“And he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.’”

MARK 16: 15

Hand in Hand
Guide for Covenant Sponsors

“Thank you for making a world of difference. Every gift for an ELCA missionary changes lives around the world. This guide shows how you can take your gifts further and make a direct connection with a missionary serving on your behalf through a covenant relationship of mutual prayer, communication and financial gifts.”

Pastor Lanny Westphal
DIRECTOR, MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Every two years, ELCA missionaries return for a two-month home assignment. During this time, missionaries make an effort to accept invitations from covenant sponsors. Visit arrangements and expense reimbursement are handled between the covenant sponsor and the missionary.

Sponsors are responsible for covering the missionaries’ lodging, meals and domestic travel expenses. Please remember expense reimbursements are in addition to your covenant financial commitment.

Since missionaries receive salary and other support through the ELCA, gifts to support them should be given through ELCA Missionary Sponsorship, except for home visit expense reimbursements and small personal gifts as allowed by the IRS. Contact us for guidelines.

Handy Resources
To fully engage and enjoy your missionary sponsorship, view all the handy resources at www.ELCA.org/handyresources for stories and updates about global mission, ministries and missionaries.

Global Impact
Each year, more than 240 missionaries serving in 48 countries work together with global neighbors: teaching, preaching, healing, peacemaking, building and growing.

In Argentina
Pastor José D. Rodríguez and Kathryn Baker train future pastors at the Protestant seminary and coordinate events for the Lutheran church.

In the Central African Republic
Tatiana Smith works to bring elementary schools to villages that previously had none and to create Sunday school curricula.

In Slovakia
Pastor Martin Schmidt and his husband, Jeremy Blyth, coordinate a group of Young Adults in Global Mission to bring hope and healing after years of communism.

In Japan
Pastor Erik and Tauna Rohr serve the congregation of Tokyo Lutheran Church. In addition to Erik’s pastoral duties, they both teach English classes and build relationships in the community.

In Kenya
Pastor Michael Franke and Leslie Weid Franke work with their congregation’s HIV and AIDS program, as well as the nursery, knitting and sewing schools.

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800-638-3522, ext. 2657 | www.ELCA.org/missionarysponsorship | missionarysponsorship@ELCA.org

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Chicago, Illinois 60631-4101
missionarysponsorship@ELCA.org
www.ELCA.org/missionarysponsorship
800-638-3522, ext. 2657
Your Covenant Relationship

COMMUNICATION

Many missionaries use the Internet to update friends, family and church sponsors through email or posts to a blog or website. Those with limited access to the Internet rely on print communication. Missionaries are encouraged to communicate with their covenant sponsors at least three times a year. Covenant sponsors are encouraged to remember their missionaries on Christmas, Easter, birthdays and other special days.

Congregations and organization sponsors are encouraged to relate with their missionary and companion church in fun and creative ways. Here are some ideas to consider:

- Make connections in worship by incorporating hymns, sermons or sanctuary decorations.
- Get children involved through children’s sermons or school programs.
- Hold an event or give gifts at the missionary’s home, such as a potluck, service project, or special day.
- Encourage mission-related scholarships, mission vetting, and support for sending workers to the mission field.

PHOTO

800-638-3522, ext. 2657

www.ELCA.org/missionarysponsorship

Your gifts make it possible for over 5,000 ELCA missionaries to work hand-in-hand with their congregations to strengthen lives, preserve the environment, bring healing to broken lives, ease unjust punishment, promote peace. Your support makes the possible.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together. Financial covenant commitments allow ELCA missionaries to do God’s work around the world.

Congregations and other group sponsors meet their financial covenant commitment from their budget, with-endowment funds or through special fundraising.

- Give through ELCA Missionary Sponsorship, envelopes in the pews, bulletins and mailings.
- As is customary in many congregations in Africa, a small offering is made at the missionary’s home.
- Remember fundraising fundraiser silent auction, bake sale, one-night-only at special events, or garage sale.
- Encourage members to celebrate birthdays or other special events with gifts to ELCA Good Gifts for ELCA Missionary Sponsorship.

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