

## The Lutheran World Federation – A Communion of Churches

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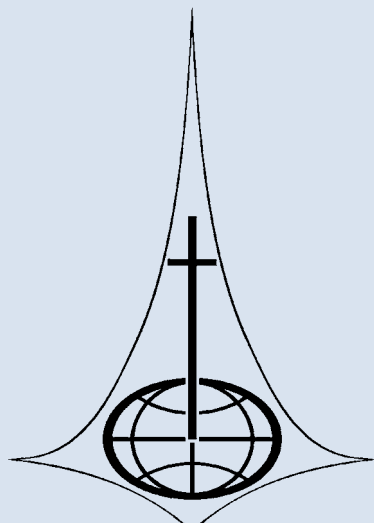
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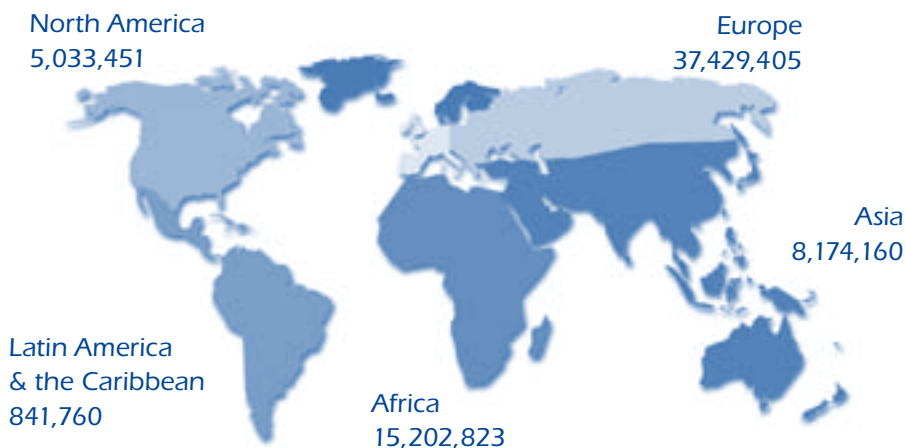


## Total Membership of LWF Churches Increases to Around 66.7 Million

The total membership of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) member churches rose last year by 467,551 to just under 66.7 million (66,681,599). According to the latest LWF statistics, the LWF's 140 member churches, ten congregations and one recognized council in 78 countries registered a growth of around 0.71 percent for the period 2005–2006. The LWF member churches around the world totaled some 66.2 million members in 2005 and 65.9 million in 2004.

(See page 3)

### LWF 2006 Membership Figures



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## Highlights

### LWF General Secretary Heads Interfaith Delegation to Sudan ..... 14

The General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko, led an interfaith delegation to North and South Sudan from 9 to 13 January 2007.

### VELKD Official Appointed Vice President of EKD Church Office ..... 2

As part of last year's agreement by Germany's Protestant churches to strengthen cooperation between them, the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) has appointed the president of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany (VELKD) Church Office, Rev. Dr Friedrich Hauschildt, as vice president of the EKD Church Office.

### FEATURE: Now We Can Run to the Terrace ..... 16

"So many people lost their lives to the tsunami, hence we can't say the tsunami is good. But just as it has taken so much from us, it has also given us a lot. Even in our dreams we could not have imagined houses like this," remarks Revathi Balasubhramaniam, a resident of Nadukuppam village, Villupuram district, in India's southeastern state of Tamil Nadu.

### Namibian Lutheran Churches Move Toward Unity ..... 20

The three Lutheran churches in Namibia have affirmed their commitment to Lutheran unity in the country through the formal establishment of a united church council.

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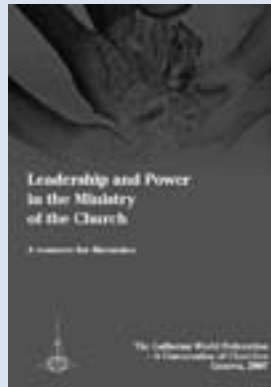
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### New LWF Publication on Leadership and Power in Church Ministry

*Leadership and Power in the Ministry of Church* is the title of a new Lutheran World Federation (LWF) resource aimed at reflection and discussion in the churches on how leadership and power are exercised in light of central biblical and theological understandings.

Produced by the LWF Department for Theology and Studies (DTS) in February 2007, the 32-page publication is a response to a 2003 LWF Tenth Assembly appeal to member churches to face up to issues on leadership and power in the church's ministry and to seek constructive solutions.

The publication's author, Rev. Dr Reinhard Böttcher, LWF/DTS Study Secretary for Theology and the Church, focuses on the theological aspects. He provides some



relevant biblical perspectives of the issue as well as insights from a Lutheran understanding of ministry and explores their significance for the exercise of leadership and power in the church. He also indicates the implications for the practical life of the member churches as well as for relations between them within the Lutheran communion.

Copies of *Leadership and Power in the Ministry of the Church* are available free of charge, with postage and packing costs for bulk orders.

Please write to [liesch@lutheranworld.org](mailto:liesch@lutheranworld.org) or

The LWF Department for Theology and Studies, 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.

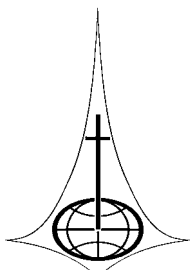
### VELKD Official Appointed Vice President of EKD Church Office

As part of last year's agreement by Germany's Protestant churches to strengthen cooperation between them, the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) has appointed the president of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany (VELKD) Church Office, **Rev. Dr Friedrich Hauschildt**, as vice president of the EKD Church Office. Effective 1 January 2007, Hauschildt heads Section III—Public Responsibility and Education—of the EKD Church Office, and continues as head of the VELKD Church Office, a position he has held since November 2001. The VELKD Church Office, until now in Hanover, Germany, and the Union of Evangelical Churches (UEK) Church Office, previously located in Berlin, Germany, will both move together to join the EKD Church Office in Hanover.

Born in 1950, Hauschildt studied in Kiel and Göttingen, Germany, and holds a doctorate in theology. He served as a parish pastor in the North Elbian church for nine years.

From 1985 to 1991 he was *Oberkirchenrat* in the VELKD Lutheran Church Office, after which he served as director of the pastoral seminary in Celle, until 1998, and as *Oberlandeskirchenrat* in the church office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover.

The VELKD is an association of eight Evangelical churches in Bavaria, Brunswick, Hanover, Mecklenburg, North Elbia, Saxony, Schaumburg-Lippe and Thuringia, which represent some 9.75 million church members.



# Total Membership of LWF Churches Increases to Just under 66.7 Million

## Lutheran Churches in Asia Add Nearly 900,000 New Members

GENEVA, 6 March 2007 (LWI) – The total membership of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) member churches rose last year by 467,551 to just under 66.7 million (66,681,599). According to the latest LWF statistics, the LWF's 140 member churches, ten congregations and one recognized council in 78 countries registered a growth of around 0.71 percent for the period 2005–2006. The LWF member churches around the world totaled some 66.2 million members in 2005 and 65.9 million in 2004.

The increase mainly reflects the development among LWF member churches in Asia, which together had an additional 900,000 members over the past year to reach 8.2 million. During the same period, the membership of churches in Europe dropped by over 565,000 to approximately 37.43 million.

The total membership of Lutheran churches worldwide rose by 442,829 to just over 70.2 million (70,200,399), an increase of roughly 0.63 percent. In 2005, the world's Lutheran churches combined for some 69.76 million members, up from 69.53 million in 2004. The number of Lutherans in non-LWF Lutheran churches fell by 24,722 or 0.7 percent, to 3,518,800.

### Nearly 900,000 New Members in Asia

In 2006, the number of Lutherans in Asia rose by 897,345, an increase of roughly 12.1 percent. Of the total 8,314,337 members of Lutheran churches in Asia, 8,174,160 belonged to LWF member churches, an increase of 893,847 or 12.3 percent.

Asia's largest Lutheran church, the Protestant Christian Batak Church (Indonesia), saw a 25-percent growth in its membership last year, which expanded by 750,000 to reach 3.75 million.

The Asian church with the highest percentage growth last year was the Lanka Lutheran Church in Sri Lanka, whose membership more than quadrupled, rising by 4,124 members or 344 percent, to 5,324.

The membership of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church increased by 41.6 percent to the current 80,000. The Christian Protestant Church in Indonesia registered an additional 99,715 members or 39 percent to reach 355,316. The Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church had 6,105 more members, raising the total to 23,000. The Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore had a 14.5 percent increase, totaling 8,750, while the Bangladesh Lutheran Church increased by 12.5 percent to reach 4,500 members. The Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church had a 10.2 percent decline for a total of 2,217 members.

### Membership in Europe Falls by More than 566,000

Lutheran church membership in Europe fell last year by 566,343 or approximately 1.49 percent, to 37,469,585. Membership in European LWF member churches fell by 565,669, also 1.49 percent to reach 37,429,405.

The Church of Sweden, the world's largest Lutheran church, counted 6,895,840 members in 2006, a decrease of 99,160 or 1.4 percent. The world's third largest Lutheran church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, saw its membership decrease by 15,999 to reach 4,556,612. Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark, the fourth largest LWF member church, rose by 6,941 or 0.15 percent to 4,506,442. The Church of Norway registered an increase of 8,098 to reach 3,939,044.

Among European churches, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia saw the greatest percentage loss in its membership, with 4,000 fewer members or a 25 percent decrease to reach 12,000.

The Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church lost 38,000 members or 19 percent, with its total membership decreasing to 162,000. Membership in the Protestant Church in the Netherlands fell by 230,000 or 9 percent, to 2.3 million.

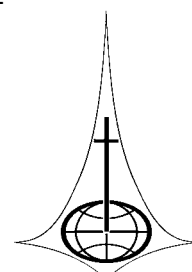
In the Czech Republic, the Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession saw a decrease of 5,000 members or roughly 14.3 percent, to 30,000, while membership in the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren fell by 7,656, around 6.7 percent, to 106,789. A non-LWF member church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England lost around 14.4 percent of its membership, to reach a total of 1,500.

Membership in the Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein rose by 517 or 10.6 percent, to 5,370.

### Declining Membership in Germany

The total number of Lutheran Christians in Germany was 12,732,991 in 2006, a loss of 179,110 or 1.39 percent. In 2005, the country's Lutheran churches combined for a total of 12.9 million members, down from some 13.1 million members in 2004. Germany continues to be the country with the largest number of Lutheran Christians in the world.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover, Germany's largest Lutheran church, reported 3,045,354 members, reflecting a decrease of 27,268 or roughly 0.9 percent. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria counted 2,640,724 members after a decrease



of 59,276 or 2.2 percent. The Evangelical Church in Württemberg reported a decrease of 24,014 or around 1 percent, to 2,322,865. The North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church was down by 19,140 members to 2,109,960, for a decrease of roughly 0.9 percent.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony registered 833,826 members, down by 9,470 or 1.1 percent. Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thuringia fell by 18,371 or 4 percent, to 440,629, while the Evangelical Church of Pomerania lost 2.7 percent of its membership, falling by 2,836 to reach 103,751. Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mecklenburg fell by 4,455, around 2.1 percent, to 208,000.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brunswick had a 1.2 percent decrease in membership last year, dropping by 4,886 to reach 405,614, while the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schaumburg-Lippe declined by 950 members or 1.5 percent, to 61,350. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oldenburg reported a decrease of 7,023 members to reach 463,448 for a loss of roughly 1.5 percent.

## Continued Growth in Africa

Over the past year, Africa's Lutheran churches saw their membership grow by 220,820 to a total of 15,258,892, for an increase of 1.47 percent. The LWF member churches in Africa gained 221,648 members in 2006, an increase of 1.48 percent, to reach a total of 15,202,823.

The Lutheran Church of Rwanda saw the largest percentage growth, with its membership rising by 15,480 or roughly 77.4 percent, to 35,480. Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mozambique's rose by 1,414 to 7,401, an increase of 23.6 percent. The Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church—up by 6,000 to 36,000 members—and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone—up by 500 to 3,000 members—each recorded a 20 percent increase.

The largest LWF member church in Africa, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, registered 187,889 new members, an increase of 4.36 percent to reach 4,500,296.

Membership remained stable in Africa's second largest Lutheran church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, at 3.5 million members, and in the Malagasy Lutheran Church, the continent's third largest Lutheran church, at 3 million.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana's membership decreased last year by 4,400 or 16.7 percent, to 22,000. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Togo, which does not belong to the LWF, also saw a drop in its membership by 834 or 12.4 percent, to 5,920.

## Slight Increase in Latin America and Caribbean

Last year, the Lutheran churches in Latin America and the Caribbean reported an increase of 6,300 in their

total membership or approximately 0.57 percent to reach 1,118,247. This increase reflects a slight growth in the region's LWF member churches, whose total membership rose by 6,300 to 841,760, for an increase of 0.75 percent.

While most Lutheran churches in Latin America and the Caribbean did not report any new membership figures last year, the region's largest Lutheran church, the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil, reported an increase of 7,821 members or 1.1 percent to reach 719,756.

The Lutheran Costarican Church reported 1,324 members last year, reflecting a rise of 75 members or around 6 percent. The Lutheran Church in Chile saw a 1,560 membership decrease or some 13.2 percent to reach 10,240.

## North America: Membership Down by Over 100,000

In 2006, the Lutheran churches in North America reported a total membership decrease of 115,293, a drop of approximately 1.41 percent. Of a total 8,039,338 Lutherans, 5,033,451 belonged to LWF member churches. Those churches in North America belonging to the LWF lost 88,575 members or 1.73 percent.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the second largest LWF member church, counted 4,850,776 members in 2006, reflecting a loss of 79,653 or approximately 1.6 percent.

The Lithuanian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Diaspora (USA) recorded a significant loss in its membership, which fell by 1,400 or 48.3 percent, to 1,500.

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (USA and Canada), which is not an LWF member church, reported 2,440,864 members, for a decrease of 22,883 or 0.9 percent. The Evangelical Lutheran Synod, another non-LWF member, saw its membership drop by 3,500 or 14.6 percent, to 20,500.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada counted 174,555 members in 2006, which reflected a reduction of 7,522 or roughly 4.1 percent. The Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (Canada) remained stable at 6,620 members.

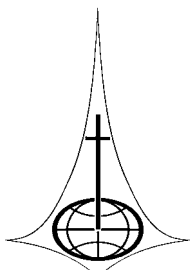
*The LWF membership statistics are based on information received from the LWF member churches, recognized congregations and council, as well as from other Lutheran churches, organizations, mission bodies and congregations. The figures recorded for the year ending 2005 were used for churches that did not indicate any changes by the end of January 2007.*

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# The Lutheran World Federation 2006 Membership Figures

## Summary

The following figures give the membership of the 140 LWF member churches (M), including two associate member churches (AM), 10 recognized congregations and one recognized council (R), as well as other Lutheran churches, bodies or congregations (C).

### General Summary 2006

140 LWF member churches, 10 recognized congregations and one recognized council .....	66,681,599
Lutherans outside LWF constituency .....	3,518,800
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>70,200,399</b>

Continent	All Lutherans	LWF Membership	Other Churches
<b>Africa</b>	15,258,892	15,202,823	56,069
<b>Asia</b>	8,314,337	8,174,160	140,177
<b>Europe</b>	37,469,585	37,429,405	40,180
<b>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</b>	1,118,247	841,760	276,487
<b>North America</b>	8,039,338	5,033,451	3,005,887
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,200,399</b>	<b>66,681,599</b>	<b>3,518,800</b>

### Countries with more than half a million Lutherans

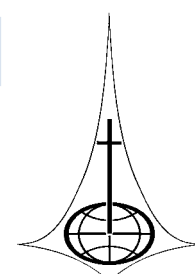
<b>Germany*</b>	12,732,991	<b>Madagascar</b>	3,000,000
<b>USA*</b>	7,782,398	<b>Netherlands</b>	2,300,000
<b>Sweden</b>	6,895,840	<b>India</b>	1,860,888
<b>Indonesia</b>	5,165,137	<b>Nigeria</b>	1,501,445
<b>Finland</b>	4,556,612	<b>Namibia</b>	1,007,395
<b>Denmark</b>	4,506,552	<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	954,188
<b>Ethiopia</b>	4,500,296	<b>Brazil</b>	945,329
<b>Norway</b>	3,960,880	<b>South Africa</b>	705,794
<b>Tanzania</b>	3,500,000		

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

### Lutheran churches with more than half a million members

<b>Church of Sweden</b>	6,895,840	<b>Protestant Church in the Netherlands</b>	2,300,000
<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</b>	4,850,776	<b>North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church</b>	2,109,960
<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland</b>	4,556,612	<b>The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria</b>	1,364,420
<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark</b>	4,506,442	<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony</b>	833,826
<b>The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus</b>	4,500,296	<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea</b>	815,000
<b>Church of Norway</b>	3,939,044	<b>Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church</b>	800,000
<b>Protestant Christian Batak Church</b>	3,750,000	<b>Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil</b>	719,756
<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania</b>	3,500,000	<b>The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN)</b>	652,195
<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover</b>	3,045,354	<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa</b>	589,502
<b>Malagasy Lutheran Church</b>	3,000,000		
<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria</b>	2,640,724		
<b>Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**</b>	2,440,864		
<b>Evangelical Church in Württemberg</b>	2,322,865		

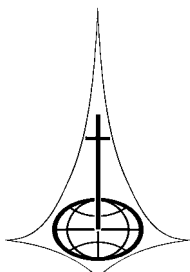
\*\* Not an LWF member church



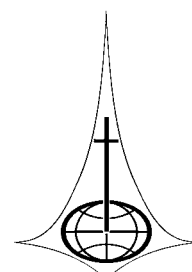
## The Lutheran World Federation 2006 Membership Details

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

<b>Africa</b>	<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
<b>Angola</b> .....		<b>26,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Angola (M).....	26,000	
<b>Botswana</b> .....		<b>21,110</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Botswana (M).....	21,110	
<b>Cameroon</b> .....		<b>305,352</b>
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of Cameroon (M).....	105,994	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon (M).....	195,000	
The Lutheran Church of Cameroon (C).....	4,358	
<b>Central African Republic</b> .....		<b>55,000</b>
Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic (M).....	55,000	
<b>Chad</b> .....		<b>21,305</b>
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of Chad (C).....	21,305	
<b>Congo, Democratic Republic</b> .....		<b>136,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Congo (M).....	136,000	
<b>Congo, Republic</b> .....		<b>1,828</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Congo (C).....	1,828	
<b>Eritrea</b> .....		<b>12,000</b>
The Evangelical Church of Eritrea (M).....	12,000	
<b>Ethiopia</b> .....		<b>4,500,296</b>
The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (M).....	4,500,296	
<b>Ghana</b> .....		<b>22,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (M).....	22,000	
<b>Kenya</b> .....		<b>111,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (M).....	75,000	
Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	36,000	
<b>Liberia</b> .....		<b>71,196</b>
Lutheran Church in Liberia (M).....	71,196	
<b>Madagascar</b> .....		<b>3,000,000</b>
Malagasy Lutheran Church (M).....	3,000,000	
<b>Malawi</b> .....		<b>50,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (M).....	50,000	

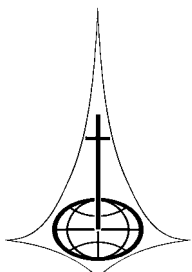


	<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
<b>Mozambique</b> .....		<b>7,401</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mozambique (M).....	7,401	
<b>Namibia</b> .....		<b>1,007,395</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN-GELC) (M) .....	5,200	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) (M) .....	350,000	
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN) (M).....	652,195	
<b>Nigeria</b> .....		<b>1,501,445</b>
The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (M).....	1,364,420	
The Lutheran Church of Nigeria (M).....	137,025	
<b>Rwanda</b> .....		<b>35,480</b>
Lutheran Church of Rwanda (M) .....	35,480	
<b>Senegal</b> .....		<b>3,687</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Senegal (C).....	no data	
The Lutheran Church of Senegal (M) .....	3,687	
<b>Sierra Leone</b> .....		<b>3,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone (M) .....	3,000	
<b>South Africa</b> .....		<b>705,794</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Cape Church) (M).....	4,034	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (M) .....	589,502	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (N-T) (M).....	9,600	
Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (C).....	2,658	
Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (C) .....	20,000	
Moravian Church in South Africa (M).....	80,000	
<b>Tanzania</b> .....		<b>3,500,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (M) .....	3,500,000	
<b>Togo</b> .....		<b>5,920</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Togo (C).....	5,920	
<b>Zambia</b> .....		<b>5,683</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (M) .....	5,683	
<b>Zimbabwe</b> .....		<b>150,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (M) .....	150,000	
<b>Asia</b>		
<b>Australia</b> .....		<b>75,000</b>
Lutheran Church of Australia (AM).....	75,000	
<b>Bangladesh</b> .....		<b>13,384</b>
Bangladesh Lutheran Church (M) .....	4,500	
Bangladesh Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	8,884	
<b>Hong Kong (China)</b> .....		<b>48,117</b>
Hong Kong and Macau Lutheran Church (M) .....	2,217	
Lutheran Church, Hong Kong Synod (C).....	8,300	



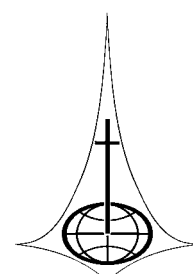
## Individual Churches      National Total

The Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod (M).....	14,000	
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (M) .....	14,600	
Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong (M).....	9,000	
<b>India.....</b>		<b>1,860,888</b>
Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	800,000	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Madhya Pradesh (M).....	15,500	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Himalayan States (M) .....	24,750	
Good Samaritan Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....	9,837	
Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chotanagpur and Assam (M) .....	400,000	
India Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	80,000	
Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	133,000	
North Western Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....	110,301	
Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	85,000	
<i>(see Nepal)</i>		
South Andhra Lutheran Church (M) .....	45,500	
The Arcot Lutheran Church (M) .....	37,000	
The Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	120,000	
<b>Indonesia .....</b>		<b>5,165,137</b>
Batak Christian Community Church (M).....	20,000	
Christian Communion of Indonesia Church in Nias (Gereja AMIN) (M).....	18,561	
Christian Protestant Angkola Church (M).....	27,986	
Christian Protestant Church in Indonesia (M).....	355,316	
Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (M).....	23,000	
Pakpak Dairi Christian Protestant Church (M).....	34,384	
Protestant Christian Batak Church (M).....	3,750,000	
Protestant Christian Church in Mentawai (M).....	38,907	
Simalungun Protestant Christian Church (M) .....	198,479	
The Indonesian Christian Church (M) .....	350,000	
The Protestant Christian Church (M) .....	338,504	
The United Protestant Church (M).....	10,000	
<b>Israel .....</b>		<b>130</b>
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission – Shalhevetyah Christian Center and Congregation (C).....	80	
Lutheran Church in Israel Immanuel Church (C) .....	50	
<b>Japan.....</b>		<b>32,561</b>
Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	22,027	
Japan Lutheran Brethren Church (C).....	1,219	
Japan Lutheran Church (AM) .....	2,873	
Kinki Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	2,742	
West Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (C).....	3,700	
<b>Jordan .....</b>		<b>3,000</b>
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan & the Holy Land (M) .....	3,000	
<b>Korea, Republic .....</b>		<b>5,051</b>
Lutheran Church in Korea (M).....	5,051	
<b>Malaysia .....</b>		<b>94,622</b>
Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (M) .....	50,000	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia (M).....	3,000	
Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore (M).....	8,750	
The Protestant Church in Sabah (M).....	32,872	

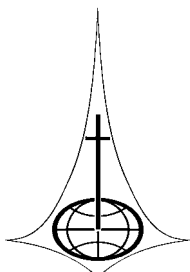




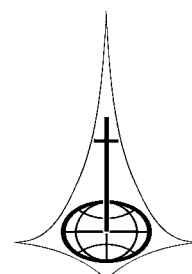
	<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
<b>Nepal</b>		
Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) <i>(see India)</i>		
<b>Myanmar</b> ..... 1,900		
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Myanmar (Lutheran Bethlehem Church) (M) .....	1,900	
<b>New Zealand</b> ..... 976		
Lutheran Church of New Zealand (C).....	976	
<i>(a district of the Lutheran Church of Australia)</i>		
<b>Papua New Guinea</b> ..... 954,188		
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (M) .....	815,000	
Gutnius Lutheran Church – Papua New Guinea (M) .....	139,188	
<b>Philippines</b> ..... 27,000		
Lutheran Church in the Philippines (M).....	27,000	
<b>Singapore</b> ..... 4,103		
Lutheran Church in Singapore (M).....	4,103	
<b>Sri Lanka</b> ..... 5,324		
Lanka Lutheran Church (M).....	5,324	
<b>Taiwan</b> ..... 20,372		
China Evangelical Lutheran Church (C).....	2,621	
China Lutheran Gospel Church (C) .....	225	
Chinese Lutheran Brethren Church (C).....	1,668	
Taiwan Lutheran Church (M) .....	13,044	
The Lutheran Church of Taiwan (Republic of China) (M).....	1,614	
The Lutheran Church of the Republic of China (C).....	1,200	
<b>Thailand</b> ..... 2,584		
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thailand (M).....	2,584	
<i>(including the Lutheran Mission in Thailand)</i>		
<b>Europe</b>		
<b>Austria</b> ..... 325,429		
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria (M) .....	325,429	
<b>Belgium</b> ..... 809		
Lutheran Church of Belgium: Arlon and Christian Mission (R) .....	809	
<b>Croatia</b> ..... 3,329		
Evangelical Church in the Republic of Croatia (M).....	3,329	
<b>Czech Republic</b> ..... 136,789		
Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (M).....	106,789	
Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession (M).....	30,000	
<b>Denmark (including Faroe Islands and Greenland)</b> ..... 4,506,552		
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (M) .....	4,506,442	
The Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Denmark (C).....	110	



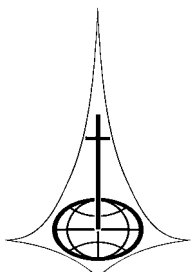
<b>Estonia</b> .....	<b>162,000</b>
Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	162,000
 <b>Faroe Islands</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (M) ( <i>see Denmark</i> )	
<b>Finland</b> .....	<b>4,556,612</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (M) .....	4,556,612
<i>(including ELCF members abroad)</i>	
<b>France</b> .....	<b>260,600</b>
Church of the Augsburg Confession of Alsace and Lorraine (M).....	210,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church – Synod of France and Belgium (C) .....	600
Evangelical Lutheran Church of France (M) .....	40,000
Malagasy Protestant Church in France (M) .....	10,000
<b>Germany</b> .....	<b>12,732,991</b>
Church of Lippe [Lutheran Section] (M) .....	32,000
Evangelical Church in Württemberg (M).....	2,322,865
Evangelical Church of Pomerania (M) .....	103,751
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Baden (M) .....	3,500
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria (M).....	2,640,724
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brunswick (M).....	405,614
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oldenburg (M).....	463,448
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thuringia (M) .....	440,629
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover (M) .....	3,045,354
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mecklenburg (M) .....	208,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony (M) .....	833,826
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schaumburg-Lippe (M).....	61,350
Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Germany (C).....	1,470
Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (C) .....	36,500
Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (M) .....	24,000
North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	2,109,960
 <b>Greenland</b>	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (M) ( <i>see Denmark</i> )	
<b>Hungary</b> .....	<b>305,000</b>
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary (M).....	305,000
<b>Iceland</b> .....	<b>250,661</b>
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland (M).....	250,661
<b>Ireland</b> .....	<b>3,100</b>
The Lutheran Church in Ireland (R) .....	3,100
<b>Italy</b> .....	<b>7,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Italy (M) .....	7,000
<b>Latvia</b> .....	<b>250,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia (M) .....	250,000
 <b>Liechtenstein</b>	
Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein (M) ( <i>see Switzerland</i> )	



	<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
<b>Lithuania</b> .....		<b>21,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania (M) .....	21,000	
<b>Netherlands</b> .....		<b>2,300,000</b>
Protestant Church in the Netherlands (M) .....	2,300,000	
<b>Norway</b> .....		<b>3,960,880</b>
Church of Norway (M).....	3,939,044	
The Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Norway (M) .....	21,836	
<b>Poland</b> .....		<b>75,000</b>
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland (M).....	75,000	
<b>Romania</b> .....		<b>46,795</b>
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania (M).....	14,295	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania (M).....	32,500	
<b>Russian Federation</b> .....		<b>87,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (M) .....	75,000	
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia (M).....	12,000	
<b>Serbia</b> .....		<b>49,500</b>
Slovak Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Serbia (M) .....	49,500	
<b>Slovak Republic</b> .....		<b>372,858</b>
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Slovak Republic (M) .....	372,858	
<b>Slovenia</b> .....		<b>20,000</b>
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovenia (M) .....	20,000	
<b>Sweden</b> .....		<b>6,895,840</b>
Church of Sweden (M).....	6,895,840	
<b>Switzerland</b> (including Liechtenstein).....		<b>5,370</b>
Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein (M).....	5,370	
<b>United Kingdom</b> .....		<b>134,470</b>
Lutheran Church in Great Britain (M).....	2,370	
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (C) .....	1,500	
The Lutheran Council of Great Britain (R) .....	130,600	
 <b>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</b>		
<b>Argentina</b> .....		<b>72,160</b>
Evangelical Church of the River Plate (M).....	25,200	
<i>(see Paraguay, Uruguay)</i>		
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (C).....	30,000	
<i>(see Chile, Uruguay)</i>		
Protestant Congregation in Tandil (C) .....	160	
Protestant Society in Southern Argentina – Lutheran Church (C) .....	3,800	
Protestant Society of the South-East (C).....	2,000	
United Evangelical Lutheran Church (M).....	11,000	



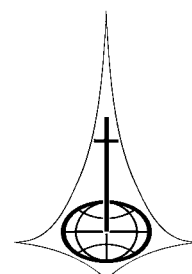
	<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
<b>Bolivia</b> .....		<b>24,400</b>
Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church (M) .....	22,000	
Christian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bolivia (C) .....	700	
German-Speaking Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Bolivia (R) .....	1,000	
Norwegian Lutheran Mission in Bolivia (C) .....	700	
<b>Brazil</b> .....		<b>945,329</b>
Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (C) .....	1,050	
Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil (M) .....	719,756	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (C) .....	224,523	
<b>Chile</b> .....		<b>13,410</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (M) .....	3,000	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (C) ( <i>see Argentina</i> ) .....		
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Republic of Chile (C) .....	170	
Lutheran Church in Chile (M) .....	10,240	
<b>Colombia</b> .....		<b>3,610</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (M) .....	3,100	
St Martin's Congregation (R) .....	160	
St Matthew's Congregation (R) .....	350	
<b>Costa Rica</b> .....		<b>1,924</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Costa Rica (R) .....	600	
Lutheran Costarican Church (M) .....	1,324	
<b>Ecuador</b> .....		<b>2,020</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ecuador (R) .....	520	
<i>(including the El Adviento Evangelical Lutheran Church in Quito, and The Savior Church in Guayaquil)</i>		
Evangelical Lutheran Indigenous Church of Ecuador (C) .....	1,500	
<b>El Salvador</b> .....		<b>12,000</b>
Salvadoran Lutheran Synod (M) .....	12,000	
<b>Guatemala</b> .....		<b>200</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Congregation La Epifanía (R) .....	200	
Lutheran Church of Guatemala (C) .....	no data	
<b>Guyana</b> .....		<b>11,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (M) .....	11,000	
<b>Haiti</b> .....		<b>no data</b>
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (C) .....	no data	
<b>Honduras Republic</b> .....		<b>1,200</b>
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras (M) .....	1,200	
<b>Mexico</b> .....		<b>9,179</b>
All Saints' Lutheran Church (C) .....	191	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico (C) .....	3,000	
German-Speaking Evangelical Congregation in Mexico (R) .....	3,110	
Lutheran Synod of Mexico (C) .....	1,211	
Mexican Lutheran Church (M) .....	1,500	
The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (C) .....	167	



	<b>Individual Churches</b>	<b>National Total</b>
<b>Nicaragua</b> .....		<b>7,050</b>
The Nicaraguan Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope (M).....	7,050	
<b>Panama</b> .....		<b>no data</b>
Brotherhood of Popular Pastoral Action – Lutheran Coordination (C) .....	no data	
<b>Paraguay</b> .....		<b>3,981</b>
Evangelical Church of the River Plate (M) ( <i>see Argentina</i> )		
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay (C).....	3,981	
<b>Peru</b> .....		<b>3,660</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Peru (R) .....	400	
Evangelical Lutheran Congregation Cristo Rey (C).....	100	
Norwegian Lutheran Mission (C).....	2,060	
Peruvian Lutheran Evangelical Church (M).....	1,100	
<b>Suriname</b> .....		<b>4,000</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname (M) .....	4,000	
<b>Uruguay</b> .....		<b>190</b>
Evangelical Church of the River Plate (M) ( <i>see Argentina</i> )		
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Uruguay (C) .....	190	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (C) ( <i>see Argentina</i> )		
<b>Venezuela</b> .....		<b>2,934</b>
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela (M) .....	1,950	
Lutheran Church of Venezuela (C) .....	984	
 <b>North America</b>		
<b>Canada</b> .....		<b>256,940</b>
Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad (M) .....	6,620	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (M) .....	174,555	
Lutheran Church – Canada (C).....	75,765	
<b>USA</b> .....		<b>7,782,398</b>
Apostolic Lutheran Church of America (C) .....	7,707	
Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (C).....	39,319	
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America (C).....	8,860	
Church of the Lutheran Confession (C) .....	8,631	
Conservative Lutheran Association (C).....	994	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (M) .....	4,850,776	
Evangelical Lutheran Synod (C).....	20,500	
Lithuanian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Diaspora (M) .....	1,500	
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (C) .....	2,440,864	
Lutheran Churches of the Reformation (C).....	1,500	
The Protestant Conference [Lutheran] (C).....	1,125	
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (C).....	400,622	

*These statistics are based on data received by 29 January 2007. Compiled by Janet Bond-Nash (LWF/OCS)*

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## LWF General Secretary Heads Interfaith Delegation to Khartoum and Juba

### Noko Stresses Religious Leaders' Role in Conflict Resolution

GENEVA, 8 January 2007 (LWI) – The General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko, will lead an interfaith delegation to North and South Sudan from 9 to 13 January 2007. The major aim of the visit is to meet with Sudan's political and religious leaders and encourage them to sustain the peace process in place since the January 2005 signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army.

The four-person team comprising representatives of the Inter-Faith Action for Peace in Africa (IFAPA), will hold discussions with representatives of the new political leadership in Sudan's capital, Khartoum and with the Government of South Sudan in Juba.

IFAPA is a pan-African body initiated by the LWF general secretary in 2002, with the aim to bring Africa's religious leaders to work together to promote peace on the continent. The IFAPA delegation will be hosted by the Sudan Inter-Religious Council, which was established in 2003 to provide a forum for religious leaders in the Sudan (North and South) to seek together solutions to the problems facing their country, especially with regard to religious freedom and prejudice.

In Khartoum, the delegation will meet with the country's Vice President Ali Osman Taha, First Vice President and President of the Government of South Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit, other senior government officials, representatives of religious bodies including the Sudan Council of Churches, and women and youth associations, among others. In Juba, meetings will be held with officials of the South Sudan government, community-based associations, and religious leaders.

Also in Juba, currently the venue of peace talks over the conflict in Northern Uganda, the interfaith group will meet with delegates from the Ugandan government and the Lord's Resistance Army. The LWF general secretary will then proceed to Uganda for a meeting with the local IFAPA representatives, Members of Parliament and officials of the Entebbe municipality who have been involved in the peace initiatives.

"Religious overtones have dominated the complex conflicts in the Sudan, Uganda and other countries in that region," Noko told the *Lutheran World Information* (LWI) on the eve of the visit. "Religious leaders must therefore use responsibly their moral authority to reduce conflict by mediating and encouraging the conflicting parties to dialogue," he added.

## African Interfaith Group Calls on International Community to Honor Pledges to Sudan

### Peace Agreements Must Include All Parties

KHARTOUM, Sudan/GENEVA, 16 February 2007 (LWI) – After a visit to Sudan which included discussions with political and religious leaders in Khartoum and Juba, an African interfaith delegation has called on the international community to honor their political and financial pledges to sustain Sudan's peace process.

"Peace in Sudan will be the base for stability and peace for the whole region and Africa," the delegation of religious leaders representing the Inter-Faith Action for Peace in Africa (IFAPA) said in a statement following their January 9–14 visit.

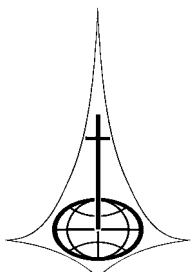
The delegation, led by Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and convener of IFAPA, said the people they met including community-based women and youth groups, had emphasized that the conflict in the Sudan "was clearly not a religious one but rather political."

Other delegation members included Mr Prabhudas Pattni, secretary general of the Hindu Council of Africa; the Mufti of Rwanda, Sheikh Swalleh Habimana; Ms Mar-

garet Arach Orech of the Landmine Survivors Network (Uganda); and IFAPA coordinator, Sheikh Saliou Mbacké. Representatives of the Sudan Council of Churches and the host organization, the Sudan Inter-Religious Council (SIRC), joined the delegation inside Sudan. Established in 2002, IFAPA comprises representatives of Africa's inter-religious councils and networks, working together to promote peace on the continent.

Discussions in Khartoum and Juba focused on the difficulties related to the implementation of the peace processes in Sudan including the January 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), the May 2006 Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) between the government and the Sudan Liberation Movement and accords with insurgent groups in eastern Sudan.

The various religious communities, political parties and civil society groups expressed their appreciation for the agreements, but they also cited difficulties with



the accords, especially the bilateral approach, which excluded other parties. Concern was also raised about the slow withdrawal of government troops from the South, and the presence of militia groups allegedly sponsored from within and outside the country. The people also stressed the need for a more equitable infrastructural investment, equal sharing of the country's oil revenues, and respect for the country's vast cultural, ethnic and religious diversity.

"These peace accords should be considered as the basis for a multi-party constitutional agreement. It is also urgent for the international community to honor the financial support pledged for Sudan's reconstruction at the April 2005 international Donors' Conference on Sudan in Oslo, Norway. The implementation of the country's peace process will not be possible without such assistance," Noko said.

### Inclusion Is Key to Reconciliation

During discussions with Sudan's Vice President Ali Osman Taha, the IFAPA delegation emphasized that the country's future political stability will require collaboration between religious and political leaders. "One cannot leave the religions out of the discussion or put them down as bothersome," the vice-president responded.

The delegation's meeting with the former premier, Imam Sadik Al-Mahdi in Khartoum focused on multi-dimensional approaches to resolving the conflicts in the country. He stressed the need to address human rights and freedom, saying, "We need time and we need transparency, reliability, participation, and legal stability." Inclusion, he added, "is the key to reconciliation and peace."

During a meeting with Mr Abiodun Bashua, director for political affairs in the office of the United Nations special representative in Sudan, Bashua explained the complexity of implementing the DPA, which was signed under the auspices of the Africa Union (AU). From his assessment, the problem in Sudan's western region is exacerbated by factors such as a major fragmentation which had led to the emergence of 15 different rebel groups, and the fact that the "AU doesn't have the means to implement the DPA." He urged IFAPA and the SIRC to convince the parties involved in the conflict to work on a commitment to a cease fire and resumption of talks.

Over 150,000 people are estimated to have died as a result of the conflict in Sudan's western region pitting the Janjaweed militia groups against the local people. An estimated 2 million have fled their homes and are in camps for internally displaced people. The civilian population is targeted by the militias and reportedly by government forces' air and bombing raids.



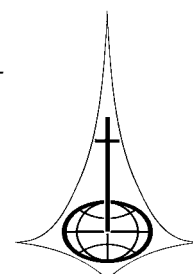
*In Sudan's capital, Khartoum, the IFAPA delegation met with representatives of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) committee, which is responsible for overall policy formulation, coordination and evaluation of the DDR process in Sudan.*  
© K. Rieth

In South Sudan's capital, Juba, the IFAPA group was received by a high-level delegation including the Speaker of Parliament James Wani Igga and chairpersons of several parliamentary committees. They explained the difficulties related to the presence of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), especially in relation to the government's operations to flush out the insurgent group that has waged a 20-year war against the government of Uganda, operating from bases in northern Uganda and South Sudan, and frequently targeting southern Sudanese civilians. The North Uganda peace process was discussed extensively, and the IFAPA delegation proceeded to Uganda where further meetings were held under the auspices of Uganda's inter-religious council.

During a meeting with South Sudan's Minister for Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs, Hon. Mary Kiden Kimbo, the minister affirmed the role of the ecumenical community in providing humanitarian assistance during the country's civil war. "At a time of suffering, the church became a major factor for us," Kimbo said, pointing in particular to the LWF's involvement in the country. She also stressed the potential role of religious communities for the incipient peace process. "The CPA must become a document that is known in churches and mosques," she added.

The CPA formally ended Sudan's civil war that started in 1983, pitting the north's Khartoum government against the SPLM/A in the south. An estimated 2 million people died as a result of the conflict, and another 4 million were displaced internally in the south, while some 500,000 fled the country.

*Klaus Rieth, press officer of the Evangelical Church in Württemberg, Germany accompanied the IFAPA delegation to Khartoum and Juba, Sudan, and contributed to this article.*



## FEATURE: Now We Can Run to the Terrace

### Two Years On: Cyclone-Resistant Houses for India's Tsunami Survivors Through LWF Program

CHENNAI, Tamil Nadu, India/GENEVA, 10 January 2007 (LWI) – “So many people lost their lives to the tsunami, hence we can't say the tsunami is good. But just as it has taken so much from us, it has also given us a lot. Even in our dreams we could not have imagined houses like this,” remarks Revathi Balasubhramaniam, a resident of Nadukuppam village, Villupuram district, in India's southeastern state of Tamil Nadu.

Two years on, several other survivors of the December 2004 tidal wave that devastated Southeast Asia's coastline including several villages in Tamil Nadu express similar sentiments.

“The only houses we had known earlier were our traditional huts. It is the first time that we are seeing houses like this,” says Anja Laxmi, from Ayyampettai village, Cuddalore district.

R. Sekhar from Thirumullaivasal village in Nagapattinam district believes their new houses can withstand a major disaster. “Now even if there is a tsunami, we can run to the terrace of our strong houses and save ourselves. There was no safe place before. The houses are also insured,” he says.

Yet others like M. Amaravathi from the same village, who lost both her husband and father to the tsunami, is waiting to move into her new house to escape painful memories. “Here my husband's memory is haunting us all the time. When we go to the new house it will be good for me and the children,” she says.



R. Sekhar with his wife and daughter, on the terrace of their new cyclone-resistant house.  
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#### Restoring Homes, Livelihoods, Hope

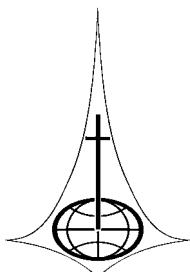
With support from the global alliance of churches and their agencies, Action by Churches Together (ACT) International, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Department for World Service (DWS) program in India is constructing 850 permanent houses with cyclone, earthquake and tsunami-resistant features for survivors whose homes were partially damaged or washed away. Out of the 245 completed houses over 80 have been handed over to the villagers while another 315 are under various stages of construction.

Vasanthi Raji and her family were among the first families to move into their new home in a relocated site in Ayyampettai village. When the tsunami struck, they managed to run to a temple some 500 meters away, and later on took refuge in a warehouse for 15 days. But they lost all they owned including their livelihood—a tea stall run by Vasanthi's husband Raji. He has now managed to put up a tea stall again with the compensation money received from the government. Their son Vinod is a bus conductor, their eldest daughter Sarika has completed undergraduate studies, and her younger sister Sandhya is in upper primary school.

In another village in Villupuram district, Mathurambal, her husband Nagarajan and their two children have been granted house No. 39. Nagarajan, a fisherman, also received livelihood support from DWS India, which included one fiberglass boat and an engine, two types of nets and other accessories like ropes, leads and floats, which are given to fisher families' self-help groups.



Raji has set up a tea stall again.  
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Mathurambal earns 2,500 rupees (USD 55) per month from her work as supervisor of 30 local women involved in a doll-making project run by a non-governmental organization (NGO). Her husband earns 10–12,000 rupees (around USD 267) per year from fishing.

“We now have a house with electricity, running water and a [hygienic] toilet. Earlier we lived in a hut. We have bought a television set and gold ornaments for our daughter’s marriage from our savings.” Her husband agrees, adding, “the community as a whole is also more developed now.”



Some members of the doll-making project in Villupuram district.  
© LWF/DWS India/P. Mohanty

## Infrastructure Support

Apart from the reconstruction of houses, DWS India is also distributing fruit saplings to help communities set up orchards. Further assistance will include infrastructure support through the constructing community centers, reconditioning village roads, and restoring damaged drinking water systems. It is a participatory approach, and the community members have extended their individual houses and put up fences using their own resources.

But for many, what the tsunami and the sea took away can never be replaced. For K. Murgeswari in Thirumullaivasal village, misfortune did not stop with the tsunami. Her husband who managed to escape the killer waves could not, however, save himself from the sea. In November 2006, he died while out fishing after his boat capsized during a heavy downpour. As Murgeswari and her two-year-old son wait to move into an LWF-constructed house, they survive on the government’s compensation money for her husband’s death. DWS India staff visit her regularly to provide psychosocial support, and are seeking other NGOs’ intervention for vocational training or income-generation ventures.

*By Rina Chunder, information & documentation officer, LWF/DWS India.*

**\*This article is part of the ongoing LWI Features on Healing focusing on the LWF Tenth Assembly theme, “For the Healing of the World.”**

## Stanislav Pietak Is New Bishop of Czech Church

**Rev. Dr Stanislav Pietak** was installed in early January as bishop of the Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession (SKEAV) in the Czech Republic. The SKEAV synod elected Pietak in November 2006 to succeed Bishop Vladislav Volný, who, in accordance with the church constitution, could not be re-elected after two terms of office.

Pietak was born in 1946. He studied at the Evangelical Theological Faculty of the Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, and at the Christian Theological

Academy in Warsaw, Poland. He received his doctorate from the Comenius University in 1999.

He was chair for catechetics at the Pedagogical Faculty of the University of Ostrava, Czech Republic from 1992 until the seat was incorporated into the chair for Social Sciences, which he continues to hold today. For the last 12 years, Pietak has also been pastor of the Trinec parish, and since last year, administrator of the Nebory parish, both in the Czech Republic.

Pietak is married with four children.

## Hymn Text Competition for “Familiar Tune” at Canadian Full Communion Anniversary

To celebrate the sixth anniversary of full communion between the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), the Joint Anglican-Lutheran Commission (JALC) has announced a Hymn Text Competition to find “new words to a familiar tune.” The winning entry will be sung during the joint gathering of the ELCIC National Convention and the ACC General Synod in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on 21 June 2007.

The Waterloo Declaration, the full communion agreement between the ACC and ELCIC was formally endorsed by the churches’ governing bodies in Waterloo, Ontario, in July 2001. It allows both churches to share resources and

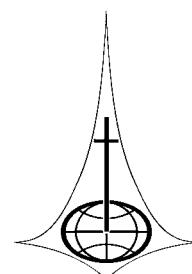
work closely together on common goals while maintaining their distinct identities.

The ELCIC is Canada’s largest Lutheran denomination with over 174,500 members in five synods, comprising 624 congregations. It is led by National Bishop Raymond Schultz.

The ACC includes nearly 642,000 members in 30 dioceses with around 1,790 parishes. Archbishop Andrew Hutchison is the church’s primate.

*Further information about the JALC hymn competition is available on the following links: [www.elcic.ca/docs/HymnTextCompetition-Web.pdf](http://www.elcic.ca/docs/HymnTextCompetition-Web.pdf)*

*(ELCIC News)*



# The Lutheran World Federation

## Consultations 2007

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

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

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

### January

Date	Unit	Place	Title
22-24	OGS	Geneva, Switzerland	First Meeting of the Assembly Planning Committee
27.01-03.02	DMD	San Pedro Sula, Honduras	Diakonia Workshop
28-30	OGS	Geneva, Switzerland	First Meeting of the LWF Renewal Committee

### February

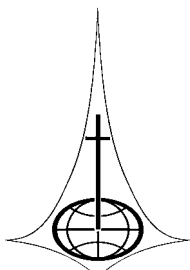
Date	Unit	Place	Title
01-07	DMD	Johannesburg, South Africa	Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA) Women's Meeting on Violence Against Women
16-17	DTS	Geneva, Switzerland	Consultation: Renewing Worship in the Global South
19-25	DMD	Freetown, Sierra Leone	Lutheran Communion in Western Africa (LUCWA) Women's Meeting on Violence Against Women
21-23	OGS	Toronto, Canada	LWF-International Lutheran Council (ILC) Contact Meeting

### March

Date	Unit	Place	Title
16-19	DMD	Höör, Sweden	Pre-Council Youth Workshop
18-20	DTS	Lund, Sweden	Theological Seminar: Fundamentals for a Lutheran Communion in the Face of Fundamentalisms
19-29	OCS/DMD	Lund, Sweden	Last International Consultation: Towards a Communicating Communion – A Youth Vision
20	OGS	Lund, Sweden	LWF Executive Committee
20-27	OGS	Lund, Sweden	LWF Council Meeting, Church Leaders' Consultation and 60 <sup>th</sup> LWF Anniversary
22-26	OFA	Lund, Sweden	LWF Endowment Fund Board
26-30	DMD	Antananarivo, Madagascar	Capacity Building Workshop

### April

Date	Unit	Place	Title
16-17	DWS	Montreux, Switzerland	Annual Forum
16-21	DMD	Santiago, Chile	Latin American Church Leadership Conference
18-19	DWS	Montreux, Switzerland	Standing Committee for World Service
20-21	Strasbourg Institute	Strasbourg, France	Board Meeting: Lutheran Foundation for Interconfessional Research



## May

Date	Unit	Place	Title
02-05	DMD	Arusha, Tanzania	Capacity Building Workshop
02-04	DMD	Windhoek, Namibia	LUCSA – Nordic Partners' Consultation on Diakonia
05-07	DMD	Windhoek, Namibia	Follow-Up Meeting: Poverty and the Mission of the Church
07-10	DWS	Arusha, Tanzania	Consultation with Associate Programs
07-13	OIAHR	Bali, Indonesia	Human Rights Training Workshop
11-17	DMD	Cambodia or Thailand (to be determined)	Mekong Mission Forum and Exposure Visit
14-21	OEA	Nova Scotia, Canada	Anglican-Lutheran International Commission
21-25	DMD	Geneva, Switzerland	Project Committee
21-25	DWS	Mozambique	Southern Africa Regional Consultation
30.05-01.06	DMD	Greifswald, Germany	Preparatory Meeting: European Church Leadership Conference 2008

## June

Date	Unit	Place	Title
01-06	DMD	Bangkok, Thailand	South East Asia Lutheran Communion (SEALUC) Women's Meeting on Gender and Health
18-22	OEA	Strasbourg, France	Lutheran-Mennonite International Study Commission
18-22	DWS	Haiti (to be determined)	Central America and Caribbean Regional Consultation
20-23	DTS	St Paul, USA	Theological Seminar: Confessing Faith in the Triune God in the Midst of Empire
20-24	DMD	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Capacity Building Workshop
25-26	DMD	Svety Jur, Slovak Republic	Workshop: Church and State

## July

Date	Unit	Place	Title
23-28	DMD	Singapore City, Singapore	Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Regional Expression in Asia – ACCREA

## August

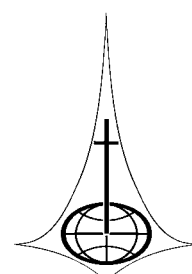
Date	Unit	Place	Title
01-06	DMD	Peru (to be determined)	Stirring the Waters – Latin American Regional Consultation
11-17	OEA	Windhoek, Namibia	Lutheran-Reformed Joint Commission

## September

Date	Unit	Place	Title
01-10	DMD	Hong Kong, China	Diakonia Workshop
19-24	DMD	Kolkata, India	Consultation: Diversity Within Communion – Indigenous People's Rights
24-28	DMD	La Paz, Bolivia	Capacity Building Workshop

## October

Date	Unit	Place	Title
08-13	OEA	Joensuu, Finland	Preparatory Meeting: Lutheran-Orthodox Joint Commission
15-17	DMD	(to be determined)	Workshop: Church and State
15-20	DMD	Taipei, Taiwan	North East Asia Lutheran Communion (NEALUC) Women's Meeting on Water
23-26	OIAHR	Bangkok, Thailand (to be confirmed)	Global Ecumenical Event on Dalit Liberation



## November

Date	Unit	Place	Title
06-10	DMD	Monrovia, Liberia	Capacity Building Workshop
11-17	DMD	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Gender and Power Regional Meeting for Africa
27-28	DWS	Geneva, Switzerland	Standing Committee for World Service
30.11-2.12	OGS	Geneva, Switzerland	Executive Committee

## December

Date	Unit	Place	Title
03-12	DMD	Winnipeg, Canada	North America Regional Consultation

## Undetermined

Date	Unit	Place	Title
Undetermined	OIAHR	India (to be determined)	Human Rights Training Workshop

### Namibian Lutheran Churches Move Toward Unity

The three Lutheran churches in Namibia have affirmed their commitment to Lutheran unity in the country through the formal establishment of a united church council on 1 March.

The establishment of the United Church Council of the Namibia Evangelical Lutheran Churches (UCC-NELC) followed a meeting in November 2006 at which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) and the German-speaking Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN-GELC) decided to move toward unification. The UCC-NELC replaces the Lutheran World Federation-Namibian National Committee (LWF-NCC) which was formed 14 years ago to foster greater Lutheran unity in Namibia. This will now be dissolved to make way for the new council.

"We are now looking for ways of joint activities and of strengthening a unified Lutheran voice in matters of common concern. The ultimate aim is to become one Lutheran church in Namibia," the country's Lutheran bishops said in a joint statement.

A 22 April celebration at the Inner-City Lutheran Congregation in Windhoek will mark the UCC-NELC's establishment, including the official inauguration of its members.

The Lutheran churches make up the biggest Christian denomination in Namibia with the ELCIN accounting for 652,195 members, the ELCRN 350,000 members, while the ELCIN-GELC has 5,200 members. All three are LWF member churches. They account for slightly more than half of Namibia's total population of 2 million people.

*(Erika von Wietersheim and Ecumenical News International)*

### South African Church Leader Becomes First Woman to Head Global Moravian Board

**Ms Angelene Harriet Swart**, president of the Moravian Church in South Africa, has been elected chairperson of the Unity Board of the worldwide Moravian Church – Unitas Fratrum. She becomes the first woman and lay theologian to head the governing board of the worldwide Protestant church. She will serve as chairperson of the Unitas Fratrum (Unity of the Brethren) Unity Board from January 2007 for the period 2007/2008.

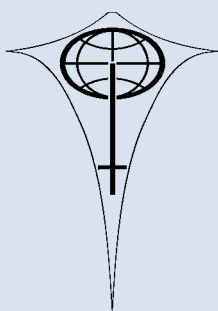
Swart, 56, an educator and theologian, has been president of the Moravian Church in South Africa since 2001. In 2002, she was elected vice president of the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA), and has been a member of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Council

since July 2003. She is currently chairperson of the LWF Assembly Planning Committee.

The worldwide Moravian Church consists of 19 provinces. Its Unity Board, which runs church business between synods, is made up of one representative from each province alongside the chairs of internationally active church foundations.

The Moravian Church has over 762,000 members in 20 countries. The church has its origins in the persecuted Brethren from Bohemia and Moravia who took refuge in Herrnhut in the German region of Upper Lusatia.

The 80,000-member Moravian Church in South Africa joined the LWF in 1975.



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