

July 18, 2016

Dear Pastor / Council President:

On behalf of the Florida Bahamas Synod Global Mission Committee I want to thank you for being one of the mission-minded congregations that participated in last year's Global Mission Sunday with a significant contribution to our Special Projects Fund. We are very grateful to all the congregations who sent in a total of \$12,834. Some of this money was used this year to:

- Support ELCA Missionary Pr. Kevin Jacobson in his work in Surinam, one of our companion churches
- Assist with sending 5 Florida-Bahamas Synod delegates to Region 9 Network training in Atlanta
- Pay for the first year of a 3-year \$15,000 farm project - "La Finca" in Cuba – another of our companion churches
- Support Rebecca Williams and Ben Smith – Young Adult in Global Mission (YAGM) volunteers from our synod for their year abroad in England and Madagascar, respectively

Please share this information with your congregation so they understand how grateful we are for their support. We are hoping we can count on your participation in this year's Global Mission Sunday Appeal to be observed on October 2nd. There will be resources listed on the Synod's website providing ideas for congregations to incorporate Global Mission into worship and offerings. This year we are hoping to raise money for a few specific projects – one or more of which may appeal to different groups or organizations in your congregation.

- Haiti – we are trying to raise \$5000 for a vehicle maintenance fund for the Eglise Lutherienne d'Haiti.
- Cuba – "La Finca" – as mentioned above, we are committed to a 3-year \$15,000 project to make the farm profitable. The first installment has been paid and we are trying to raise another \$5000 for next year.
- Surinam – we rejoice with our brothers and sisters in Surinam as they celebrate the ordination of Danielle Dokmann at the end of August. The parsonage she will be living in needs major renovation and painting and we are trying to raise \$5000 to help with that project.

I'd like to share a little more about the two Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGMs) from our Synod – Rebecca Williams and Ben Smith. Becca will be spending a year in England and Ben is going to Madagascar. They each need to raise \$4000 for their year abroad. We welcome and encourage congregational youth groups or Sunday Schools to "adopt" Becca or Ben and send donations to help them reach their goals. More information about them and a link to their blogs can be found on the Synod website.

I am pleased to be able to continue to serve the Synod and Bishop Schaefer in the capacity of Global Mission Committee Chair. I give thanks for you and the people of your congregation as they witness to the joy of serving, learning, and sharing in Christ's love for all creation, and especially with our brothers and sisters in our companion churches. If you would like a presentation about our companion church relationships, or more information about mission trips to these countries – please contact me soon so we can arrange something for the fall or winter.

Sharing the Spirit – PJ May, Global Mission Committee Chair

