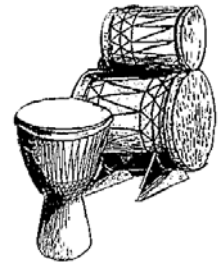


# The Djembé



*"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!" Psalm 100:1*

Dakar/Linguere, Senegal

Vol. 3 No. 1: May 2005

The newsletter  
of the Eglise  
Evangélique  
Luthérienne du  
Sénégal, an  
ELCA mission  
in West Africa.

## “Save Room for Cebujen”

Seminarian reflects on invitations, hospitality and accompaniment

“So, when you say I can come by anytime, you are saying that I can come by *anytime*?” My pastoral care professor would be proud of my effective listening skills, but if anything this question reveals my learning curve while in Senegal. I lived in Senegal for one month with the hopes of being part of two Christian communities. I am currently a student at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago preparing to be a pastor in the ELCA and through a collaborative effort between LSTC and the ELCA’s Division for Global Mission, I organized an independent study entitled, “Theology in Context: Accompaniment in Senegal.”

I actually posed this initial question to Philippe Badji, after discussing his open invitation. Adjusting my Midwestern tendencies enhanced my ability to accept Senegalese hospitality. Apparently, I was the only one who felt the need to specify times or plan several days in advance. Philippe’s open invitation provided the green light for developing sincere relationships and eating lots of delicious Senegalese food, including the national dish, *cebujen*. Only a few meals involved pre-planned invitations, but countless ones just seemed to happen. However, I always felt genuinely welcomed and sometimes sensed there was expectation that I should be eating *more* meals with them. When I felt maybe I was overstaying my welcome, my Senegalese hosts (especially at the Badji household) seemed to wonder where I’d been if more than two days passed in-between visits.

Mission in reverse and receiving are theological concepts found within the ELCA’s accompaniment model for mission. During my stay, I received abundant grace from my Senegalese hosts. I am thankful for all they shared of their lives with me. God calls us to a life committed to not only loving our neighbor but also receiving our neighbor’s love — relationship — even when our neighbor just so happens to live on the other side of the Atlantic. I honestly wasn’t completely sure how to love in return, but I pray my gracious hosts know how much their love and ministry means to me.

*Ben Ingelson will soon begin his internship year at an ELCA congregation in Plainville, Illinois.*



Ben Ingelson (far right) with his co-facilitators (l-r) Malick Sy, Peter Hanson, and Samba Coulibaly, after leading a two-day seminar on Luther’s Small Catechism for adult baptismal candidates in Linguère.

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## Philippe Badji named EELS Administrator

Philippe Badji assumed his new role as Business Administrator for the EELS in December 2004, soon after the departure from service of missionary Robert Peterson (see right). Philippe has been involved with the work of the ELCA and its predecessors since their very earliest days in Senegal and received an ELCA scholarship to study at Waldorf and Wartburg Colleges from 1989-1993.

Upon his return from the US, Philippe began working again with the EELS, this time as an assistant in the area of administration and finance. Over the course of the past 12 years, his job continued to change as he gained more capacities and took on more responsibilities. In addition to overseeing local payroll, contracts, employer tax and social security contributions, as well as the employee health insurance program, Philippe has been our first contact with government officials concerning all the necessary paperwork and complicated legalities due to our status as a NGO functioning in Senegal.

In addition to his many skills in the area of administration and finance, Philippe brings a deep and rich Christian faith to bear on his work. His understanding of the mission of the church in general, the concept of accompaniment operative within the ELCA, and how these play out in the Senegalese context are invaluable. His commitment to Christian community and his self-understanding as a Lutheran have aided us in the areas of community development, work and witness among Muslims, and the support and accompaniment of new Christians and the communities they are forming.

To have the opportunity to turn an important leadership position over from mission personnel to well qualified, highly competent and faithfully committed local personnel has long been among the overall goals for mission in an accompaniment model. We know that Philippe will help us greatly not only in the day to day administration of our work here, but also in discerning a vision for the future that God has in store for us. We are thankful to have him share this journey with us.

Philippe and his wife, Veronique Diedhiou, have two daughters, Françoise, 6, and Sophie, 4. They live in Malika.

## Langdjis on Home Assignment summer 2005

Every two years, missionaries travel to the US on "home assignment," an opportunity to share their work with individuals and congregations in the ELCA. This term is not completely accurate for Willie as his home is still Cameroon. However, he considers Anne's family as one of his homes-away-from-home. This year it is their turn to go to their US "home". They have endured the hottest month of the year, May, in Linguère and will miss the Senegalese rainy season months of July and August. They fly into North Dakota, will travel around the Midwest and a few other spots before spending the month of September on vacation in Montana. Here are the highlights:

- Visits to sponsoring congregations who have requested they come to see them (ND, MN, IA)
- Visits to a few other churches who support their ministry
- Global Mission Event in Baltimore Aug. 25-28
- Leadership Camp for mission trip preparation for people in the Grand Canyon Synod
- Dairy internship for Willie with some Texas dairy farm families
- Summer Missionary Conference in Wisconsin
- Visit with Global Health Ministries about future collaboration

If you would like Anne and Willie to visit you, please contact them as soon as possible at: [langdji@sentoo.sn](mailto:langdji@sentoo.sn)

## Missionaries bid farewell to ELCA colleagues in Senegal

After three years living and working in Yeumbeul, Senegal, Robert and Julie Peterson, along with their two children Eli and Isabel, returned to Tallahassee, Florida in November 2004 where they are pursuing graduate studies in architecture and writing.

Serving as EELS Business Administrator, Robert worked diligently to bring new accounting systems to the administration while Julie created, wrote and edited the missionary newsletter, *The Djembe*.

In addition, Pastor Clifford Lewis announced he is leaving Senegal the end of May 2005 to assume the position of Senior Pastor at St. Andrew's International Congregation in Cairo, Egypt. Pastor Lewis came to Dakar three years ago as the new ELCA Regional Representative to West Africa, after having served as a missionary in Cameroon and Papua New Guinea. He and his wife Saida, and their sons Alex and Nawi will spend the summer in the US before moving to Cairo in August.

On behalf of the ELCA missionaries and all those who worked with the Petersons and the Lewises, we thank them for their work and witness here in Senegal and wish them God's blessings for all future endeavors.

## Eight baptized in Linguère



Pastor Peter Hanson baptizes Souley Ba, one of five adults and three children baptized on Pentecost, 2005 in Linguère. Pastor Pierre Sène, President of the Lutheran Church of Senegal, co-presided at the service, which was attended by both the Lutheran and Roman Catholic communities of Linguère.

*The Djembe has been on a sabbatical following the departure of the Peterson family in November 2004. This edition features guest writer Ben Ingelson, as well as Willie & Anne Langdji and Sarah & Peter Grow-Hanson. You may e-mail them with your questions or comments at [langdji@sentoo.sn](mailto:langdji@sentoo.sn) or [growhanson@sentoo.sn](mailto:growhanson@sentoo.sn).*