

Your Missionary in West & Central Africa

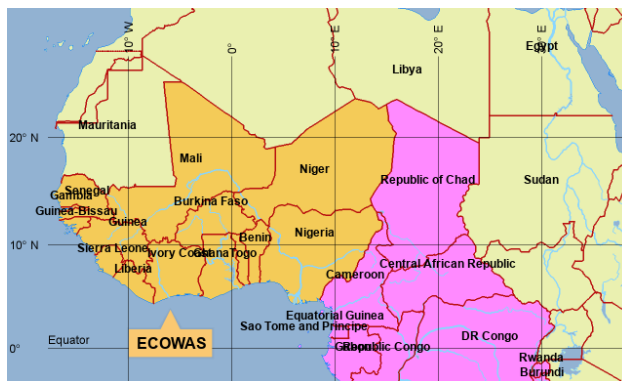
Greetings to you and thank you for reading my newsletter.

My name is Willie Langdji, and I serve as Regional Representative of the ELCA for West and Central Africa. I live in Yaounde, Cameroon and in my service, I tend to and nurture church-to-church relationships between the ELCA and national Lutheran churches in 7 countries (The Central African Republic, Cameroon, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Gambia and Senegal). My responsibilities involve providing technical support to program leaders, assisting in vision development, grant proposals, advising church leadership, assisting companion relationships, interpreting mission etc.

In this issue you will read about how the wonderful work you are involved in the Central African Republic is transforming the lives of God's people in that country and strengthening your sister church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Central African Republic (ELC-CAR).

You may not know that your giving to the ELCA through your congregation and your synod or directly to the ELCA at the national level goes to support mission work in different parts of the world. This work ranges from support for education so that kids can go to school in very remote areas, the training of pastors, evangelists, and catechists who serve in many different communities, providing access to essential and specialized health care for kids and adults, and providing agricultural tools so that people can grow their own food and achieve food self-sufficiency.

West Africa Region



Central African Republic

In November 2023 the Western North Dakota Synod, Eastern Northern Dakota Synod and the Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod joined the companion church of the ELCA in the Central African Republic (CAR) to celebrate 100 years of joint mission in that country.

Looking back, the companions agreed that a lot had been achieved in 100 years, but the question then was “what will we all contribute to the next 100 years?” Part of the answer to that question has started to come as you will read in the next sections.

From whole peanuts to 100% peanut oil

The Food Security Program of the ELC-CAR has provided technical and material support to subsistence farmers in the Nana-Mambere and Ouham Pende Prefectures of CAR for over 30 years. This support has helped the farmers grow food for their families and sell the surplus on local markets. Their produce has been sold to individual families and mainly to middle merchants who have enough resources to transport it to the cities and make more money.

Over these years the program has evolved to respond to the needs of the small farmers. One aspect that has recently been addressed is related to the processing of some farm products.



Peanut oil

The ELC-CAR's dream has been to add value to the agricultural products of the farmers and enable them to derive more benefit from their produce while at the same time ensuring that the Food Security Program becomes sustainable in the future. In this perspective, January 31, 2025, saw the inauguration of the first peanut oil extraction unit of the church. It is the first in the country by a faith-based organization

and by a non-profit private entity. The unit has a production capacity of two tons of peanut oil per day.

Providing educational opportunities for Central African children

The Education Program of the ELC-CAR has been running community schools in 31 remote villages for 25 years providing opportunities for children in these communities to acquire basic education.



Protestant High School, Bouar-CAR

The program has also provided scholarships focusing on supporting young women to further their education after elementary school. Many of these young women have returned to serve in the church and various institutions outside the church in different capacities such as midwives, nurses, accountants, teachers, program directors, etc.

With the increasing number of children leaving elementary school and limited high schools to take them in for secondary and higher studies, the church opened the first Protestant High School in Bouar in 2023. The first permanent building to house the high school was inaugurated on January 31, 2025.

The high school now has 51 students, 17 of whom are girls. All the girls receive

scholarships through the Young Women's Scholarship Program of the ELC-CAR.

Access to good drinking water

Sustainability of programs is a priority of the leadership of the ELC-CAR. The church and partners have done a wonderful job sharing the Good News of Christ and bringing needed support and care to people in the Central African Republic. Substantial support from the ELCA and other international partners of the church has made much of this possible.

In the next 100 years the ELC-CAR is giving more attention to the financial sustainability of these programs and the church as a whole.

In the past 20 years, and with support from the ELCA, the Water Resources Management Program has supported 75 villages to have access to potable water by harnessing 77 springs and building wells that have benefited more than 25,000 families.

I am grateful for how you walk along-side me to seek to do God's work in the Central African Republic. Thank you for your prayers, support and assistance.

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Please, I would greatly appreciate if you can share any ideas about what you would like to read about in my newsletter. You are also welcome to write to me at any time or request any particular information about our mission work in West and central Africa you think I might have.



Water purification unit

There is a [Peer-to-Peer donation page](#) on the ELCA website where you can donate. Your donation is highly appreciated. This is a way individuals can donate.

If you are already part of an ELCA congregation that is already supporting me, Thank You! Please, continue to use the process that you have already set up.

