



September 2008 Story
Expand Mission Work in Tanzania, Kenya,
Uganda Sudan, and Ethiopia

The eastern African countries of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia are home to some of the oldest Christian churches in the world. In the past, however, these nations have been victims of colonization (except for Ethiopia) which often left them stripped of their natural resources and dignity. When they were given their independence in the 1950's and 60's, the countries often were torn by civil wars as various tribal leaders vied for control. The people have suffered drought, famine, strife, and death at the hand of rebel leaders, and the resultant poverty that comes from years of turmoil. Yet God has not forgotten His children in east Africa. They are blessed with rich natural resources, beautiful scenery, unique plant and animal life, and friendly nations that want to help them develop better economies and become trade partners.

While each nation has some Christian (including Protestant, Catholic and non-denominational) presence -- Uganda, 84%; Ethiopia, 61%; Kenya, 78%; Tanzania, 30%; and Sudan, 5% -- they also are home to large Muslim populations and many others who worship their indigenous gods of nature. The nations are ripe for harvest. God has sent Christian leaders, often former refugees, to help those sitting in darkness to come into the light of His love for them in Jesus Christ.

As Lutheran Churches grow in these countries, they face a great need for training more indigenous leaders. As a result, Mission Training Centers (MTC) where LCMS missionaries train national leaders have been established throughout these lands. This grant for \$104,500 will expand the work within the national Lutheran Church bodies supplying needed resources and even more training centers so the work of training Christian leaders can be done while there is relative peace.