

# The Stadlander Story

*A newsletter of a missionary family in West Africa*

Volume 5, Issue 4

June 2010

## *ELS Visits Linguere*

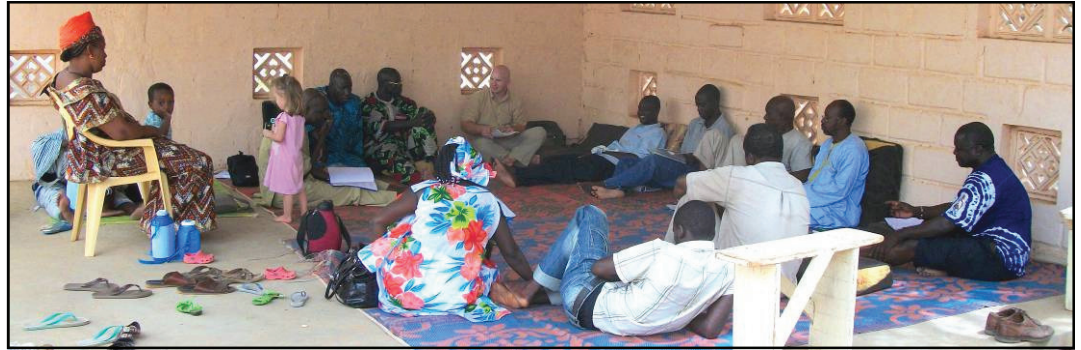
### **We Pray:**

- For the ELS parish of Linguere and its integration into the life and ministry of the ELS.
- For leaders of the ELS as it continues to shape ministry which reaches to all people groups.
- For the employees of the EELS during this time of transition which can lead to extra stress.
- For people served by the EELS that they feel God's presence through services received and relationships made and deepened.
- For health and smooth travels for Sarah, Dirk, Eva and Ellen during their vacation.

**Hear us, O God.  
Your mercy is great.**

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ELS leaders meet with the newly formed parish of Linguere.

As we mentioned in a previous newsletter, the Dental Is-sayankobay Jolof (Jesus followers of the Djoloff region) were recently accepted as a parish of the Lutheran Church of Senegal (abbreviated to ELS in French). As a follow-up to this momentous occasion, a delegation from the ELS traveled from church headquarters in Fatick to Linguere for a meeting with the new parishioners. The purpose of the trip was for church leaders to get to know this new congregation as well as to help increase the congregation's understanding of its responsibilities and rights within the larger church. The delegation included the newly elected president, vice president, treasurer, and general secretary as well as the pastor in St. Louis.

A meeting was held on Saturday morning where many facets of congregational function were discussed and Linguere folks asked many questions related to

development work and evangelism within the church. A community meal was served for lunch, and the delegation visited a Fulani village a few kilometers outside Linguere for milk and couscous at the home of a church member. They returned to Fatick after Sunday worship during which ELS President Thiam preached.

One of the main hesitations of the Linguere community in becoming a parish of the ELS is that the church is primarily of the Serer people group, the worry being that a Fulani congregation might be marginalized within the church. At the end of the community meeting, an encouraging and particularly eloquent contribution from Aminata Ba, an active parish member, drew from a "cousin" history between the two people groups, concluding that they have the same Father, are brothers in Christ, and are cousins through the Holy Spirit.

*Pastor Dirk, Sarah, Eva, & Ellen Stadlander are ELCA Missionaries serving with the Lutheran Church of Senegal*

## ***EELS Evolves into a New Life***

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The past several years have been a time of reflection of how best to structure the community development programs and projects supported by ELCA—Global Mission and World Hunger funds. This work, started in Senegal in the 1970s, focuses on animal husbandry, health, education and literacy.

The population in and around Linguere benefits from the current animal husbandry project, *Fedannde Jolof*, which focuses on increasing milk production by helping local herders breed and take care of cross-bred cows, and the current health project which focuses on strengthening community-based health huts in surrounding villages and accompanying orphans, people living in extreme poverty, and people who are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. A community center in Yeumbeul on the outskirts of Dakar, Senegal's capital, houses several projects from adolescent health education to basketball and computer training to literacy work.

Since October 2009, Dirk has been working with a transitional leadership team. Two Senegalese leaders, Philippe Badji who functions as CoDirector for Administration and Finance and Aly Ndione who functions as CoDirector for Programs, as well as two ELCA missionary advisors, Dirk and Pastor Peter Hanson have had several meetings in Dakar and exchanged numerous e-mails. After much discussion, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Senegal (abbreviated EELS in French) that has historically been the structure around these projects supported by ELCA funds is inviting several of its collaborators, both a local church and foreign missions, into a process which is hoped will lead to the creation of a new entity for community development in Christ's name by Jan. 2011.

### **NOTICE**

We are going on vacation for the month of July!!! Prayers for health and traveling mercies are welcome. Our next newsletter will come out towards the end of August. Happy July to you all!

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### ***Thank You***

**Your participation in sharing God's love in Christ is very exciting for us. We are supported by you through prayer, interaction, and financial giving. Thank you for all that you do to make it possible for us to continue to serve in Christ's name in Senegal. For more information about giving globally through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, please contact:**

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Eva finished "kindergarten" this month at the private French-language Catholic school she attends in Linguere with a big party for all the students and parents. Here she is holding a prize she received for being on the "honor roll," among the top 5 in her class. We are very proud of her and her serious work as a student.



***For more ELCA—Global Mission information, please visit: [www.elca.org/globalmission](http://www.elca.org/globalmission)***