

# LCMS Mission Focus

SOUTH AFRICA  
and  
BOTSWANA

**S**ue Hasselbring, former volunteer missionary in Botswana, who worked with a literacy and Bible-teaching project among people at cattleposts, writes about a baptism in Botswana, “A bowl of water stood on an overturned grain mortar. Sitting on mats on the sand in the shade of a tree, we sang, prayed and heard God’s Word. Those who were to be baptized were called forward. The pastor made the sign of the cross on the forehead and over the heart of each person, signifying that they had been redeemed by Christ. One by one they knelt in front of the bowl of water and were baptized.”

The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod began work in South Africa in 1981. The Lutheran Church of Southern Africa (LCSA), a black Lutheran Synod, became a partner church in 1995. The Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (FELSISA), a white Lutheran Synod, is also a partner. The LCSA operates the seminary in Pretoria and Theological Education by Extension (TEE) centers to train leaders. The LCSA also operates a secondary school, a vocational training agricultural-technical high school and youth camp at Themba Center, and the Lutheran Development Association in Botswana.

One of the major challenges in this area is the prevalence of AIDS. Caring for AIDS patients in their last months of life can be dangerous. The government has held courses to train those caring for AIDS patients, but many have not had access to this training. The mission team is organizing a home-based care workshop to train caregivers and, hopefully, to help prevent the spread of AIDS.

About 70 percent of South Africans are Christian. About 18 percent practice traditional religions, and many practice a blend of Christian religions and traditional/folk religions.



### Involvement Ideas

- Pray for safety for LCMS missionaries in Botswana and South Africa.
- Give to support LCMS mission work in Botswana and South Africa.



LCMS WORLD MISSION  
The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod  
1333 S. Kirkwood Road  
St. Louis, MO 63122-7295  
1-800-433-3954  
www.lcmsworldmission.org

Date 5/03

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