



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# Ministry in Mission Newsletter

2.4

April 2010



[Join Our Mailing List](#)

**Text: "LWR" TO: 40579 to  
donate \$10 to relief efforts on  
your cell phone bill.**



[Lutheran World Relief](#)

## Dear Friends,

The Synod Assembly offers the Board of Ministry in Mission, its work groups and task forces the best opportunity to showcase what we have to offer congregations. The pastors and congregational leaders will be gathering anxious to learn what resources are available and to learn from our workshops and displays. I thank you in advance for all you are doing to make the Assembly a place where great ministry is shared.

Keep in Touch,  
Pr. Mark Anderson



### In This Issue

Home Life

Immigration

### Upcoming Events

June 11-13, 2010  
Synod Assembly,  
Waverly

May 8, 2010  
9:00am Hunger Work  
Group via conference  
call

August 12, 2010  
9:30am Namibia  
Work Group  
&  
12:30pm Global  
Mission Work Group  
Meets

Sept 25, 2010

**Global Mission Work Group**

Web Page: ["Click" Here](#)

The work group met with Else serving as chair via "Skype." They worked out all the details for the Synod assembly but spent most of the time forming a committee to move forward with a companion synod relationship with the Lutheran Church in Hungary. Pr. Emily Horrell will serve as the chairperson of that committee.

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 12 at 12:30pm

Chairperson: [Else Schardt](#)

Board and Workgroups 9:30am

March 19, 2011  
Board & Workgroups  
11:00am & 12:30pm

### [Home Life Work Group](#)

Web page: "click" [Here](#)

Home Life hosted an event called "Spring Training" at Wartburg College with Keynote speaker Ms. Tammy Jones West, AIM from the North Carolina Synod.

This group also sponsored another "Swap Meet" where people could share their best ideas for youth and family ministry for the summer including VBS. The resources shared will be on the web site soon.

Chairperson: [Elayne Werges](#)

### [Hunger Work Group](#)

Web Page: "click" [Here](#)

The Hunger Work Group met April 10 to discuss their plans for workshops and displays at the Synod Assembly. Also discussed was the excellent news that 2009 saw the highest dollar contribution to the ELCA Hunger Appeal. As we look to next year we have some "interesting" ideas of how to reach the next goal of \$400,000!

Some members of the work group will be attending a Leadership gathering in Detroit on Sept 16-19.



Chairperson: Norbert Strasser

---

## Book Review: ENOUGH

Thurow, Roger and Scott Kilman. *Enough: Why the World's Poorest Starve In An Age Of Plenty*. New York: Public Affairs: 2009.

Thurow and Kilman are veteran reports for *The Wall Street Journal* (not exactly a left wing publication) who have compiled a lifetime for reporting on hunger issues into this very insightful, pragmatic book. In 2008 there were almost 1 billion undernourished people in the world. 25,000 people die every day from hunger and related diseases. This number is the equivalent of 60 jumbo jets crashing each day. Yet for decades the world has grown more than enough food to feed everyone. In addition, satellites can spot crop failures so that shortages can be avoided therefore, famine is preventable. They conclude that "When it occurs it represents civilization's collective failure." The common assumption is that hunger is caused by corrupt and/or ineffective governments. This helps us to rest easy with the idea that poverty is really the fault of the poor. But the reality is far more complex. In short, chronic every day hunger is a man-made catastrophe caused by people, institutions, and governments.

To begin, you gotta love being a Lutheran from Iowa. The history the United State's efforts to fight hunger has three giants. First, Herbert Hoover from West Brach, Iowa who organized private food-aid drives that fed millions in Europe after WW I. Second, Norman Borlaug was raised as a Lutheran in Cresco, Iowa and became the father of the Green Revolution which used fertilizer and hybrid seeds to improve farming methods in Mexico, India, and

Asia. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work. Third, Arthur Simon, a Lutheran Pastor who founded Bread for the World.

In the debate on how to fight hunger Thurow and Kilman are firmly in the Borlaug camp. Promoting the use of more chemicals and technology to increase the productivity of third world farmers. The grave concerns of environmentalists are dismissed by this book. The book also takes a dim view of conservative Christians once known as the "moral majority" who focus more what Christians are doing in the privacy of their own homes at the expense of giving attention to "these the least of my brethren." The authors point to some major factors in global hunger which will not be heard well here in Iowa. First, the United States policy that all food aid must be food purchased from American farmers. This means that in hungry nations the crop prices are depressed by free commodities being imported from the US. The book describes African farmers dumping their grain unable to sell it while trucks drive by with US grain. When local farmers lose their farms because of food aid it creates more hunger and dependency. The authors also point to farm subsidies in the US and the sale of corn to make biofuel as significant contributions to global hunger.

The last third of the book celebrates some current efforts to fight hunger including the work of Bono, Warren Buffet and the Gates Foundation, the UN, the Food Resource Bank and the establishment of an Ethiopian Board of Trade and the production of orange sweet potatoes which are rich in vitamin A and prevents "river blindness" and other hunger related diseases. Much of this portion of the book is similar to the publication by Senator's Bob Dole and George McGovern, End Hunger Now, in that it points specifically to providing free nutritious meals to children at school as the key to ending global hunger. The meals would create a stable market at a fair price for local farmers, combat disease among children and encourage parents to send their kids to school. The last chapter lays out 10 specific things

which must happen in order to end hunger.

This is an excellent and inexpensive 300 page book available at Amazon for under \$12.00 or I'll loan you my copy.

-Mark Anderson

---

Here, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might Deut 6:4-5