

DRAMA REPORT

Ten Drama students have concluded their training with Lucas Baloyi and are rehearsing scripts for performances in the Johannesburg Prison.

Invite Lucas to your congregation by writing to him at LHM-SA.

PRISON MINISTRY

We were only allowed to minister until the middle of December, but we still had 166 requests for LHM material.

Members of the West Rand Lutheran congregation visited the inmates on 24th December and blessed them with a whole load of Christmas cookies!

BREAKING NEWS

- LHM-SA and ABLAZE!

Greg Lewis, Executive Director of LHM announced the participation of all LHM offices in ABLAZE!

The plan is to:

- 1) Engage in 25 million confirmed contacts with unchurched or uncommitted people by 2017;
- 2) Train and activate 250,000 volunteers to reach out by 2010;
- 3) Serve as the media arm to assist in the start up of 2,000 new churches by 2017.

- Lucas is our Film Star

Lucas Baloyi honed his acting skills during his leave by playing the part of a tracker in a Canadian production in Namibia. The film

stars Sean Penn, an international film star, and will be released at the end of 2006! Lucas had many opportunities to tell others on the cast about the work and ministry of LHM-SA and made good contacts, like Dennis O'Neill from "Actors for Christ".

UPCOMING EVENTS

EEP Events

11th January – EEP Three SM Greeters workshop at St Paul's, Arcadia, Pretoria.

11th February – EEP Three Elders workshop in Mamelodi East.

Other Events

23-24 January – FELSiSA/LCSA Church-planting workshop with Dr. Bob Scudieri, in KZN.

5 February – AIDS Campaign at ELCSA Central Diocese, 14h00.

12 February – Pastor Kasper (nee Nelson) and Pastor Coerecuus will be inducted and welcomed into the Kliptown parish, by Dean S. S. Mugivhi. The event will also be graced by guests from the USA.

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Is there something missing from your life? Are you looking for answers? Has your faith stopped growing?

"50 DAYS ABLAZE" is the Lutheran answer to "The Purpose Driven Life". It is not only a Daily Devotion for 50 Days, but also has Bible studies and a weekly video clip for group meetings.

For use in congregations, there is a planning and implementation guide, with sermons for each Sunday, to help you and your congregation grow spiritually and ignite your world with the love of Christ!

"50 DAYS ABLAZE" was produced by St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Cabot, USA, and is approved by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

For more information or to order a "50 DAYS ABLAZE" set from LHM-SA, please call Christel at 011-791 1661.

- Congregational set at R 180
- Personal set at R 95

Update on the Dukwi Refugee Camp Outreach

by Pastor Daniel J Schmidt

In 2000, the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa first had contact with a number of Lutherans in the Refugee Camp at Dukwi, Botswana. From the beginning, it was found that Bible study material from LHM-SA was in great demand in the congregation, and in the Camp. These Bible studies provided contact with the Lutheran Church.

It was therefore with great joy that the congregation learned of a planned visit of Christel Scharlach director of the Lutheran Hour in South Africa, her Pastor Josef Henning, and her son Helmut.

After their visit, baptism and confirmation classes continued, but the church building proved to be too small for those attending. Even though attendance did not continue on such a high level, many people in the Camp saw and heard the message of salvation in Jesus Christ, and became aware of the Lutheran Church and the regular church services and teachings held there.

In December 2005, the church district of Botswana held its annual youth camp in the village of Tutume, 140 km away Dukwi. I informed the congregation that there was some financial support from fellow Christians for some of them to be able to attend the camp; the congregation itself would have to decide who would be going. I was surprised to find that a number of long-time members stayed behind and made it possible for a group of young teenage girls to attend. These girls had been attending baptism classes regularly since the outreach in June.



Dukwi Youth Group at Tutume

The church has been informed that the UN representative in the Camp has agreed to allocate a new plot to the Lutheran Church in a central location within the Camp. Congregation members have started clearing it of grass and are trying to get some kind of written documentation of the allocation before building. Inquiries have been made into prices for

materials, and the drawing of a simple building plan. At the first meeting in the new year, a decision about the next steps will be made. Purchasing material, volunteers for various jobs, paid labour etc. will be discussed.

It fills us with joy and gratitude to see that God is building his church in wonderful ways, and that he is using fellow Christians far away, their love, their prayers and their gifts to that end. That his kingdom may come, and many may see his salvation! May God bless you all for your caring. A blessed 2006 in His name!

The congregation received another donation of over C\$900 (CA) for their church building project – Ed.

Carols at the Commons

For the first time ever, the four congregations in West Ave, Ferndale, presented “**Carols on the Commons**” on the evening of 10th December at the Brightwater Commons in Randburg. The practices had been on a weekly basis for months beforehand. The nativity play was beautiful and the choir was almost angelic. It was estimated that more than 600 people came that night; with their lit candles, they celebrated the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The 4 congregations also held a Christmas market on the Commons in December and sold handmade Christmas gifts and foods.

It was important that the real Christmas story was retold in public and the Lord blessed our efforts with joy in the hearts of all those who attended.

Felsisa Youth Camp 2005

by Pastor Josef J Henning

The Youth of the Eng/Afr District of FELSISA met for their annual Youth Camp from the 16th -18th of December 2005. The camp was held at HeronBridge Retreat in Fourways, with youth attending from Durban, Pinetown, Johannesburg and Pretoria.

This year’s theme was “**Getting to Know Jesus through the Confessions**” and focused on the history of the Confessions and the purpose and value that the Confessions have for us and our Youth today.

Pastor’s Karl Böhmer and Josef Henning were also put to the test with the questionnaire box “*Stump the Pastor*”, where they gave answers to complicated questions like, “*What is triploblastic?*” and “*Foreknowledge-Predestination*” Every evening ended with devotions and a bonfire. The high point of the camp for me was the youth learning to chant

the evening Vespers.

The Camp was concluded with the Youth attending and leading the Sunday Worship service at the ELF congregation in Randburg. All in all the camp showed me that the Youth of today do take their faith seriously, and have a sincere desire to learn more about the Christian faith and the Lutheran Doctrine.

May God who has begun this good work in us keep it strong until it’s fulfillment in heaven.

As LHM-SA begins the new year the staff wants to thank all our prayer partners and supporters for all that you do for the ministry. Through your love and support we are able to reach hundreds more with the Message of Hope. Please consider a gift this year to help us further our mission in South Africa and surrounding countries.

WEEKLY REPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

RADIO REPORT

Each year LHM-SA offers an Advent Devotions booklet that covers the whole of Advent and continues to Epiphany. These devotionals were offered on “Spotlight”(Radio Pulpit) and we had more than 180 requests for these and other booklets.