



The Voice of Renewal

NEWSLETTER OF LUTHERAN LAY RENEWAL OF AMERICA

*Renewing faith and promoting spiritual growth in individuals and congregations
with renewal weekends, retreats, workshops, and conferences*

Celebrating 51 years!

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March, A.D. 2023

LUTHERAN LAY RENEWAL RETURNS TO UGANDA

Our Executive Director left on January 31 for a 34-day trip to Uganda, spending the first four weeks ministering in three deaneries of the Lutheran Church of Uganda and the last six days in the (Anglican) Diocese of Northwest Ankole. This was the third time we have taken our ministry to Uganda in the last four years. Short highlights of the visit are below and, for those who are interested, much more detailed weekly reports, with lots of photos, have already been posted on our website (www.lutheranrenewal.com) on the “Newsletters” page. Highlights were:

Eastern Deanery

- Presenting 21 Lutheran Service Books to students at the Lutheran Theological College in Magamaga
- Visiting with the pastor and lay leaders of Mafubira Lutheran Church
- Attending the wedding of good friends Fred and Edith Waako at Kamuli Lutheran Church
- Attending the dedication of the new church/school building at Kyabazaala Lutheran Church. A very generous Lutheran couple in the Pittsburgh area donated the funds to Lutheran Lay Renewal to build this church. This church that was a small congregation when we last visited two years ago now has over 600 members.
- Visiting the Naigobya Health Clinic and Naigobya Lutheran Primary School. Lutheran Lay Renewal has been funding the health clinic for several years and the clinic is now serving people from five remote villages. The Luuka District government is now requesting that the clinic add a maternity block and hire a midwife. This month LLR provided funding to pay the teachers at the school, as they had not been paid for several months due to the parents not being able to pay school fees.
- Visiting the Lutheran congregation in Pingire, Serere District, as well as visiting the 4-acre parcel of land that was recently purchased with funds sent from Lutheran Lay Renewal. This purchase was made possible by the people of Trinity Lutheran Church, Wexford, PA, who donated the funds to LLR to purchase this land.
- Leading a 3-day Renewal Conference at the Lutheran Theological College for clergy and lay leaders from all over the Eastern Deanery
- Attending graduation at the Lutheran Theological College
- Meeting with the Board of Trustees of the Lutheran Theological College
- Visiting the construction site of the new Magamaga Lutheran Secondary School



Nurses Sandra Blessing (L) and Elizabeth Maganda at Naigobya Health Clinic



The new Kyabazaala Lutheran Church



With attendees of the Renewal Conference at the Lutheran Theological College

Midwestern Deanery

- Visiting the village of Hanga with LCU Midwestern Deanery Dean Rev. Raymond Kaija and Eastern Deanery Dean Rev. Peter Maganda, to meet with congregational leaders. Most of the people in Hanga are refugees from either the DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo) or the West Nile area of northwest Uganda. This congregation is currently worshipping in a rented building that is owned by the government; however, there is a one-acre lot for sale nearby for only \$1,700 and the LCU would like to purchase the lot for this congregation. Unfortunately, the deanery lacks the funds to make the purchase. Currently the children do not have a school to attend and the deanery could fulfill that need if they had the funds.
- Visiting, with the two deans and seminarian James Alinaitwe, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Nursery and Primary School, in the village of Kyamujwara, where the visitors received a tour of the church and school, as well as the property owned by the church. The well pump on the property is broken and children have not had any water to drink while at school. The estimate for repairs is roughly US\$500, funds which neither the school, nor the deanery, now has.
- Leading a three-day Renewal Conference at Masindi Lutheran Church, February 15-17
- Visiting Katumba Lutheran Nursery and Primary School. Here the visitors received a tour and a briefing on the successes, needs and challenges of the school.



With congregational leaders in front of their rented church building in Hanga



With the children of St. Peter's Lutheran Nursery and Primary School, Kyamujwara



With attendees of the Renewal Conference at Masindi Lutheran Church

Southwestern Deanery

- Leading our Renewal Conference Wednesday through Friday, February 22-24, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Ibanda. About 80 clergy and lay leaders attended from churches all over the deanery.
- Being a sponsor at the baptism of Genuine Karuhanga, daughter of Rev. Allan and his wife Janet
- Preaching on the Temptation of Jesus at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Ibanda on Sunday



Small group discussion during the Renewal Conference at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



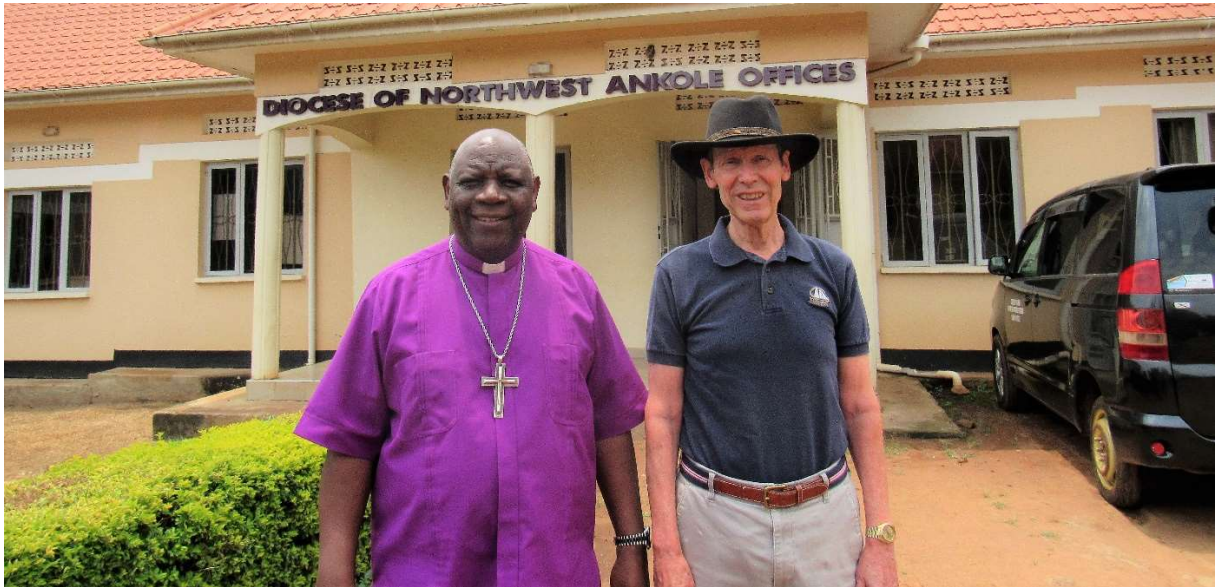
Women's Session at the Renewal Conference



With attendees on Friday at the end of the conference

Diocese of Northwest Ankole, (Anglican) Church of Uganda

- Preaching on Monday during morning devotions at St. Paul's Cathedral, for Bishop Amos Magezi and the diocesan staff of about 20 people. Afterwards our Executive Director met with Bishop Magezi, where they had a long discussion on a variety of topics.
- Visiting the Magezi plantation and having lunch with the Magezi family. Fred Magezi, no relation to Bishop Amos Magezi, is the Head of Laity of the Lutheran Church of Uganda and his son, Rev. Kuruka Amutuhaire, is a priest in the Diocese of Northwest Ankole, where he serves as the Coordinator of Youth Ministry.
- Being given a tour of the extensive diocesan properties by Rev. Kuruka
- Leading four retreats on 7 Lessons for Living the Spiritual Life for four different groups of lay leaders, February 28-March 3: Lay Readers on Tuesday, Mothers and Fathers Union leaders on Wednesday, Heads of Laity at the parish and diocesan level on Thursday, and Mission Coordinators and Community Health Empowerment (CHE) leaders on Friday
- Being a guest on the diocese's radio program on Friday evening



With Bishop Amos Magezi



Tuesday retreat for Lay Readers at St. Paul's Cathedral



Wednesday retreat for Mothers and Fathers Union leaders

The Marianne Foundation

- Visiting and receiving a tour from Justus Ahimbisibwe, Executive Director. This foundation which supports teen girls and young women, teaches them job skills such as tailoring/sewing, making hand bags and hair dressing. The foundation also provides a dormitory for the girls to live in, as many are refugees and some are single mothers. The Marianne Foundation operates a clothing store and hair salon, and we visited both. Moses Ahimbisibwe, who is chairman of the Education Committee of the Lutheran Church of Uganda Southwestern Deanery, manages the foundation (and takes no salary) and Rev. Kuruka Amutuhaire serves as chaplain for the girls.



Touring the Marianne Foundation's clothing shop

OUR PARTNERS IN AFRICA NEED OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The financial needs of our partners in Africa are great, as Uganda and Rwanda are two of the 20 poorest countries in the world. Below is a wish list of current financial needs. Would you or your congregation be willing to help?

Lutheran Church of Uganda

\$100 will pay the salary of a nurse at the Niagoby Medical Clinic for one month.

\$200 will buy a three-month supply of medicines at the clinic.

\$2,500 will pay for a student to attend the Lutheran seminary for a year.

Funds are needed to buy uniforms, lunch and Bibles for school children.

Funds are needed to support the Lutheran Lay Leaders Training program.

\$1,500 will buy a motorcycle for a pastor or vicar. At least three motorcycles are needed. Pastors and vicars serving rural congregations must walk long distances every week to visit parishioners and still are not able to reach all of them.

Anglican Diocese of Northwest Ankole, Uganda

\$90 per year will pay for school fees, scholastic materials, a uniform and school bag for a child in a rural school.

\$211 per year will pay for school fees, scholastic materials, a uniform and a school bag for a student in a rural secondary school. Funds also are needed to support the growing youth ministry of the diocese.

Reformed Lutheran Church of Rwanda

This year our highest priorities for funding for the Reformed Lutheran Church of Rwanda have been the purchase of Kinyarwanda language Bibles and funds for the Lay Leaders Training Program. Pastor Jean Claude Maniragaba, President of the RLCR, writes that funds are needed to purchase Kinyarwanda language Bibles for new believers, so they can read the Word of God in their own language. \$70 will pay for 10 Bibles.

The Lay Leaders Training Program is training men, women and youth in Biblical studies, and to be leaders in their congregations. The RLCR also is training Lutheran adults to be deacons and deaconesses. Thanks to generous donations, we have been able to provide funds to help with both of these needs but more funds are needed.

Pastor Jean Claude also is requesting funds to purchase land and to build church buildings. "Our RLCR needs to build the Church building for the Congregation of Rwempasha and the Congregation of Ntoma. And the church does not have funds to do this hard work. And the believers of these congregations are poor. We need God's grace."

The Marianne Foundation

Funds are needed to support all of the programs to train the young women with job skills.

One hundred percent of any donations to Lutheran Lay Renewal will go to the need designated by the donor or, if you prefer to work directly with a church in Africa, please contact our office and we will put you in touch with church leaders there.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Healing for Elaine Schomaker, Julie, Dan and Kathie Klueg
- For the Lord's protection over all doctors, nurses and other hospital workers, police officers, firefighters and all men and women in our armed forces
- For the Lord's blessings on our ministry in the U.S., Uganda and Rwanda, and for the financial resources that are needed for this ministry
- For wisdom and guidance for the LLRA Board of Directors, as we seek to grow and expand our ministry

Lutheran Lay Renewal of America is eligible to receive Choice Dollars Grant Funds from the Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars program. We are grateful to Thrivent Financial, and those individuals who designate their Choice Dollars to us, for their support of LLRA and its ministry!

LLRA is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization and depends on contributions from churches and individuals who have benefited from our ministry to help us continue to bring this ministry to more and more congregations all across America - and now also in Uganda and Rwanda!

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