

NEWS FROM RWANDA, January 2016
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God's work. Our hands.

This February marks the two year anniversary of my call to serve with the Young Adults in Global Mission program in partnership with the Lutheran Church of Rwanda. In my work establishing and building up the YAGM program here, I have worked closely with Bishop Mugabo of the LCR and other leaders in the Lutheran community. I often feel that we are learning to dance together as we seek to understand one another and discern what is possible in mission partnership. I have been gratefully amazed to see what arises from shared gifts and interests when we are relationship together. This past year, YAGMs with an interest in music and worship helped the LCR to update a Kinyarwanda hymnal, and this in turn led to an ongoing effort to teach congregations new hymnody as well as Lutheran liturgy. YAGMs also helped pilot a vacation bible school day camp program for Christian education at one of the local parishes, and we hope to introduce this model in other congregations of the LCR.

Over the past two years, I have been privileged to begin to understand the unique history, strengths and challenges of the Lutheran Church in Rwanda. Education is a particularly pressing concern for the LCR and I was recently asked to assume responsibility for a bible training school for evangelists and pastors. To date, such training has been handicapped by many dynamics, including a lack of resources coupled with low levels of primary and secondary school education among those called to serve the church. Training of lay leaders and pastors is an issue near and dear to my heart, and I am particularly interested in helping the LCR strengthen and affirm its own Lutheran identity in a context where Pentecostalism and prosperity gospel teachings are dominant influences.

Challenges abound but as St. Paul reminds us, God's grace is sufficient. I see this grace in the sheer fact of the LCR's emergence from the ruins of genocide 21 years ago, in the joy and faithfulness of the Lutheran community in Rwanda, and in the stories the YAGM's tell of their life amidst God's people here in this place. As this year unfolds, I look forward to sharing more about these things. And as always, I am grateful for your partnership in mission in Rwanda!

In Christ's peace,
Kate

The photo on the right shows my participation in the ordination of a missionary from Tanzania who has been serving the Kigali Lutheran Parish. Renewed partnership between Lutherans in Rwanda and Tanzania may open up new possibilities for learning and ministry.



Traditional Rwandan dancing during worship in Kigali.

Follow the 2015 YAGM Rwanda team on Facebook at **YAGM Rwanda**, and at:

Chad Nelsen in Cyanguu:

www.ramblingsfromrwanda.wordpress.com

Savanna Sullivan in Rwamagana:

www.savyagm.blogspot.com

Stephanie Engel in Kibungo:

www.rollickinginrwanda.wordpress.com

Laura Hermanns in Butare:

www.peaceonourwings.wordpress.com

Ben Warner in Rukira:

www.beninrwanda.blogspot.com

