

SOUTH AFRICA MISSION—PASTOR JOHN MESSMANN
MISSION LEADER INSTITUTE PRAYER PARTNER REPORT
SPRING 2019

Thank you for partnering with me for Gospel progress in South Africa through your prayers this spring. The name of the work is Mission Leader Institute. Many St. Paul members have experienced our Mission Leader discipleship coaching process over the past 10 years. Churches in other countries have requested assistance with similar needs, adapted to their cultural context. You have helped make this work possible, as work now serves people in Texas, Brazil, Canada and now South Africa!



Mission Leader Institute (MLI) equips believers and congregations to engage open doors for the Gospel in daily life callings and the communities surrounding them. We launch simple and reproducible leadership multiplication for mission which can work in any context.

This most recent trip provided training for seminary students at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tswane (Pretoria), South Africa. This small seminary hosts students also from countries including Sudan, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as South Africa.



Near Durban on the East coast I taught Zulu Lay Preachers who work with a Pastor Peter Weber to reach 6 congregations.



My favorite Zulu congregation is led by a grandmother and her grandkids, hosted in a house in the township with no running water. A pastor comes once per month...the other Sundays Grandma reads from a book of sermons and leads the kids in singing.



The South African Director of Mission of the Lutheran Churches, Christoph Weber, works on behalf of the Mission from Bleckmarer, Germany. We met with Congolese refugees who fled the fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo, looking to establish congregations across South Africa (much like the South Sudanese have done in the US). These men in Estcourt, SA, lead several dozen refugees in mutual support and the Gospel. They were wanting to learn more of the Lutheran understanding of the Gospel, and so contacted Christoph for guidance.



The Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (LCSA) consists mostly of indigenous peoples, such as Zulu and Tswana. They have some pastors, but the pressing need for the Gospel has led them to raise up lay preachers across the country. There has been little or no training for these lay preachers. Bishop Modise Maragelo asked me to help assess their training needs and to launch their first-ever training during a workshop that was hosted at the Pretoria seminary.

The Lay Preachers provided their own transportation and took time away from their jobs to attend the workshop—but SOME OF YOU HELPED WITH THE COST OF THEIR LODGING AND MATERIALS—THANK YOU!





Most of the men speak English, the national language of South Africa. Between sessions they often sang worship choruses spontaneously, in beautiful harmony.

Although Apartheid ended officially in 1994, the residual effects of those terrible years continues. I spent a lot of time listening to Blacks and Whites tell how complicated their lives remain politically and socially—even in churches. God's grace is powerful—even amid deeply complex real life!



Our work in South Africa and Mozambique includes partnerships among the LCSA, the Lutheran Church of Brazil, and the Lutherische Kirchenmission from Bleckmarer, Germany. These partners and I are currently evaluating what next steps of Gospel progress can be taken. Whenever I go to a place such as South Africa, I give all the materials and tools to the people so that they can use them as they wish. Everything is Bible-based, culturally applicable and scalable for local context.

Your prayers and gifts helped make it possible for a number of South Africans to gather for worship and training. I thank God for you!