

**News from the Langdjis--March 2018
Yaounde, Cameroon**

We are coming to visit!



2018 is a year when our family will visit the United States. We hope to see many of you during that time. Since we have a child in school, our travels correspond with the long vacation. In fact, in his system they only get a 7 week break, however we are taking him out a bit early so we have time both for vacation as a family and for work visits and meetings.

If you are one of our sponsoring congregations, please let us know if you might be interested in seeing us. We have over 40 sponsoring congregations, so please realize that we can't see everyone and we especially have to make use of weekday events or already scheduled gatherings/activities and not just Sunday mornings. You also are quite spread out, with the majority in those little tiny states of North Dakota and South Dakota. (Please note my sarcasm.) We will do our best to schedule as many visits as possible.

During our time in the US we also attend the Summer Missionary Conference in the Chicago area, a meeting of former CAR and Cameroon missionaries and the CAR Network meeting which brings us together with other Lutheran groups who are in relationship with the ELC-CAR. We hope to spend a week at Holden Village for retreat and renewal and reunion with old friends.

So please send me an email as soon as possible if your congregation would like to see us. (anne.langdji@elca.org) We ask that you participate in our transport

costs which we try to divide equally among all rather than making the most distant pay more. I will try to estimate that amount when I am able to figure out an itinerary for our time in the US.

Farming in the Central African Republic

During a conflict the people affected have little or no time to grow crops or take care of those they have already planted because they are in constant movement and may only have time to take care of their daily food needs. This is one reason why after a conflict there is usually famine with associated problems such as malnutrition and disease.

The Central African Republic (CAR) has just gone through four years of armed conflict. In fact, it is not all over yet. During and after the crisis the partners of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the CAR (ELC-CAR) have provided needed support. One of the areas that was seriously affected by the conflict is agriculture. Unfortunately, this is the area on which over 90% of the population of the country depends and so it made lots of sense for the ELC-CAR to focus on rebuilding this sector so important to the lives of the people.

With support from ELCA World Hunger, the Food Crop Production and Environmental Protection program of the ELC-CAR has been reaching out and looking to the future of this sector.

After ELCA International Disaster Response funds supported the distribution of farming tools and seeds which helped to rebuild the agriculture sector of some affected communities in the western part of the country, the program is now looking at adding value to some of the produce, particularly peanuts or groundnuts.



Peanuts produced by farmer groups in the region are being bought and will be processed

into peanut oil for consumption and commercialization. This an activity with high potential because the program is currently supporting over 100 farmer groups of a minimum of 7 members each and given that each group is capable of producing a minimum of 5 tons of peanuts per year, the program should be self-supporting in the very near future.



The program has also established a Farmer Field School (FFS) to train farmers in improved farming techniques, improved animal farming techniques, using new organic fertilizers and new varieties of seeds.

The program staff is regularly in the communities and has been able to identify families with malnourished children and have been working with these families and health facilities to provide needed support to the children. *“This project helped me understand that my son is always sick because he does not eat well. In the past we fed him what all of us eat, but now I know that I have to feed him other types of food such as fruits and eggs”*, a mother said during a meeting with the group. *“We now know that we have to support our wives so they eat well when they are pregnant and also take good care of our children”*, a man said during the same meeting.

The road to recovery after conflict is long but small concrete actions like these bring needed light into the lives of affected people.

Group of beneficiaries and program staff in the Central African Republic



A correction to our last newsletter in January. The director of the Esther Bacon School of Midwifery and Nursing was misidentified in a photo. Her name is Willimai Weetol-Geninyan. Sorry for the mistake.

Check out this link for more ELCA resources about our work as a global church:

www.ELCA.org/resources/globalchurch

And if you want to write to us by e-mail: anne.langdji@elca.org

Anne is on Facebook where she shares personal news and photos (and points-of-view) but also lots of pictures and news from our work and visits: Anne Ruedisili Langdji

We are grateful for how you walk alongside us as we seek to do God's work in this place. Thanks for your prayers, support and assistance.

Peace, Willie, Anne and Micah Langdji