America—Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and ELCIC—comprise an estimated 4.9 million members.

In preparation for the LWF Eleventh Assembly, the NAPAC agenda included issues related to the "Proposed Guidelines and Processes for Respectful Dialogue on Marriage, Family and Human Sexuality," presented to the 2007 LWF Council meeting in Lund, Sweden. Other focus included preparation of a regional response on economic and climate justice titled "Witness to Hope Amidst

Today's Crises," communication-related issues and study of the LWF Report "From Winnipeg to Stuttgart," which gives an account of the organization's work since the July 2003 Tenth Assembly in Winnipeg, Canada.

LWF President and ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, and LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko addressed the NAPAC participants.

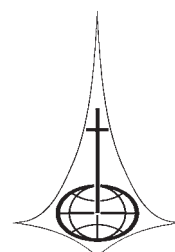
"Give us today our daily bread' connects us to all of humanity and to all of God's creation," observed Hanson. "It causes us to ask, 'Who are those who are hungry in our community?' And, 'Why is there still hunger in a world of such abundance?'"

Women and youth events preceded the NAPAC meeting.

Read more about the Pre-Assemblies under the "Journey" section of the LWF Assembly Web site at:

[www.lwf-assembly.org](http://www.lwf-assembly.org)

29 January 2010



## Global Justice Issues as Daily Bread

The LWF North America Pre-Assembly Consultation (NAPAC) kicked off on 29 January in Kitchener, east-central Canada, with speakers calling Lutherans to mutual responsibility and accountability for indigenous people's rights, climate, food and economic justice, as well as to a critical and honest discernment of LWF's mission to the world.

"What justice does God require of us now as North American Christians in this place and time?" was the question Jennifer Henry from the Canadian ecumenical justice network KAIROS asked the 50 participants attending the 29–31 January NAPAC at St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kitchener, Canada. The pre-assembly gathering, hosted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), will prepare delegates for the LWF Eleventh Assembly later this year.

During the first day of the NAPAC, Henry, taking into account the Assembly theme "Give Us Today Our Daily Bread" suggested three issues—Indigenous rights, corporate accountability and climate justice—which are consistent with ecumenical discernment on global justice in the country.

Looking at the situation of indigenous people in North America, Henry pointed out "that suicide is

now among the leading causes of death among First Nations youth in Canada between the ages of ten and 24," and was five to six times the rate of non-Aboriginal youth. "Applying a holistic mission, we know that access to services is only part of the solution. In the ecumenical community, we have focused on addressing land rights and self determination so that Aboriginal communities can protect and meaningfully benefit from their land and resources," she said.

### An Act of Hope

"In a great act of hope, Aboriginal people in Canada linked with other indigenous people around the globe and won the UN's adoption in 2007, of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People," she continued. Both the Canadian and United States' governments had voted against this declaration, which recognizes the distinct identities and cultures and rights to lands and natural resources that are critical to indigenous way of life. It also addresses their needs for protection against genocide and discrimination.

"As citizens of countries isolated in still standing against the UN declaration, it also seems important to name the implementation of this declaration as a crucial step forward



*Ms. Jennifer Henry, a representative of the Canadian ecumenical justice network KAIROS, addressing the NAPAC gathering. © Karen Kubnert*

in renewed relationship and restored global community," stressed Henry.

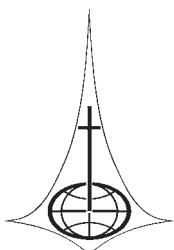
On corporate accountability, the KAIROS representative pointed out that "almost 60 percent of the world's exploration and mining companies are listed in Canada," and have interests in almost 100 countries. "It is increasingly the case that in the developing world, the face of Canada, is not peacekeepers or aid, but extractive industry," she observed.

"What is our responsibility to ensure that our companies do no harm?" Henry asked. She underlined the need for binding legislation that would hold Canadian companies accountable for action committed abroad. "It seems important to North American integrity to ask in a global forum like the [LWF] Assembly, 'Can we do more to ensure that the co-operations we export with multinational corporation are regulated within a global economic system that works for all?'"

Turning to climate change, Henry said the North American Assembly participants would need to listen to their sisters and brothers in the South, "who tell us that solely market-based responses that do not disturb our economic system are inadequate, in fact might even be destructive." She mentioned vast amounts of land diverted for agro-fuels, referring to



*ELCA's executive director for Church in Society Rev. Dr. Rebecca Larson (middle), in a group discussion at the LWF North America pre-assembly. © LWF North America*



partners in the South who describe themselves as “victims of the actual impact of climate change and victims of the solutions to climate change.”

## Envisioning the LWF

“My vision for the LWF is that it turn outward to the world to discern God’s call to our shared life together. This will require high levels of trust, transparency in processes and decision-making, coherence between structure and program, and most profoundly a willingness to allow ourselves to be pressed uncomfortably for Jesus’ sake,” said Rev. Dr Rebecca Larson, executive director for Church in Society in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

In her presentation, Larson said she hoped discussions around the upcoming LWF Eleventh Assembly would focus on the question, “To what is the world calling the LWF at this time?” She said her dream was that the LWF gathering in Stuttgart would imagine together its calling in this world. She however expressed her fear “that we will not be nearly imaginative, creative, daring, passionate and compassionate enough; that our preoccupations with structure or even differences between us, will impede our imagination for mission.”

## Respectful Communication Guidelines

Prof. Stacy Kitahata, who teaches intercultural studies at Trinity Lutheran College at Everett, USA, prepared North American delegates and participants at the Eleventh LWF Assembly by introducing “Respectful Communication Guidelines.” The seven principles are reflected in the acronym R-E-S-P-E-C-T and are an invitation to respectful and meaningful communication in an international and multicultural conference, she explained.



*NAPAC participants included Rev. Hannes Aasa, Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad. © ELCIC/Trina Gallop*

Kitahata encouraged participants to “R: Take responsibility for what you recognize (use I statements); E: Empathetic listening; S: Be sensitive to differences in communication styles; P: Ponder what you feel and hear before you speak;

E: Examine your own assumptions and perspectives / perceptions; C: Confidentiality. Share constructively to uphold the well-being of the community; T: Trust ambiguity because we are not here to debate who is right and wrong.”

LWF Executive Committee member Rev. Dr Barbara Rossing led discussion on the biblical framework for the regional pre-assembly. Her Bible study focused on the Gospel of Luke, as “the Jesus of Luke is a Jesus who loves to eat.”

Rossing, who teaches New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, USA, highlighted three points about the Gospel of Luke in relation to the LWF Assembly theme: “Meals open our eyes to recognize the kingdom of God.” In Luke “food is a justice issue teaching us an economy of abundance and sustainability for all.” And, thirdly, “food is boundary-crossing within the church. Jesus ate with Pharisees; he also ate with sinners and tax-collectors.”

“What are the ways our LWF Assembly can model boundary-crossing within our communion?” she asked.

Pre-assembly gatherings—five at regional and two at international level—precede the Assembly, the LWF’s highest decision-making body, meeting normally every six years. The July 2003 Assembly was held in Winnipeg, Canada.

## Lutheran Youth Appreciate Participation but Yearn for Alternative Ways of Being Church

The realities of how youth participate in church is changing but North American youth still want to be involved. They believe that dialogue and participating in the conversation is just one of the many gifts they bring to the church.

“The paradigms are changing,” said Matt Guess, a youth delegate from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), presenting the LWF North America youth message to delegates and advisors at the region’s Pre-Assembly Consultation (NAPAC).

Twelve individuals in a variety of roles participated in the youth and women’s meetings, held one day prior

to the start of NAPAC. Guess shared highlights from the youth meeting on behalf of the young adult participants and encouraged the region’s delegates to consider the many gifts the young people bring to the table.

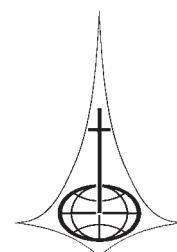
“The culture that we [youth] embody today allows us to be able to live out this communion in a new way,” said Guess, who spoke about the intrinsic social justice component inherent in youth today.

Within hours of hearing of the recent tragedy in Haiti, Guess noted that youth were responding with their donations, “via text messages,” to assist with relief efforts in the affected region.

New media enables youth to reach higher levels of connectivity and information. These gifts, which the youth bring to the church, lend themselves to finding new ways of being ecumenical, global, plural and post-modern.

“Our voice is valid and we have many gifts. I hope you will give us a place to grow,” said Guess. “The church of today yearns for new forms of growth, which youth can offer. They come naturally to us.”

As a result, new models of church are appearing. Guess spoke of “Beer and Theology-type events,” which are becoming increasingly popular





In their message, NAPAC youth delegates, pictured here with other participants, spoke of emerging new models of church that blend pop culture and faith. © Mikka McCracken

in emergent church initiatives across North America. Meeting groups that blend pop-culture and faith are attrac-

tive and non-threatening to individuals who may not otherwise have had an association to formalized religion.

## Women Delegates Urge Lutheran Communion to Address Human Trafficking Issues

Women's issues should not be just a priority for women throughout the Lutheran World Federation (LWF); being an inclusive communion is the responsibility of the entire communion.

Speaking on behalf of women delegates and advisors attending the North America Pre-Assembly Consultation, Mikka McCracken, female youth delegate from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America urged all LWF North American delegates to take on the issues women delegates have lifted up as priorities within the whole LWF.

"These are issues that we are all called to," said McCracken. "If only women take them on, this is not full communion."

Participants were urged to stand in solidarity with women delegates in addressing the issues of human trafficking, women in leadership and food justice. The three priority areas were first prepared and proclaimed at the LWF Women's Pre-Assembly in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland, 27-31 Oc-

tober 2009, and were affirmed by North American region women delegates.

### Education

At the women's and youth meetings, education was underlined as a significant component in the call to address issues around human trafficking.

Expressing appreciation for being included in the LWF and NAPAC activities, Guess referred to the LWF Assembly theme, "Give Us Today our Daily Bread."

"As I think about daily bread," he said, "I think about the table and it's important to have family around the table."

Guess urged delegates to "not view the youth or any group as a token," indicating that minority groups should not be a figure or quota to be filled. "Our voice is valid and we have many gifts. I hope you will give us the place to grow."

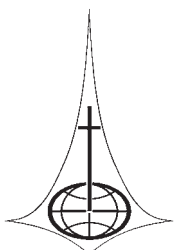
Reflecting again on the Assembly theme, Guess noted, "youth in the LWF have gifts and knowledge that God has given them to help the LWF determine what today's daily bread is. Youth are the yeast, they are a necessary ingredient in activating the bread."

"We have a lot of learning to do about what trafficking really is," said McCracken. "This is not just something that happens elsewhere. It is the reality within our own context."

Women delegates joined the LWF Council 2009 decision in absolutely rejecting "the turning of human beings into commodities, especially for the



Women delegates listed human trafficking as one of the major issues affecting fellow women throughout the world. © Mikka McCracken



purposes of forced or exploitative labor, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, armed conflict or ‘organ harvesting.’” They called for wholeness for victims and recognition of commodification of human beings as sin.

## Harmful Stigmas and Perceptions

“In some places women sell themselves just to put food on the table for their families,” noted McCracken. “The Church must combat the sale of women’s and children’s bodies, particularly at this time of global financial crisis.”

Within the North American context, delegates were urged to explore their responsibility for human trafficking by addressing some of the contributing factors such as increased availability and acceptability of pornography. “These are often considered to be sending countries and destination countries,” noted McCracken, in reference to both pornography and human trafficking. North America is often referred to as a destination country and its contribution to facilitating the demand of humans as commodities needs to be addressed. Delegates were encouraged to address the role they can have in changing the harmful stigmas and perceptions that women and children are dispensable and saleable.

Delegates were also urged to play a greater role in affirming women in leadership throughout the church. Women delegates strongly affirmed the LWF’s commitment to women’s ordination, first made by the 1984 Assembly in Budapest, Hungary. “We, men and women, must rise up and nurture women and know where power and privilege are at work,” said McCracken.

## Leadership and Opportunities

LWF member churches were encouraged to identify processes for naming female candidates to key LWF positions, and create opportunities to see visible change in the Lutheran family, including addressing issues around appropriate legislation and regulations that would enable women to take positions of leadership. The women delegates called for the creation of an LWF task force to organize theological discussions to identify guiding gender justice principles that would help member churches to contextualize and promote gender policies.

“We recognize the importance of modeling,” said McCracken, referring to the North American context, “and we encourage churches worldwide to experience women in the pulpit, at the altar, and in decision-making bodies.”

Turning to the issue of food justice, the changing dynamics within North American households were discussed. McCracken noted a recent statistic indicating that within the United States, 22 percent of women earn more than their husbands and are considered, “the bread winners” in their households. In addition, food production has become more industrialized; farmland is being converted to development and housing and profit is the primary motivator versus nutrition, she said.

McCracken called on delegates to consider that “when we pray, we acknowledge that food is a gift from God.” LWF churches were encouraged to actively participate in the fight for food justice through engagement in campaigns and the search for long-term sustainable change in this area.



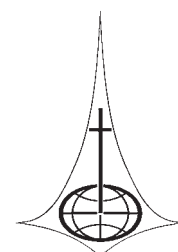
*NAPAC women participants included (left to right) LWF regional officer for North America Rev. Teresita Valeriano, Ms Mikka McCracken and Ms Sunitha Mortha. © LWF North America*



## Correction: LWI No. 01/2010

Please note a photo of Rev. Dr Banjob Kusawadee instead of Bishop Visanukorn Upama’s was used to illustrate *LWI* article “Lutheran Communion Urged to Strengthen Advocacy on Responsible Stewardship” on page 19 of *LWI No. 01/2010*. The photo opposite corresponds to that story. This error is regretted.

*Bishop Visanukorn Upama of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand addresses the APAC/ACLC participants during the closing worship session. © LWF/Allison Schmitt*



## Pope Benedict XVI Makes First Visit to Rome Lutheran Church

On 14 March 2010, **Pope Benedict XVI** made his first visit to the Evangelical Lutheran community in Rome and took part in an evening worship celebration with the congregation in the Church of Christ.

The congregation had invited the pope in 2008 to commemorate the visit made by Pope John Paul II 25 years earlier. As in 1983, the worship service was conducted in the liturgical tradition of the Evangelical Lutheran church. In their homilies, Rev. Dr Jens-Martin Kruse and the Roman Catholic pontiff commented on the two Sunday readings (2 Cor 1:3-7 and Jn 12:20-26).

Kruse's sermon highlighted the Apostle Paul's call to Christians not to pass by each other, but rather to journey together in Christ's footsteps, looking after one another and sustaining those whose strength fails.

Without minimizing the problems confronting the ecumenical family, the pope insisted that rather than be disheartened, Christian churches should begin by being grateful that there was so much unity. He said it was good that "today on Laetare Sunday [fourth Sunday in the Lent season] we are praying together, singing the same hymns, listening to the same Word of God, and together, reflecting on it and trying to understand it."

At the conclusion of the service, Benedict XVI gave the congregation a mosaic replica from the ninth century depicting Christ. The congregation offered the pope a photograph of the church's bronze baptismal font.



*During the Sunday evening worship in the Lutheran church congregation in Rome: Rev. Dr Jens-Martin Kruse (middle), Church of Christ pastor, and (right) Pope Benedict XVI. © epd-bild/Cristian Genari*

Visibly moved, the pontiff thanked the congregation "for the invitation, for the warmth with which you have received me... let us pray for one another, let us pray with one another that the Lord make us one and that he help the world to believe."

For Kruse, Pope Benedict's visit to the Church of Christ was a "striking sign of a mature, viable ecumenical relationship and genuine ecumenism as it has been practiced and lived among the various faith communities in Rome for many years. The church unifies more than it divides."

The congregation's representatives met with the pope after the service.

## August Kruse Is the New ELCROS Archbishop

**Archbishop August Kruse** is the new leader of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (ELCROS). Until his election at the September 2009 general synod, 68-year old Kruse was bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Urals, Siberia and the Far East (ELCUSF), an ELCROS member church. He maintains the position of ELCUSF bishop until the autumn 2010 synod.

Kruse is the first Russian German to head ELCROS since the church was reestablished in 1988. A citizen of the Russian Federation, he succeeds Archbishop Edmund Ratz, who has presided over ELCROS since 2005. Ratz who until March 2010 was also bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of European Russia, has been asked to assume the office of ELCROS deputy archbishop.

Bishop Ratz, Bishop Kornelius Wiebe of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Uzbekistan and Bishop Yuri Novgorodov of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Kazakhstan installed Kruse on the last day of the general synod.

"Communion beyond Borders" was the theme of the synod, held in St Petersburg, Russia. According to information from the church office, the synod was preceded by extensive discussions concerning the shape of ELCROS in the modern world. It



*Archbishop August Kruse © ELCROS*

was emphasized that a "binding communion" must also be ensured for the future, even though member churches currently exercise their ministry in various countries.

Kruse's life story reflects the destiny of many Russian Germans in the 20th century. Shortly after he was born in Saratov, Russia, he and his Volga German family were deported to a place near Abakan in Siberia. In 1949, the family relocated in Krasnoturinsk in the eastern foothills of the Ural Mountains.

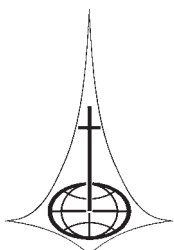
When he was still a child, Kruse's grandmother took him to clandestine meetings of Lutheran Christians.

After completing three years of military service, he worked in an aluminum factory in Krasnoturinsk for 28 years until he was obliged to take early retirement at the age of 50 because of the harsh working conditions.

He was ordained a minister with full authority to proclaim the word and administer the sacraments by Bishop Nikolaus Schneider. In 1993 he was named provost for the Ural region and assistant bishop.

In November 2004, Kruse was asked to assume the leadership of ELCUSF as episcopal visitor, and elected bishop of the church two years later.

The 80,000-member ELCROS joined the LWF in 1989.





# Connected across Different Contexts

## Learning about the Ecumenical Church in a Globalized World

**GENEVA (LWI)** – When students and teachers of theology from around the world gathered in Geneva for an annual ecumenical study course, many of them emphasized the deep faith connections they discovered in interacting with others from situations significantly different from their own.

The 14 students from Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Puerto Rico, Canada and the United States, were part of the sixth annual intensive course of “The Ecumenical Church in a Globalized World,” held under the auspices of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Department for Theology and Studies (DTS).

They met from 6 to 20 January at the Ecumenical Center, where the LWF and other church organizations are based. The Geneva-based staff offered perspectives related to their work, which formed bases for plenary interaction and small group deliberations among the students.

“The ecumenical family of churches is called into a mission of witness amid economic and climate change,” said Prof. Toxey Namok, who teaches at the Senior Flierl Seminary in Finschhafen, Papua New Guinea.



Students of the 2010 ecumenical study course Ms Susan Beck, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA; and Rev. Erasto Yobana Mselela, Tumaini University, Iringa, Tanzania.  
© LWF/ K. Bloomquist

He expressed his hope “to train future pastors to be fully vested with an ecumenical spirit and mind-set for pastoral ministry, and to help transform Lutherans in particular to be open to see beyond themselves as a church.”

“When churches are silent and not prophetic, the land can be massively exploited, for example, by mining interests,” said Namok, a member of

the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea.

### Invaluable Formation

During a discussion on diakonia, many of the students agreed that everyone has something to give and receive. In *diakonia*, the barriers come down, remarked one student. “You can give without loving, but you can’t love without giving,” said Matthias Titus Tola of Bronnum Lutheran Seminary in Nigeria.

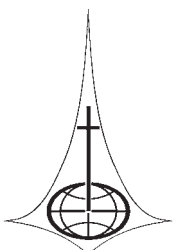
The course began by considering the ecumenical dialogues and other relationships between churches, and later engaged with ecumenical students and professors at the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, near Geneva. They discussed interfaith relationships, and visited a Geneva mosque.

“I have been awed and overwhelmed with all I have heard and all those I have met here at the Ecumenical Center,” observed Kathryn Montira, a student from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, USA.

“I realized that the LWF is not just concerned with Lutherans, but is quite ecumenically engaged,



Participants in the January 2010 course at the Ecumenical Center in Geneva, Switzerland  
© LWF/ K. Bloomquist



which is a truth I will take back to my church in Kenya,” noted Julie Habonaya Luku, studying theology at St Paul’s University outside the capital, Nairobi.

## Contextualized Theology

JoAnne Chung Yan Lam, a student at Toronto School of Theology in Canada, admitted that she had not realized previously the complexities involved in different churches being able to share in the Eucharist.

Susan Beck from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA, noted, “Our theology has to be embodied.” She

added, “In being present with others, we bring flesh to the Word.”

Students realized that theology must be dynamic, living, and contextualized if it is to communicate with people. “I have to make this sense of being interconnected more real in the Christian education I teach,” remarked Erich von Marthin Elrapoma from Jakarta Theological Seminary in Indonesia.

Communal lament is crucial in the face of calamities such as the Haiti disaster, in which a classmate and friend of three of the students was killed while the class was meeting. “In my context, individuals may lament, but not the whole community, as we

realized here,” said Tamra Harder from the Wartburg seminary.

From experiencing worship in Geneva to a visit to the Taizé community in France, Prof. Erasto Yohana Mselela of Tumaini University, Iringa, Tanzania, said he was impressed by the ways in which worship and prayer can become more meaningful.

Rev. Dr Karen Bloomquist, DTS director, an organizer and member of the teaching team, noted that students became more aware of the importance of building multilateral relationships that go beyond categorizing some as donors and others as recipients, or being from the South or the North.

*23 February 2010*

## LWF General Secretary Noko Urges Prayers for Earthquake-Struck Chile

*Continued from p. 1*

letter to the Lutheran communion on the situation in Chile.

Noko said the LWF had initial contact with Rev. Dr Gloria Rojas Vargas, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (IELCH) as well as with Bishop Rolando Holtz of the Lutheran Church in Chile (ILCH). The IELCH has congregations and mission outreach in the hard hit area of Concepción.

### Lutheran Church Leader Rojas Reassures Families

In a pastoral letter on 27 February, Rojas wrote that the IELCH members had lifted in prayer the families

of those who had perished in the earthquake. “Receive love, comfort and strength in this time of difficulty, understanding the full conviction that we are not alone in this journey. God is with us,” she wrote.

She indicated that more information would be shared as channels of communication were restored.

Communication with the IELCH and ILCH “is extremely difficult at the moment,” added Rev. Martin Junge, LWF area secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean and LWF general secretary-elect. Junge said Rojas had reported that she had been in contact with most of the church’s pastors, and it appeared no one had suffered personal injuries.

Junge said he welcomed “as a sign of hope” the letters of support, prayers and resource mobilization from the regional and global Lutheran communion toward their brothers and sisters in Chile in this difficult situation.

“The gift of communion that churches hold together finds expression in the shared mutual strong relationships. It is today the basis for solidarity and support,” he added.

Further LWF support would come through its Department for World Service (DWS) coordination within the ACT Alliance, the global coalition of churches and related agencies engaged in humanitarian assistance, development and advocacy.

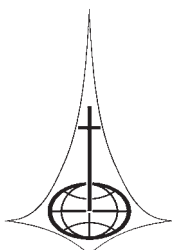
DWS confirmed that the churches would assess the damage in the affected areas and indicate the required assistance in close cooperation with the LWF.

The IELCH has 3,000 members, and joined the LWF in 1955. It runs several diaconal initiatives among populations that are excluded from the social and economical stability that Chile has achieved. The ILCH has 10,280 members. It joined the LWF in 1991.

*28 February 2010*



*A damaged home in Chile’s city of Maipú, near the capital Santiago de Chile, following the 27 February earthquake. © Pablo Ordenes/flickr*



## LWF Pastoral Message Underlines Calling to Action and Compassion in Calamities

Noko Encourages Churches to Write Solidarity Letters to Those Affected

GENEVA (LWI) – The General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko, has urged LWF member churches to remember the calling to be “the church for others” in the face of calamities such as the recent earthquakes in Haiti, Chile and near Japan. In a pastoral letter to all LWF member churches on 3 March, Noko underlines the calling “to diaconal action for the care and support of those affected, to counseling and providing comfort to those whose sense of security has been so brutally shattered.”

He also emphasized the need for churches to witness for justice and advocate for accountability on the part of governments and authorities for their actions or inaction.

Noko underlined “compassion and prayerful accompaniment for



*This is what remained of a hospital building in Haiti’s capital Port-au-Prince after the 12 January earthquake. © DCA/ACT Alliance*

broken people, communities and nations,” inviting LWF member churches to express such solidarity in pastoral letters to their sister Luther-

an churches and ecumenical partners. The general secretary requested that contributions, if possible, can be sent to the humanitarian response coordinated through the global church network ACT Alliance.

He noted that the recent earthquakes had again underlined “the vulnerability and fragility of human life on this dynamic creation that is Earth.”

Noko expressed his hope that all Christians would “hear in these disasters the call to unity and compassion, bearing the light of Christ into the darkness of collapsed buildings and destroyed lives and, in the secure and certain knowledge of God’s abiding and boundless love, rebuilding shattered hope.”

4 March 2010



*Following the earthquake, the St Thérèse temporary settlement in Pétionville, Port-au-Prince, became home to some 1,500 families. © LWF/DWS Haiti/B. Waddell*

### Superintendent Jantzen Elected Interim Bishop for Hanover Church

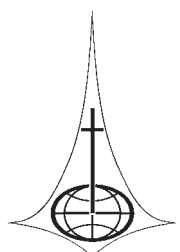
The Lüneburg Superintendent **Hans-Hermann Jantzen** was unanimously elected bishop ad interim (acting bishop) by the Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover on 25 February. He replaces Dr Margot Kässmann who resigned in February 2010 after leading the church since 1999. As bishop ad interim until a new successor is elected, Jantzen enjoys nearly all the rights and powers of the bishop’s office.

Jantzen, 64, has led the diocese of Lüneburg since October 1997 and is the longest serving prelate. With around 640,000 members in 12 districts, Lüneburg is the largest of the regional church’s six dioceses.

Jantzen was born in Polle an der Weser and studied theology in Göttingen and Tübingen. He studied for a year in Dallas, Texas (USA). He served as pastor in Lehrte near Hanover and was academic supervisor at the former preacher’s seminary in Hildesheim between 1980 and 1986, until being appointed superintendent of the church district of Göttingen-Nord in 1986. He was a synod member from 1992 to 1997, as chairperson of the education committee.

Jantzen is married and has two grown-up children.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover with just under 3 million members is Germany’s largest Lutheran church. It has been an LWF member church since 1947.



## LWF General Secretary Conveys Prayers and Condolences to Victims of Violence in Northern Nigeria

### Religious and Political Cooperation Urged in Securing Peace and Justice

**GENEVA (LWI)** – The general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko, conveyed the LWF’s prayers and condolences to victims of violence in the recent attacks in northern Nigeria. He also urged the country’s religious and political leadership to work together in providing meaningful responses that secure peace and justice.

In a 12 March statement, Noko emphasized that retaliatory acts of violence can only worsen conflict. He expressed shock and sadness at the continued cycle of attacks, saying the “horrifying images of death, injury, pain and destruction shown

in the media give a tragically vivid picture of the intolerable consequences of violence and revenge.”

According to media reports, hundreds of civilians were killed on 7 March in attacks on towns near the northern Nigerian city of Jos in the Plateau State. Similar violence occurred in January this year.

The recurrence of violence in the northern region points “to unresolved—but resolvable—issues in the nation-building process,” said Noko. He referred to a 24 February statement by the Fellowship of the Churches of Christ in Nigeria – TEKAN, comprising churches across the country, which comprehensively outlined



LCN President Rev. Christian Ekong © LWF/ Simon Djjobdi

the root causes of such conflict and immediate obstacles to peace in the region.

“Issues concerning Nigerian identity, the ‘indigene-settler’ question, and underlying religious questions are constitutional matters that are the responsibility of, and require decisive action of the Nigerian government as a whole,” said Noko. He urged the authorities to bring to justice

those who by their actions or inaction have been responsible for the bloodshed.

Noko noted that the “cycle of bloodshed contradicts the leading role that Nigeria has played in conflict resolution and peace promotion initiatives in the region.” He further called on religious leaders from the affected area to work jointly in “the healing

of long memories of bloodshed and injustice, and to set an example of togetherness against violence.”

The LWF has two member churches in Nigeria—the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN) and the Lutheran Church of Nigeria (LCN). The LCCN is a founding member of TEKAN.

The full text of Dr Noko’s statement is available on the LWF Web site at: [www.lutheranworld.org/LWF\\_Documents/LWF\\_Statement\\_NNigeria-2010-EN.pdf](http://www.lutheranworld.org/LWF_Documents/LWF_Statement_NNigeria-2010-EN.pdf)

12 March 2010



LCCN Archbishop Nemuel A. Babba © LWF/ D. -M.Grötzsch

### LWI German Editor Grötzsch Named Media and Public Relations Chief in Oldenburg

On 15 April Mr **Dirk-Michael Grötzsch** took up the newly created post of chief of media and public relations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oldenburg, Germany. Until his new appointment, Grötzsch was head of the “Visibility” team of the LWF Office for Communication Services (OCS) in Geneva since 2004, and since 1999 editor of the German edition of the LWF newsletter, *Lutheran World Information* (LWI).

The synod of the Oldenburg church decided in May 2009 to create the new post to better coordinate activities related to media relations, the Internet and publications.

Grötzsch, 45, originally comes from Leipzig, Germany. He studied Protestant theology in that city from 1985 to 1990 and



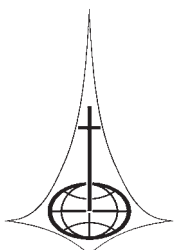
Dirk-Michael Grötzsch © Private

pursued graduate studies from 1991 to 1994 in Tübingen. He worked as a freelance journalist for radio and the press, and taught at the Media Institute of Saxony. From 1995 to 1997, he was a journalist for the Protestant church radio, and team director–producer for RADIO PSR (“Privater Sächsischer Rundfunk”) in Leipzig from 1997 to 1998.

In the meantime, Rev. Charles Austin, a journalist and retired pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will assume the interim position as head of the OCS Visibility team in Geneva. The position of team leader and German editor has been

advertised and should be filled by September 2010.

Dirk-Michael Grötzsch is married and has two children.



## FEATURE: Dance Gives Courage and Strength to Haiti's Children

### Global Church Network Assists Earthquake Victims

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti/GENEVA (LWI)** – Eight-year-old Rosedaline Revolis' smile lights up the room as she plays the *pandeiro* (tambourine).

She is learning to make music for *capoeira*, a martial-arts inspired dance native to Brazil that is helping Haitian children cope with the changes in their lives since the 12 January earthquake.

The *capoeira* training is part of a comprehensive psychosocial program by Viva Rio, a partner organization of ACT Alliance member Norwegian Church Aid (NCA).

ACT Alliance or Action by Churches Together is a global alliance of churches and related agencies working together for positive and sustainable change in the lives of people affected by emergencies, poverty and injustice through coordinated and effective humanitarian, development and advocacy work.

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), one of the founding members of ACT Alliance, was already working in Haiti before the earthquake, through its Department for World Service country program there. As coordinator of the ACT forum in Haiti, the LWF joined with other ACT partners in the initial



*Eight-year-old Rosedaline Revolis smiles during a capoeira session in the Kay Nou tent encampment in the Bel Air neighborhood, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. © Jonathan Ernst/LWR/Act Alliance*

emergency relief response, offering food and non-food items, including the provision of durable housing to thousands of displaced persons.

Kay Nou, the space formerly used as Viva Rio's community center in Port-au-Prince's downtrodden Bel Air neighborhood, is now a tent encampment housing about 1,600 people. Children living in Kay Nou are benefiting from daily opportunities to learn art, music and dance, helping them deal with the stress of being displaced.

The program existed prior to the earthquake, says Viva Rio staff member Aila Machado. Since 2006, Viva Rio has focused on urban development in the beleaguered Bel Air neighborhood, providing community services and working to diminish street violence.

After the January earthquake their focus shifted to providing for the immediate needs of affected people in the neighborhood, including safe and constructive activities for children.

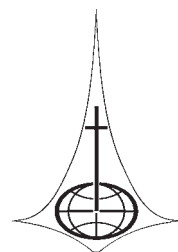
The programs serve several purposes, explains Anna Oliver, a relief officer with NCA. They engage the children immediately and give them a rare but much-needed break from the trauma, shock and loss they have suffered.

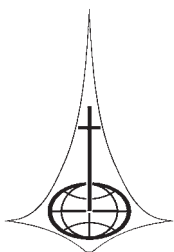
#### Children's Trafficking

"At the same time, it is a way of offering the children a degree of protection," she adds. After the earthquake, many experts predicted a dramatic increase in the trafficking of children. "Engaging and registering the children in our activities—even providing them with small wrist bands—is one important way we can help protect the children from such threats," Oliver explains.



*A girl practices capoeira in a camp for homeless families in Bel Air, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. © Paul Jeffrey/ACT Alliance*





Haitian children follow a class of the martial-arts inspired dance in the capital's Bel Air neighborhood.  
© Jonathan Ernst/LWR/Act Alliance

"This helps the children to not occupy their minds on this situation," says Musset Payant, a Haitian painter who teaches art to children as part of Viva Rio's program. "For the time they are here, they forget everything. In this room, they are completely relaxed and they just fly."

### Help to Help Ourselves

The children eagerly watch as Payant begins to draw a fish on the chalkboard at the front of the room. Using donated materials, they too begin to sketch, intently focused on their work.

"What happened to us in this country caused people all over the world to come and help us," Payant adds. "But this helps us to help ourselves."

On the other side of the camp, *capoeira* lessons are starting. Viva Rio has been teaching *capoeira* to children here for more than a year, but since the earthquake, the number of children in the program has grown by more than 100. In the shell of a building that local residents say gang members used to hide kidnap victims, about 30 children remove their shoes and sit on a rug in front of a line of musicians for the morning class. The music is key to *capoeira*, and the morning session focuses on the songs. In the afternoon session the children

learn the components of the martial-arts based dance.

### Children Are Fragile

"Children and adults are not the same," says Rodney Jean Marc, one of eight assistants who help lead the classes. He has studied *capoeira* with Viva Rio since 2008. "Adults are used to hardship and difficulty but children are fragile . . . *Capoeira* helps them get the stress out."

The songs are taught in Portuguese and the teachers then explain them in Creole. They focus on themes such as living in peace and respecting others – things that can be challenging for children in the

best of situations, but are especially difficult in the trying circumstances in which these children now find themselves.

### The Art of Capoeira

After about a half hour of practicing the songs, the children stand up and make a circle around the rug. It is time for the teachers to demonstrate the art of *capoeira*. The pulsating beat of the music creates a frenetic energy as the masters take to the rug and engage in *capoeira* play – a physical and acrobatic dance performed either solo or in pairs. When danced with a partner, *capoeira* resembles a sparring match, but without physical contact.

The acrobatics delight the children. They clap and cheer and the sheer joy on their faces belies the difficulty of their situation. For a little while, at least, they are able to just be children.

"I like it because doing *capoeira* gives me courage and strength," grinning Revolis says. "It helps me a lot."

*(Emily Sollie wrote this feature article for ACT Alliance.)*

7 April 2010

**\*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.**



A young artist paints his impression of the devastating earthquake in Haiti.  
© Jonathan Ernst/LWR/Act Alliance

## FEATURE: Bio-Shields against Furious Winds and Waves

### LWF Supports Indian Villagers' Efforts to Grow Mangroves and Coconuts

**REDIYARPETTAI, CUDDALORE, India/GENEVA (LWI)** – Five years after powerful tsunami waves struck southeastern Asia and Africa claiming thousands of lives, a small coastal village nurtures plantations of mangroves and coconuts to protect the area and its residents against future disasters.

“Thick plantations are bio-shields against furious winds and waves,” says the chief of the traditional *Panchayat* (assembly of elders) of Rediyarpettai, a small fishing village in Vandiyampallam Panchayath in Cuddalore district, in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

When the December 2004 tsunami hit the Kurnjipadi block in Cuddalore, two people died and all the villagers' fishing boats were destroyed. The shield of coconut trees, which they had planted 20 years before had weakened the force of the waves and saved lives. But the trauma caused by the loss of livelihoods and houses located on the sea shore is still alive in the inhabitants' minds.

Since the community had seen the benefits of the trees planted along the sea shore, it started working on a long-forgotten dream to cover 200 meters of land off the shore with thick plantation. This would not only reduce vulnerability to the fury of nature but also generate income for the village.

The traditional *Panchayat* of this fishing hamlet had bought 3.5 acres of land nearly 10 years ago. Assistance from Lutheran World Service India (LWSI), the associate program of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Department for World Service (DWS), helped make the plantation a reality. LWSI and then Action by Churches Together (ACT) International, now ACT Alliance, worked alongside villagers in five Pondicherry communities to meet the immediate needs of families and help them return to normal life. The assistance offered

included food and shelter, counseling, and support toward regenerating the local ecosystem.

#### Shared Responsibility and Income

In July 2007, the village *Panchayat* was given saplings of coconut, sapota (sapodilla), mango and guava, and manure to start building the eco-shield.



*The force of the December 2004 tsunami destroyed many homes in Tamil Nadu. In this picture, a resident of the hard-hit town of Nagapattinam begins cleaning up the rubble. © Hege Opseth NCA/ACT International*

Today the community takes good care of the plantation. In another three years the villagers hope to see results. The venture could generate an income of some 400,000 Rupees (around USD 9,000) per year, which would take care of the temple festivals and thus relieve families from contributing resources for the celebrations. Also, in the lean season when fish catches are poor and during the 40-days' no-fishing period, this income can be used to give low interest loans to community members. They are hopeful that in this green patch, the men would sit and mend their nets, socialize and relax and that income accrued from this venture would also

be spent on social security for aged women, families without male bread winners and village infrastructure.

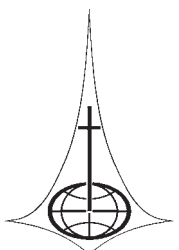
During months of low fish catches over last two years, work on the mangrove plantation kept the men busy, earning some income from watering and tending to the plants and from other maintenance activities. Though they fear some plants could die from disease and that water might be scarce, the villagers remain hopeful

that their determination will make the plantation a success.

Cuddalore district takes pride in its Pichavaram mangrove forest and the way the bio-shield kept the area safe without casualties or loss of assets. With a thick plantation of around 1,000 trees covering the land 200 meters off the shoreline, Rediyarpettai village hopes to create safe spaces for its inhabitants also.

#### Community Ownership

LWSI's strategy of building capacity and strengthening motivation has helped nurture welcome changes in all the communities where it is



working, including this small village. The community has a clear sense of ownership, as members manage the plantation with village funds, though the DWS program provides saplings from time to time and gives advice on organic farming. The community has started intercropping and solid waste management for producing organic manure to increase soil fertility.

In addition to providing emergency food, construction of housing and income-generation schemes, LWSI has worked with local groups to develop community institutions that help create long-term security for the people. These include micro-



*A man waters plant saplings in Ganjam district, Orissa state, as part of a disaster preparedness project of the LWF/DWS India program. © LWF/DWS/LWSI*



*Tree planting provides bio-shields and fuel for household use. Girls carry dried twigs and leaves collected from the forest for use as fuel at home, in Birbhum district, West Bengal. © LWF/DWS/LWSI*

credit groups, disaster management committees and gender sensitization and leadership training opportunities. LWSI has received a number of awards in recognition of its efforts.

*(This article is edited from a series of feature stories by LWSI staff.)*

Further information about LWF/DWS work in India is available at:

[www.lutheranworld.org/  
What\\_We\\_Do/DWS/Country\\_  
Programs/DWS-India.html](http://www.lutheranworld.org/What_We_Do/DWS/Country_Programs/DWS-India.html)

You can donate to LWF's work at:

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

7 April 2010

## Presiding Bishop Jerzy Samiec Heads Polish Church

Since January this year, **Presiding Bishop Jerzy Samiec** is the new head of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland. The Lutheran church synod elected Samiec in mid-October 2009 to succeed Janusz Jagucki who had led the church since 2001. Jagucki was forced into early retirement after revelations concerning his collaboration with the secret service of the People's Republic of Poland under the then socialist regime.

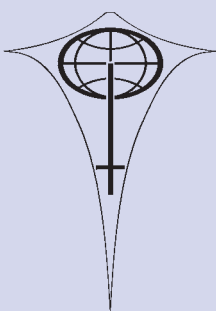
Samiec, 47, completed his studies at the Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw in 1988, with a thesis



*Presiding Bishop Jerzy Samiec  
© ECAP/ D. Matloch*

focusing on the theme, "Role of Groups in the Congregation." After passing his theological exam, he was ordained in the "Friedenskirche" in Zabrze in January 1989 by Bishop Janusz Narzyński. His ministry began in the congregations of Zabrze and Gliwice. In 1992 he was named provost of a parish in Gliwice. He has been president of the Lutheran church synod since 2007.

The 75,000-member Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland has been an LWF member church since 1947.



Published and distributed by:  
The Lutheran World Federation  
150, route de Ferney  
P.O. Box 2100  
CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland  
Tel. +41/22-791 61 11  
Fax +41/22-791 66 30  
E-mail [info@lutheranworld.org](mailto:info@lutheranworld.org)  
[www.lutheranworld.org](http://www.lutheranworld.org)