

# Global Vision



A newsletter for friends of the Global Mission Institute, Luther Seminary

Vol. 15, No. 2, Easter 2005

## Global Wisdom Luther Seminary President Retires

By Shelley Cunningham

Eighteen years ago, when David L. Tiede became the president of Luther Seminary, there were different ideas of how mission and world Christianity affected the church. As he prepares to retire from the office of president on June 30, Tiede seemed pleased that the seminary's understanding has grown with the times.

"We came to understand that the growing Christian movements in the 2/3 world are really revelations of what God is doing – and we couldn't really figure out how to educate leaders for Christian communities in North America without paying considerable attention to what was happening there," he said. "The GMI became a conduit of conversation about mission at Luther Seminary. If I did anything, I listened to the wisdom of those people who funded and led the GMI."

In typical modest Lutheran fashion, Tiede downplays his role in how the GMI – and the influence of the global church – have shaped the seminary during his tenure. "If I did anything, it was that I followed the Spirit – and helped the school stay with it," he said. "It was hard to stay with it sometimes – wasn't missions the stuff of the past? I would tease the missionaries – call them 'you troublers of Israel' – but it was in good humor. We had lots of them here, in major leadership roles, who had taught, studied, and were deeply embedded in non-North American contexts. My job was to keep them close to the center of what we were trying to do. Our present faculty has a lot of international experience, and I think it benefits us in all areas."

But it wasn't just the seminary that was changed in the process. It was its president as well. Tiede acknowledges that his outlook on the ways God works has been affected by his exposure to mission conversation and study.

"The work of [missiologist] Andrew Walls has been very



*The Luther Seminary international student community said farewell and thank you to President Tiede (center) in late May.*

important to me personally. It's changed the way I think about Christian history, not as a history of Western thought, but as a history of individual Christian communities, around the world. And in turn, that's changed the way I read the New

**See TIEDE, page 5**

### Missionary Professor Named President

The Luther Seminary Board of Directors and Foundation Board of Trustees voted unanimously May 2 to name Dr. Richard H. Bliese president-elect. Bliese currently serves as the Seminary's dean of academic affairs and as an associate professor of missions. He will assume the office of the president on July 1, 2005.

"The Search Committee was impressed with Dr. Bliese's experience and credentials," said Dr. Susan Jenkins, chair of Luther Seminary's Board of Directors.

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### The GMI Mission:

The Global Mission Institute provides critical support to Luther Seminary in its task of developing global mission leaders, partnering with the church in fulfillment of the great commission.

## Director's Corner

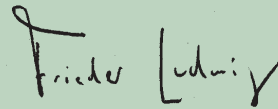
### ALMC Underscores Challenges, Possibility in 'Migrating Mission'

In a recent article published in the International Bulletin of Missionary Research, Jehu H. Hanciles, a Sierra Leonean Professor of Mission, reminds us that "Christianity is a migratory religion, and migration movements have been a functional element in its expansion." It is important to remember this in today's context in the age of migration.

During recent decades, the pattern of immigration has significantly changed in the United States. The immigrant boats have ceased to spill European Lutherans who need pastoral guidance on the shores. The new immigrants hail from other parts of the world than Europe and therefore bring with them resources as well as challenges vastly different from those of the still dominant white, Euro-Americans. In Minnesota, the number of African immigrants grew in the 1990s by 620.7 per cent! Especially in view of the fact that Africa is the area that experiences the "fastest church growth of any region of the world" and demonstrates the dramatic southward shift in the gravity of Christianity, there can be little doubt that the dynamics of Christianity in Minnesota have been significantly affected. We live now at a time when the church is multicultural. Probably more than at any time in history, the church looks like the great multitude described in the Book of Revelation -- a multitude from every tribe and nation.

The Annual Lutheran Mission Conference, held at Luther Seminary in March, focused on the theme "Migrating Mission." It was a rich and interesting conference. In his fascinating keynote address, Prof. Richard Lubawa pointed out that sometimes there still may be prejudices or paternalistic attitudes among some Western Christians, but that real partnership requires respect, trust and freedom to work for the common good. Luther Seminary's international students and our international guests made a tremendous contribution. In the workshops we learned about immigrant churches, multiracial congregations, mission at our doorsteps and about many other aspect of God's mission in the world today. The choir and music added to the multi-cultural atmosphere.

At this conference, there had been glimpses of the church as an international world-wide community of faith. In their history, Lutheran churches have sometimes tended to loose sight of this dimension, but Martin Luther himself was well aware of its importance. In his Small Catechism, in the explanation of the third article, he directly relates the 'I' of the confessing person to the Church Universal: "The Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified me and preserved me in true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth and preserves its union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith."



## Global Vision

Vol. 15, No. 2, Easter 2005

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### BLIESE, from page 1



"He has served in parish ministry in Germany, Zaire, and the United States. During his time as academic dean at Luther Seminary, Dr. Bliese has shown himself to be an energetic and dedicated worker, committed to Luther Seminary's mission to prepare leaders for the church. He understands the importance of the connection between Luther Seminary and the ELCA, and that the seminary's mission with the ELCA is to serve Christ's church in the world. We are excited that Dr. Bliese will be able to further the mission, work, and growth of the seminary."

Bliese is well-known to the GMI community. "The fact that the new president has specialized in missions and mission studies signals Luther Seminary's missionary commitment," GMI Director Frieder Ludwig said. "We are looking forward to the seminary's continued support."

"I feel both excited and honored to be at Luther Seminary at this time in its history," said Bliese. "The seminary is healthy, rich in human resources and postured for growth. The ELCA needs more and better-prepared leaders for an apostolic age of mission in a world of many cultures and religions. This is key to Lutheran congregational renewal in North America. We are ready to move into this promising future."

# GMI Support Gives LILAP Broader Reach

By Shelley Cunningham

For more than two decades, the Lutheran International Library Assistance Project (LILAP) has given 'retired' theological texts a home on far-away shelves. But as church budgets have gotten tighter, its funding has limited its impact.

Now, as part of its focus on reaching the international community beyond Luther Seminary's campus, the Global Mission Institute has pledged \$10,000 per year for LILAP, approximately one-third of LILAP's total budget.

LILAP ships used academic, theological books to institutions worldwide that train clergy and lay leaders. Over the past three years, more than 36,000 donated books have been sent abroad.

Not surprisingly, LILAP's biggest expense is postage. The average cost is about \$1 per pound, or 84 cents a book. "It doesn't sound like a lot, but if you send a box with 1,000 books, that's \$840 in postage," LILAP coordinator Marianna Forde said.

Forde sees LILAP's work as a natural fit for GMI's outreach focus: "Our mission is to help seminaries and bible schools in the developing world build core theological libraries."

Yet even schools that have more financial resources don't always have access to the books they need. "There just aren't theological bookstores in most of the countries we serve," she said. "The need is there, but there's no place to supply it."

To make the best use of the resources and space available, LILAP staff tries to match the books they send with a particular need. The LILAP stacks are sorted by topic: counseling, church history, systematic theology, biblical commentary, and others. Forde has developed online relationships with librarians at seminaries around the world who are eager to supplement their collections. Missionaries who are in Minnesota on furlough also come in to select books they need. And, members of Luther Seminary's community are taking greater advantage of the resources there.

When new students arrive at seminary, LILAP is one of the stops on their campus tour. While American students are interested in its work, Forde says, it's the international students who linger. "They'll ask, 'Can you send books to my seminary? Can I ask my friends at home what they need?'" Many of the students have come to hand-pick books from the LILAP stacks, and a number of them still e-mail requests and updates even after they've returned home.

But LILAP's gift of new life to old books isn't just beneficial to the recipients. Forde is touched by how grateful book donors are.



Forde

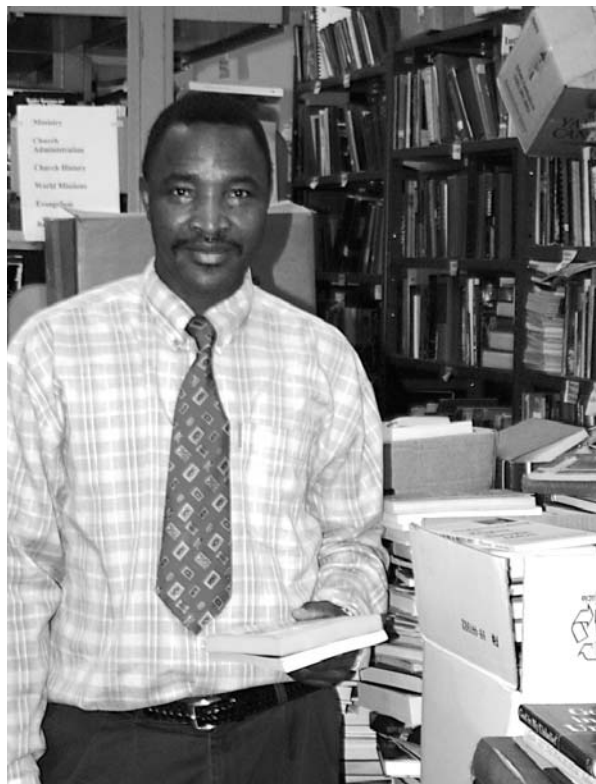
So many of our donors say, "Thank you for having a place where I can send my books instead of Goodwill or the dump. For retired pastors or professors, these books are their friends. They are so thankful that someone else will be able to use them and love them."

The GMI's partnership with LILAP has taken on vital importance due to cuts in LILAP's funding sources. "We didn't know if we'd have to close the doors for awhile. But local churches and donors have helped keep things going for now."

Forde feels confident the partnership with the GMI will bear fruit as well.

"LILAP has been around for about 20 years. It won't just go under. Every little bit helps us get the books where they'll do the most good."

*A gift to the GMI helps support the work of LILAP. Visit [www.luthersem.edu/gmi](http://www.luthersem.edu/gmi) for more information on supporting the GMI. For more information on donating books to LILAP, call Marianna Forde at 651-641-3251. LILAP's offices are located in the lower level of Gullixson Hall, but office hours are limited.*



*LILAP student assistant Sekenwa Briska of Nigeria helps gather materials from the LILAP stacks for a new shipment. Briska is one of several Luther Seminary international students who have collected books to send to seminaries back home.*

## International Student Profile

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### Yu Zhao

Imagine growing up as a Christian in a culture where the church was forbidden to assemble. Then imagine the excitement within the church when the law changed and congregations could once again worship together. Yu Zhao was a teenage boy in 1979 when the Christian church reopened in China, and this dynamic change defined his world. At the time, he was one of only a few Christian youth in his town, and his pastor took immediate interest in his future.

"My pastor saw me in church and his eyes lit up," Zhao said. His readiness to follow had been growing, even as the pastor approached him. "After the Christian Church reopened I thought, 'I am a Christian; so if God calls me, then I should do something for God on behalf of the faith.'" His pastor excitedly recruited him: "You should go to seminary and after that you will be a pastor too!" Was this God's call? Zhao remembers being cautious. "I said, 'Wait a minute, I need to think about this.' I just wanted to be a Christian ... but to become a pastor, that seemed like a strange dream!"

After his baptism at age sixteen Zhao seriously considered God's call, and the strange dream took shape to become reality. First, he had a vision in which he saw something like a glowing coal of fire. Zhao asked, "Are you calling me, Lord? If so, let me feel peaceful inside." He felt peace, and quickly took and passed the seminary entrance examinations. The visions returned three more times as he questioned the call during a long wait for acceptance to seminary. Then one night he heard God's voice clearly telling him, "You did! You got admitted." After the voice repeated itself a third time he thought, "This is the real thing!" Zhao later learned that his acceptance letter had disappeared in the mail somewhere between the seminary in Nanjing and his home in rural Tieling. Instead, he said, God personally called him to seminary.

Zhao began studying systematic theology as an undergraduate at Union Theological Seminary in Nanjing in 1983. He finished divinity school in 1990 and started work as a pastor at St. Paul Christian Church in Nanjing. Zhao was promoted to senior pastor in 1995. Four years later he accepted a call to serve on the Jaingsu provincial council, and in 2002 was selected to study abroad. "I had pastored a church for many years, and I needed a sabbatical to deepen my ministry," he said. Zhao ultimately chose Luther Seminary because it is the biggest seminary in the ELCA and "most importantly, Luther admitted me and provided me with a scholarship!"

Zhao speaks with pride and longing about St. Paul Church, his home parish of 3,000 members in Nanjing. He describes the dedication and piety of many in the congregation: "Most Christians there are elderly people, so they wake up early on

Sunday with a lot of work to do. They take care of children and grandchildren, cook for the family, and go to market. The first of three Sunday services each week begins at 6:30 am. (There are also two on Saturday.) Many come from far away, and awaken at three or four o'clock in the morning to travel to church. Then after the service they say, 'No, if we came this far we should listen more; we should come to two services.' They really cherish God's word, and I miss that."

Though Zhao came to Luther Seminary to study systematic theology, he changed focus to study pastoral care after perusing the academic catalog. "When I read the curriculum I said, 'Wow! Pastoral care? All this time I was a pastor and here, now, was a new word and a whole new meaning to me.'"

Among many other surprises awaiting Zhao at Luther was the open campus architecture. "Colleges and seminaries in China are closed communities with walls around them. If you want in, you will go through a gate," he said. "But here at Luther you can access everything, so everywhere is open."

That spirit of openness continues to surprise, challenge, and ultimately delight him as he discovers it crossing the broad curriculum into Luther's classroom experience.

"When I started my first class here it was very casual: class opened just like a dialogue, and that astonished me." He remembers his surprise: "The teacher didn't give a lecture, but asked students to express their opinions. I was not used to it!"

Zhao hopes to take this spirit of openness and participation from Luther back to his classroom or parish in China. He will complete his Ph.D. in Spring of 2007.

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## TIEDE, from page 1

Testament.”

His role as seminary president has led him abroad, including a visit to China this spring to speak to a gathering of seminaries and theological schools. That visit, he said, reinforced in his mind the important role Luther Seminary plays as one of the premiere schools for developing church leaders. “It wasn’t me they were interested in, it was the way they could follow what Luther Seminary does in leadership education, not just theological education. They see us as vitally important to the system and the future of the global church.”

It’s an idea that began to germinate when he attended the Lutheran World Federation meeting in Brazil in 1990. “I saw classmates of mine who were serving overseas; former students of mine who came up to me and said how much their seminary education meant to them. I have been repeatedly humbled by realizing how significant this

institution is to churches all over the world. The Christian community around the world looks to this place with the expectation that we will be leading the conversation. We owe these people something!”

“There was no idea, when I started in 1987, that in the next 18 years we would come to recognize the decline of Christendom and the increase of world Christianity. Luther Seminary is positioned in the middle. Our goal is to be nimble enough to get onto what God *is* doing instead of what God *was* doing. To do that, we need people and institutions that can help us sense the future of the church and what Luther Seminary’s place is in it globally. That’s why we need GMI.”

And that’s why the GMI – and Luther Seminary, and the church at large – needs leaders with vision and faithful hearts like David Tiede.

*For more information about President Tiede’s retirement and his tenure at Luther Seminary, visit [www.luthersem.edu/story](http://www.luthersem.edu/story) to read the latest issue of *The Luther Seminary Story*.*

## WHERE IN THE WORLD ...

*We are sad to say goodbye to many of our international students or others who are returning to their home countries, but we wish them the best as they continue important ministries:*

**Peter Bartimawus** hopes to teach and promote healthy Christian-Muslim relationships through the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN).

**Sekenwa Briska** will also return to work with the LCCN, perhaps teaching and/or serving as a pastor.

**Joseph Bvumbwe** has already returned to Malawi, where he serves as Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi.

**Christie Bandlamudi** hopes to serve in youth and family ministry for a year in the U.S. before returning to India.

**Masresha Chufa** will return to the Mekana Yesus Seminary in Ethiopia to teach Arabic, Islamic Studies and Theology.

**Peder Dahl** will finish one more year of seminary study in Norway and then hopes to serve as a pastor.

**Tomas Gulán** will be teaching systematics at the Martin Bible School in Slovakia while finishing his Ph.D. work through the seminary in Bratislava.

**Kristin Johannesdottir** and **Sigurdur Sigurdsson** will return to Iceland where Sigurdur will again be a parish pastor and Kristin will return to teaching music to 4th-7th graders and serve as an organist.

**Fr. John Kilimani** plans to return to teaching at a seminary in Uganda.

**Themba Mkhabela** will be serving a congregation in the Virgin Islands following graduation from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary this spring.

**Peter Ndungu** plans to serve an international congregation as well as four other churches he helped to start in Kenya. He also hopes to begin training programs for community leadership.

**Victor Padmore** will serve as a chaplain at a church hospital as well as being a parish pastor in Liberia. He is initiating a new project building stronger families and educating against domestic violence.

**Teck Chong Yap** will continue his musical studies elsewhere in the U.S. before returning to Malaysia.

*U.S. students continue to serve and learn in international sites. We also say Godspeed to:*

**Brian Konkol**, who served his internship year in Guyana, has completed his master of divinity studies and has been assigned for first call in Guyana through the Division for Global Mission.

**Amy Lindquist** will study and work at the Mexican Indigenous University Center in Altacomulco, Mexico, as part of a year of internship as an ELCA deaconess.

**Mark and Leslie Williamson** will go to Mexico, where Leslie will serve at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Mexico City for her internship. Mark has been awarded the 2005 Preaching Fellowship, and will preach and study in Mexico and Costa Rica.

## GMI Member Profile

# Lois Setterholm

Not everyone who supports the Global Mission Institute knows what they're getting into.

Lois Setterholm literally wandered into a GMI gathering one Friday afternoon. The International Festival was beginning in the Campus Center Narthex. Lois was visiting the bookstore in the lower level. "When I came up the stairs," she said, "there was a party going on! There were all these flags and people in their native dress. It looked like such fun. I ended up staying for the dinner. It was delightful."

That evening, she made a connection with a number of international students. And, she became a fan of the GMI.

For Lois, the GMI was just another example of the wealth of resources available at Luther Seminary. She has been a long-time participant in the Lay School of Theology. In fact, one of the primary reasons she learned to drive after her husband died was so she could come to classes and lectures at the seminary.

"It's like being a kid in a candy store," she said. "There are so many interesting things happening there."

Lois's commitment to global mission is life-long. As a little girl in northwestern Pennsylvania, she went to Junior Mission Band gatherings each month. "I learned more about other countries there than I did in geography class," she said. "It was much more interestingly presented. I often wondered what it would be like to grow up not knowing Jesus."

After graduating from high school, she set out on a mission excursion of her own – to come to school at the Lutheran Bible Institute in the Twin Cities. "My father had just died and I was the oldest of five children. There was no way I could afford to go to college, but I wanted a service-oriented vocation," she said. "Then our confirmation pastor – who had moved to Minneapolis – encouraged my friend, Marty, and me to come to tuition-free LBI, where I could work for my board and live inexpensively in the dorm. So our adventure began."

At LBI, Lois met Paul Setterholm. They shared a mutual faith in Christ and a desire to serve him. They fell in love and, two-and-a-half years later, got married. Paul eventually ended up at Augustana Theological Seminary in Rock Island, Ill.

Though they were both interested in mission work, they expected that after Paul graduated from seminary, they would



*A wall hanging in Lois Setterholm's living room reminds her of the time she and her husband Paul spent as missionaries in Japan. A gift from by the Rev. Hindemori Fukumoto, the last pastor they worked with in Japan, it quotes I Cor. 13: 13: "And now, faith, hope and love abide."*

end up in a parish. "Even the few things we'd buy for our home were things we intended to use in a parsonage," she said.

One morning, some of the seminary wives got together for coffee. The conversation turned to learning other languages as part of a foreign mission call. Lois remembered that her high school Latin and French courses had been her favorite subjects. That same day, Paul saw a notice on the seminary bulletin board that requested five new pastors for Japan and immediately

thought, *am I one of the five?* "Our first steps toward Japan were taken that day," she said.

The Setterholms served in Japan for 23 years, raising four children and helping start and support congregations in both urban and rural settings. Still, she says their family received as much as they gave to the community.

"We had a young girl who helped us around the house. I still remember the first time she took baby Keith from my arms to change his diaper. It was such a funny feeling! But Akemi san loved our children. I really think she would have given her life for our kids. I realize now just how very young she was. And yet, in many ways she knew more about life than I did, for she had suffered in the war and lost both parents. There was so much I learned from her."

*How much we can learn from one another.* That's a theme that carries to the Luther Seminary international students she has come to know and welcome into her own home, and it's one reason she continues to support the GMI with her money and prayers.

"They have such vibrant stories and things to share," she said. "We need people to help us get excited about our own faith in Jesus Christ."

– SC

✘ **2006 VISITING PROFESSOR NAMED**

Dr. Monica Melanchthon has accepted an invitation to serve as Luther Seminary's next Visiting International Professor, following Dr. Richard Lubawa's tenure this year. Dr. Melanchthon presently teaches at Gurukul Lutheran College in Chennai, India. She plans to teach courses and do research at Luther Seminary from January-September 2006. The Visiting International Professor program is funded through the Schiotz Fund Endowment.

✘ **CHINESE CHRISTIAN ARTIST SPEAKS AT SEMINARY**

Artist He Qi presented a lecture entitled, "Christian Art in China" on April 12. His artwork has become incredibly popular in the United States. He Qi spoke on the history of Chinese Christian art as well as specifics about his work. For more information about He Qi and his artwork, visit his Web site at [www.heqiarts.com](http://www.heqiarts.com).

✘ **INDIAN THEOLOGIAN LECTURES AT LS**

Dr. Godwin Shiri, director of the Christian Institute for the



**News Notes**

Study of Religion and Society in Bangalore, India, spoke on "Dalit Issues and the Church's Responsibility in India" on April 26. He introduced the situation of Dalits (who historically have been referred to as 'untouchables' or outcasts) in the activities of the church in today's multi-religious context in India. His insights stimulated a very lively discussion.

✘ **GMI DIRECTOR EDITS TWO NEW VOLUMES**

Frieder Ludwig co-edited two books the past year. Both are listed among the "Fifteen Outstanding Books of Mission Studies" in the International Bulletin of Missionary Research (Vol 29/1, Jan. 2005). They are: *Aussereuropaeische Christentumsgeschichte (Asien, Afrika, Lateinamerika), 1450-1990* (Neukirchen: Neukirchener Verlag, 2004) and *European Traditions in the Study of Africa* (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2004).

✘ **OLSON REPORTS ON CENTRAL AMERICAN EXPERIENCE**

Amanda Olson, '04, is finishing a year of serving and learning in El Salvador and Guatemala as part of the Preaching Fellowship. You can read her reflections in her Web log: [www.facesofamo.blogspot.com](http://www.facesofamo.blogspot.com)

**YES!**  
**I want to help create opportunities for international church leaders.**

Thank you for considering a gift to the GMI. Your gift to the GMI helps give international church leaders the opportunity to advance their ministry through study at Luther Seminary.

**Why is your support of the GMI important?**

The work of the GMI is supported entirely by the gifts and grants of individuals, congregations, foundations and corporations.

**How can you become a member?**

Membership begins with a gift of \$250 to the GMI. Membership may be renewed annually. GMI membership automatically qualifies you as a PARTNER of Luther Seminary.

**Benefits of Membership**

1. The satisfaction of knowing your investment strengthens global mission in the ELCA and around the world.
2. Prompt thanks and recognition from the GMI and Luther Seminary.
3. Automatic membership into Luther Seminary PARTNERS.
4. An annual GMI Watanabe Calendar (mailed late fall)
5. Invitation to an annual GMI donor recognition event.
6. *Global Vision* newsletter, featuring news and information about global mission.

**Global Mission Membership Levels**

- GMI Missioner (\$10,000 or more)
- GMI Investor (\$5,000-\$9,999)
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**Have you included the GMI in your estate plans?**

By including the GMI in your estate plans, you will help share the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the world. For more information on various planning options, please check here.

# GMI Calendar

## Summer: ELCA-DGM Global Mission Events

"Gathered by God's Grace for the Sake of the World."

**July 14-17**, Fargo, ND    **August 25-28**, Baltimore, MD

For more information, visit [www.elca.org/gme](http://www.elca.org/gme)

## September 7, 2005 Public Lecture on Tanzania Partnership

Lecture by Dr. Richard Lubawa, visiting professor from Tanzania, on "Touching Hearts: Bega Kwa Bega Partnership between the St. Paul Area Synod and the Iringa Diocese of the ELCT." Northwestern Hall Auditorium. 3 p.m.

## October 3, 2005 Burgess Lecture in Global Mission

"Pluralism, Proselytism, and Christian Mission" Lecture given by Paul Rajashekar, dean and professor of systematic theology at the Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia. Chapel of the Incarnation. 10 a.m.

## Spring at the GMI

*The international community gathered in thanksgiving and song often this season. Dr. Richard Lubawa (left)*

*gave the address at April's Donor Dinner. Center, Lucy Mungai sang at the International Festival. And, right, the Global Mission Event musicians offered a workshop and led worship at the Annual Lutheran Mission Conference in March.*



*For more photos, go to [www.luthersem.edu/gmi](http://www.luthersem.edu/gmi)*

**Global Vision**  
Global Mission Institute  
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## Prayer Concerns

- ✘ We celebrate with seminary graduates and ask God for guidance as they venture throughout the country and the world sharing the gospel in new ways and in new places. May they be granted strength and wisdom as they experience transition and ministry challenges.
- ✘ We pray for relationships being built between Luther Seminary and other Christian institutes of learning around the world, that as professors and students exchange locations they also share ideas and stories of God's grace.
- ✘ Thanks be to God for the exciting growth of the Church in many parts of the world. May North Americans be blessed by the presence of leaders and immigrants who transport this vitality into our communities.
- ✘ As Luther Seminary welcomes a new president, we pray for guidance and inspiration in our work together. May Dr. Richard Bliese be empowered by the Holy Spirit for this new leadership position. We also give thanks for Dr. David Tiede's dedication and service to the seminary.

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