

Dear Fellow Christians,

Danielle, Jordan, and I will be leaving the 10th of May to escort another mission group from Concordia University in Austin, Texas to South Africa. The first half of our trip will be spent with Hospivision, a fully accredited course, counseling critically or terminally ill or injured individuals and their families in hospital trauma units.

The second half will find us serving in the Ntshongweni Village. This is a very poor area of South Africa, 30 miles from the Indian Ocean that is severely stricken by HIV/AIDS. Two thirds or more of the children in this region are orphaned. The average female adult is dying by age 37, and the average male at 36. Because so many of the children are HIV positive when they are born they are lucky to make it to age 15.

The Lutheran Church in Southern Africa has a church there doing everything it can to support the village and coordinate human care projects. It is supported by our Lutheran Church Missouri Synod as well as many other synod bodies, individual churches, and individuals. One of their biggest projects there is building homes to get the orphans out of little shacks that they may be just trying to survive in. Grandmothers or volunteer parents agree to give the children a normal upbringing in a nice donated home and if they do so, are gifted that home when the children are done with school.

We will be working in the crèche, which is a nursery school for 2-5 year olds, doing work including such activities as a Bible school, singing, playground and other educational opportunities. There are about 80 children in that crèche.

The primary school, which are grades up through our middle school, has just over 500 students, 90 to 95% of which are orphans. Their library contains over 3,000 books but as you can see from the enclosed photos, is in shambles. We will be rebuilding and organizing the library for the primary school including painting, building book shelves, carpet etc. Thanks go out already to Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church here in Gunnison who is donating a major portion of their mission budget to fund materials for this project!

We were also going to do remodeling work in the high school office. It has come to our attention, however, it would be of a much greater benefit to help the children by raising money to purchase plates to be used for their lunches. There are over 1,000 students attending this high school in this very low income region. As you can see, however, the boys must wear a uniform and a tie, and a uniform dress for the girls. These enclosed pictures were taken last week at lunchtime where you can see they are sharing whatever they can find to eat off of. That could include a pitcher and its lid, a plastic lid off of a 5 gallon bucket, or just sharing anything to get



Some Photos From Last Year's Mission Trip



**Our Mission Team From Last Year
With Three Seminary Students**



their lunch. We want to purchase a minimum of 500 metal plates for their use. These plates will cost about \$1.00 a piece.

On Sunday, April 29th, we will be doing a presentation following the church service at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, answering questions and hopefully generating some additional support to help fund these projects. Our party totals 14, which are students from Concordia University in Austin, Texas. Each participant is paying for their own trip. They too, are trying to raise the funds to complete the projects we have scheduled for this year.

Your help will be appreciated by those less fortunate than us, more than you will ever know. I am enclosing a self addressed envelope if you are unable to attend the brief presentation at the end of church on Sunday, April 29th.

Whether you can afford a significant gift or purchase just a few plates, thank you from this mission group as well as the children who will be directly benefiting from your generosity. Checks can be made out to the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa...LCSA.

Thank you, and God Bless!

Michael Grosse



**“Go ye therefore,
and teach
all nations”**

