

New Connections

Volume 1, Issue 2

November, 2008

*The newsletter of the English, Language and Migrant Ministries
of the
Germany Central Conference of the United Methodist Church*

Welcome: Sheep Dogs in our Midst

Special points of interest:

- International and Language Ministries—an important part of the UMC work in Germany
- Training opportunities in 2008-2009
- The Advance
- Resources for Ministry
- Staying Connected

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Several weeks ago I participated in the service of installation for the new pastor in Wiesloch. Wiesloch is a bi-lingual congregation that worships in English and German providing translation of the sermon into whichever language is not being used by the preacher. Pastor Roland Stephan had been installed in his other congregation the week before so I had been asked to assist in this service. I read the English sermon as he preached in German.

I was really struck with an illustration he used and he has given me permission to use it here. He began by saying that he was not the shepherd of the congrega-

tion. This image is so often used for pastors I was a little taken back. He went on to explain that there was only one shepherd—the



Altar in Lahr, Russian Worship

Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. He understood his role as that of a sheep dog—a dog which provides a very important role in the life of a shepherd. It is the sheep dog that keeps the sheep together, keeps them

safe from danger, rescues them from harm's way when needed. Only sheep dogs do this. Other dogs may bark and scare the sheep; the sheep recognize and trust the sheep dog which has been bred to care for them.

What a wonderful image for our work among the language and migrant ministries in Germany. We have only one Shepherd—Jesus Christ—who calls us to be faithful witnesses to God's justice and love. There are times when each of us falls short and we need the sheep dog to gather us back in. Lay and clergy together provide this ministry to one another as we share in ministry together. Let us not fear the task in the name of Christ.

Carol

The Advance for Christ

Every four years the Advance Special Program of the General Board of Global Ministries approves projects around the world for "second mile" support beyond the regular local church apportionment. The four main foci of GBGM—creating new places for new people and revitalizing existing congregations, developing principled Christian lead-

ers for the church and the world, engaging in ministry with the poor, and combating diseases of poverty by improving health globally—provide the basic guidelines for project approval. **The English, Language and Migrant Ministries in the Germany Central Conference was approved for support this quadrennium, 2009-**

2012. Our new number is #3020450. Undesignated giving through this Advance will be overseen by the International Committee of the UMC (ICUMC) in Germany. Information on giving through the Advance of the General Board of Global Ministries: www.new.gb-gm-umc.org/Advance/.

New Class of Lay Speakers Complete Training

October 24-26 twelve persons from across Germany completed the local church Lay Speaker Training of the UMC at the Bethesda Guest House in Wuppertal. This was the first class of this kind to be offered in several years.

Four participants came from Berlin, five from Düsseldorf and three from Stuttgart. Six were from International congregations and six from Ghanaian congregations.



Fall Lay Speakers Class
2008

A wide variety of topics were covered in the training including the United Methodist structure and Social Principles, worship design and preaching, personal leadership skills, and paths for spiritual growth.

The deaconesses were excellent hostesses and shared their experiences in mission and ministry with the group. We share several meals with the Sisters.

On Sunday all the participants shared together in the leading of worship and communion.

Following this training, each of these persons is certified to

preach in their local church or parish. Upon completion of the Advanced Class persons are certified to speak throughout the Conferences.

Next October there will be an Advanced Lay Speaking class in addition to another basic class. The Advanced classes include more specific topics such as storytelling, preaching, leading worship, and personal faith sharing. The United Methodist Lay Speaker's Training is overseen by the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church. For more information check out www.gbod.org.

January Seminar in Berlin, 2009



Rev. Dr. Fulgence
Nyengele

January 25-28, 2009, will be the annual gathering of United Methodist and British Methodist pastors and leaders serving English-speaking or migrant community congregations. Registrations have already come in from Russia, England, Sweden, Italy and Belgium as well as Germany.

Participants will begin by gathering for Sunday evening worship in one of the UM churches in Berlin and will invite other UMs from Berlin to join in the

fellowship.

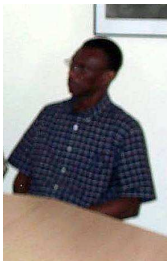
The theme this year is "Pastoral Care in Cross Cultural Settings" and will be led by Rev. Dr. Fulgence Nyengele, Professor of Pastoral Care at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (USA). He is a clergy member of the Congo Conference.

The Bible Study will be led by Colin Ride from the British Methodist Church. Colin has been a long-time friend of cross cultural, language and

migrant ministries across Europe and has worked extensively throughout the Methodist church family in supporting and encouraging new forms of ministry and outreach.

This year the number of participants will be limited to 40. Registrations have been sent out. If you have not received yours and are interested in attending, please contact Carol Seckel, coordinator, at the address on page 4.

News from the Churches



Conrad Roberts,
Hamburg/Berlin

New Hope (Frankfurt) is celebrating its 1st anniversary December 14. **Peace Church (Munich)** was awarded a grant from the General Board of Church and Society for its Mothers and Children camp working especially with asylum seekers. **Rev. Dr. Krista Givens** has updated the webpage for **Hamburg International Congregation**. Check it out at www.gb-gm-umc.org/hamburg-international/. She is willing to help others who want to

create a webpage for their church. **Christuskirche (Frankfurt)** had a tri-lingual service this summer with Vietnamese, English and German—quite a celebration! The **North Germany Conference Standing Committee on International Congregations** is working to expand the presence of members of the Ghanaian and International Churches within the conference. **The Wesley Society of the UMC in Stuttgart**

(Ghanaian) was featured in the Stuttgart region newsletter. The title of the article was "English character, African style." **The English-speaking and the German-speaking Walk to Emmaus** are exploring the idea of bi-lingual walks. Stay tuned. **The UM (American) military chaplains** have been visiting in local churches. One also spoke at Mission Day for the South Germany Conference. Welcome!!

English, Language and Migrant United Methodist Congregations and Fellowships

Berlin

Charlottenburg: Worship Sundays at 5:15 PM
Romesh Modayil, pastor

Berlin Ghanaian: Worship Sundays at 2:00 PM
Christuskirche

Cottbus

Worship Sundays at 11:15 AM
Romesh Modayil, pastor

Dortmund

Worship 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays at 12:00 noon
Ben Kankam-Boadu, leader

Düsseldorf

Düsseldorf International: Worship Sunday at 11:00 AM
Rev. Van Jollie, pastor

Düsseldorf Ghanaian: Worship Sunday at 2:00 PM
Gatherweg 109
Rev. Jane Odoom, pastor

Essen

Ghanaian, Worship Sunday at 11:30 AM (Immanuel UMC)
Rev. Jane Odoom, pastor

Frankfurt /Main

New Hope Fellowship: Worship Sunday at 11:30 AM
Christuskirche
Rev. Kevin Seckel, pastor

Ghanaian: Worship Sunday at 2:30 PM (Rufer UMC)
Kwasi Owusu-Acheaw, pastor

Vietnamese: Worship Sunday at 3:00 PM (Christuskirche)
Rev. Chi My Nguyen, pastor

Hamburg

Hamburg International: Worship Sunday at 11:00 AM
Rev. Dr. Krista Givens, pastor

Hamburg Ghanaian: Worship Sunday at 11:30 AM
Rev. Conrad Roberts, pastor

Köln

Ghanaian: Worship Sunday at 11:30 AM (Calvary UMC)
Rev. Jane Odoom, pastor

Lahr

Russian: Worship Sunday at 5:00 PM
Alexander Gerzen, pastor

Munich

Peace Church: Worship Sunday at 11:45 AM
Rev. Christine Erb-Kanzleiter, pastor

Stuttgart

Ghanaian: Worship Sunday at 2:30 PM
Bruckhardtstr. 77
Kwasi Owusu-Acheaw, pastor

Wiesloch

Worship 1st & 3rd Sundays at 10:00 AM
Petra Siegers, English contact

US Military Chaplain Contact

CH (CPT) Robert D. Crawford, Jr. (rob.crawford@us.army.mil)

Resources for English-Speaking and Migrant Ministries

There is a resource library in the Coordinator's Office. Contact Carol Seckel for a copy of the catalogue.

Resources for Sunday School, Bible Studies, and other small groups may be found at: www.Cokesbury.com; www.gbod.org (General Board of Discipleship); or www.methodist.org.uk (Methodist Church in England and Ireland).

Resources for Social Justice Work: www.umc-gbcs.org (General Board of Church and Society) or www.gbgm.umc.org (General Board of Global Ministries).

Leadership Resources: Lewis Center for Church Leadership, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC
www.churchleadership.com

Nothing But Nets: Christmas Gift for the World

This Christmas *Nothing But Nets*, a global grassroots campaign to save lives by preventing malaria, a leading killer of children in Africa, has been recommended by the Germany Conference Mission Board for support. The United Methodist Church is a global partner with this program. Each member of a local congregation is invited to give a gift of 10€ to provide mosquito netting to save the lives of many children at risk. Gifts should be sent to account 401773 EKK Stuttgart BLZ 52060410. For more information see www.UMC.org or www.NothingButNets.net.



English Language and Migrant Ministries of the Germany Central Conference



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Calendar of Coming Events

November 18-22: Germany
Central Conference

January 25-28, 2009: Berlin
Seminar on Church Growth

January/February, 2009: String
Ministries with Dave Titus

March 6-7: Christian Education/
Sunday School Training, Ham-
burg

May 30-June 1 All Germany
UMC Youth Gathering

August: Christian Education/
Sunday School Training in
Frankfurt

October 9-11 Basic and Ad-
vanced Lay Speaker Training,
Wuppertal

Visit us at www.emk.de/
international congregations

**To receive this newsletter
regularly, send an e-mail to
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tact Carol Seckel at +49 (0)
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Thoughts from Southern Africa



From an address based on
Mark 10:46-52
Presented by
Ketschabile Kenaleone (KK),
Mission Secretary for Southern
Africa, at the South Germany
Conference 2008

*Jesus of Nazareth steps
outside the boundaries of
insensitivity and preju-
dice...he (Jesus) lets the
man identify what his needs
are...*

*In the same way Jesus in-
vites us to open our ears to
hear those voices and cries
that are either ignored or
silenced. He invites us to
open our hearts to those
who are shut out of oppor-
tunities for a better life and
the right to dignity. He in-
vites us to be moved by
love and compassion...*

*It was Jesus' compassionate
listening and action that
drew the blind man from a
life of marginalization, lone-
liness and dependence to
that of independence, dig-
nity and wholeness....*

*(Jesus) invites his church to
listen to those who cry
within themselves because
they do not have the energy
to cry aloud. The church is
called to listen to those who
cry far away from places
where anybody can hardly
hear them. They cry in the
passages of hunger, pas-*

*sages of abuse, passages of
political oppression, racial
discrimination, the list goes
on...*

*The church is always chal-
lenged to go where others
are afraid to go, to listen
where others are not pre-
pared nor interested to lis-
ten, to see things that oth-
ers ignore, to embrace
where others do not want to
embrace, to offer love and
rejection.*