

Dear Christian Friends,

Thank you for your interest in the Lutheran Church in Liberia. The LBWs that you can share with our Liberian brothers and sisters in faith will enable them to unify their worship experience throughout the country while giving them a resource that will enrich their worship in many diverse ways.

In February 2011, I was in Liberia to train the pastors in the use of the LBW. They are very excited to get these hymnbooks into the hands of their congregants. Their African-rooted worship style is phenomenal already; the LBW will add a refreshing dimension to their experience by broadening their understanding of the global, ecumenical church and the tradition.

Many questions have been asked about how to participate in this venture. I apologize for the delay in answering. There have been so many inquiries (for which I am grateful) and now that the spring events in our congregation are all wrapped up and the slower summer schedule is in effect, I have time to answer.

Ship your LBWs to:

Rev. Dr. Mark J. Molldrem
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
311 West Mackie Street
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

How to ship them:

The cheapest way possible. There is no hurry. If they get here by September, that will be just fine. Judging from those who have shipped theirs via the post office, the cost is about \$10/box containing eight or ten books. That can add up when there are many books to ship. Unfortunately, that is a cost in doing missions. There has always been a cost in doing missions throughout the ages. Sometimes the cost was paid in blood. Fortunately, for us now it can be paid in money.

I am asking that you contribute \$1/book sent to help pay for the shipping to Liberia. Of course, that is in addition to your cost of shipping the books from you to me. I know this is a double whammy. If this creates an insurmountable obstacle for you, please call me and we can see what can be worked out. It really is important to get these LBWs to the Lutheran Church in Liberia!

Here are some ideas for fund-raising:

- 1) Youth sponsor a car wash (matching funds from a church account for evangelism or global missions)
- 2) Mission Offering at door after worship
- 3) Special hymn sing worship where people pay (donation or set price) to have their favorite hymn sung. If you did just one or two verses, then you could have many hymns sung throughout the service. If you have multiple services, have different sponsors for each service.
- 4) Partner with a neighboring congregation who will pay either the freight to me or the \$1/book to Liberia. This would not have to be an ELCA congregation. Go ecumenical!

- 5) Host an African Supper (a variety of cuisine from throughout Africa) and use ticket sales to provide the freight money.
- 6) Secure the DVD “Pray the Devil Back to Hell” (Google it; about the civil war in Liberia and Charles Taylor—very informative and inspiring) and have a showing with a free will offering for the shipping cost.
- 7) You have probably just come up with two or three other/better ideas that would work just great in your congregation and community...

Write check to:

First Lutheran Church
Memo: Liberia LBWs

Boxing the hymn books:

It would be most helpful if you boxed the hymn books (8-16/box max) and taped it securely. Use a sturdy box! In the cargo container, the boxes will be stacked boxes upon boxes upon boxes upon boxes. Cut box down to fit the hymn books rather than put in packing peanuts or paper. The cost of shipment overseas is by volume, not weight! So, every square inch does add up. This also makes for a better “building block” for the stacks of boxes in the container.

Please write the number of books clearly and large on the outside of each box that you send.

What else besides LBWs?

If you have any of the following supplemental LBW volumes available, they would be most graciously received by the pastors, deacons and evangelists:

- 1) Altar Book
- 2) Minister’s Desk Edition
- 3) Manual on the Liturgy
- 4) Occasional Services Book
- 5) Hymnal Companion to the LBW

Please call me at your earliest convenience if you have any questions or concerns about this:

1-920-885-4497 (O)
1-920-356-0441 (H)
1-920-296-5010 (C)

Again, thank you so much for your help in this mission project. You are making a gospel impact on the lives of many generations in Liberia.

Rev. Dr. Mark J. Mollidrem

(aka Mulbah Tokpa; at the close of my first visit, I was made an honorary chieftain and given this Kpella and Loma tribal name)