

FEB. 17, 2003

Four Year Assessment

Eagle Lake, MN 1816

While I accepted the call in Nov. '97, Mary and I were not able to return to Nigeria until Feb. 17, 1999. If I might use the word attractive, this call had the two added inclusions of work for at most three months each year in India and work beyond the borders of Nigeria as 'attractive' elements. With those additions to the call which the Lord sent, we have seen what He had in mind as we look back over these four years.

Spiritual Disclaimer - Before considering the assessment, let me disabuse any of the thought that Koenig is anything. First of all He is head of the church and advances His Gospel. We follow. I follow the 'trickle down the slope' philosophy of work. You can't tell where the small stream of water will go down a slope. It goes one way and then another. So God leads and we follow. He is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. He must increase, but I must decrease. "We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty." Lk. 17:10 Secondly, we are all in this together: the Mission Bd. in administration and prayer, CLC members in prayer, finances and mission helpers, the overseas brethren, the pastors, in the front line of outreach doing the leg work and mouth work, lastly the man(or men) in the field representing the CLC.

or that Koenig thinks he's anything

Beachhead - Especially in Africa we have seen our effort in Nigeria as a beachhead operation from which we can meet the Lord's opportunities presented to us. In Normandy in 1944 it was tough on the beach, but then the Nazi Fortress Europe fell. While the Normandy invasion was flawed in planning and execution, the overall strategy was sound and a higher power carried it through. Here we have seen our Lord expand our little beachhead into Ghana, Togo, Kenya, Congo and Tanzania with correspondence going on with other contacts even as you read this. The Lord promises us that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the glorious Gospel carried by His servants. Strategically and tactically it is also important that we operate from our beachhead. Living in Africa acquaints one with what one has to face and to an extent how to encounter the different culture patiently and without foreign notions, but rather with Scripture. Here we are in closer proximity to the other Africans. And in seeking to follow Paul's all things to all men we are with, among the Africans we seek to reach and work with.

Outline - First there will be the assessment in different areas of labor with regard to the work itself and then with regard to the countries. From where we are at this time, it is important to also contemplate goals, realizing that the Commander of the Armies of the Lord is in charge and we are but in a tiny command post as very junior officers.

The Ones that Got Away - Sometimes due to our reporting of the progress, there are those who wonder if there are any setbacks and losses or if any don't join us after contact. We do not just accept anybody and everybody who appeals to us. There are those who write a letter that we answer who never get back to us. We have had face to face discussions with some who have not joined us. And of course we have had defections of those who were with us. In the last case we know that Bas and several of his men are in a disrupted situation with us. In Kenya most of the original Ombasa group are no longer with us. In Ghana Daniel and his

1816

Ecowax school have opted out. Face to face meetings with Mike in Togo and with Maweu and his congregations in Kenya did not result in their joining us. There is a sizeable list of those with whom contact has not developed into fellowship: Robert in Benin, Tona in Kinshasa, Kafumwe in Lubumbashi, Simojoki and Kissuu in Kenya, Etuk Udo and several closed preaching stations in Nigeria. In India there is also a list of contacts that remained that and nothing more. At this time there is correspondence going on with Umanah in South Africa and Fataki in Congo. We can only pray that they find themselves in agreement with us.

Printed Materials - Prior to these four years our effort was essentially in Bible distribution. In this we have greatly expanded. Within just the last twelve months our Bible distribution is as follows: Ghana 70, Tanzania 140, Kenya 25, Congo 100, Nigeria 110, CLCI 200, BELC 1160. Our work previously was among basically the Efik, Telegu and Tamil languages. Now we touch upon ten and are just beginning to see to some materials in these languages. Previously we did not attempt to print and translate the catechism. In these years we are working on this in addition to buying catechisms in the ten languages, with the largest being the order for 4000 in Telegu. We reprinted the Efik hymnal and some work is going on in this area though the thrust is heavily the Bible and catechism. Only within the last year have we also started to have some other material translated including a couple essays, fifteen pamphlets on our teachings and "My Church and Others" by Mueller. In this we depend on our overseas brethren for their talent, while we are supplying the finances.

Mission Helpers - This has taken off with the list of volunteers as follows: 2001 M. Hansen, L. Hansen, T. Ohlmann, M. Schierenbeck, P. Evensen, N. Greve, K. Koenig, 2002 T. Schreyer, M. M. Thom, L. Hanser, La. Hansen, R. Schmitt, J. Stelter. With 2003 we pray that this fulfillment of the universal priesthood among us overseas will continue.

Theological Education by Extension(TEE) - In our attempt to train men who are preachers material is sent by mail and corrected when the missionary is present in the field. We have done this in Ghana, Togo and Kenya and are considering it in Congo. This is an area of work that needs more help.

VBS - While the CLCI has done this for years, it is new in these last two years for the BELC and the NCLC.

India - Our effort having the missionary on the field as much as possible in these four years has resulted in my being in India 233 days or nearly two thirds of one year. This has had immense benefits because the sharing of God's Word of love in Christ goes out to our brethren more and to the as yet unbelievers. It is safe to say that had the missionary not been on the scene with the people and workers as much and as repeatedly, there would not have been such a God-pleasing result when the disruption with Bas occurred.

Building Projects - Most recently with CLC money and the four volunteers the \$27,000 investment in a seminary building at Himo, Tanzania will allow for the training of men in East Africa. At Nidubrolu the second classroom is finished and anticipation of dorm space on the second floor is important. In Nigeria about \$10,000 was spent on fixing up the two houses for missionaries. Around \$12,000 has been issued allowing for the NCLC: two houses and dorm space.

Statistics - Realizing that our brethren overseas are not as statistically conscious as we are the souls in care of our brethren are (from most recent reports): CLCI 6997, BELC 4034, Congo 1063, Tanzania 987, Nigeria 900, Kenya 56, Togo 13, Ghana 12, total 14,062.

Goals - India: continue to assist in outreach and training of pastors, develop film ministry and literacy work, assist to develop more self-help. Here in India we really need more resources committed. If there is a great harvest to be had use a scythe and not a penknife. In military terms you concentrate your forces at the point of breakthrough, likely an enemy's weakest point to follow-up in rollback and envelopment. In gambling when there is a winning streak, the winning numbers have more chips piled on them. While all of these analogies may lack in some regard, they do point up the sense of commitment of resources. We must do more in India where we do have a great harvest, a breakthrough and there is winning of souls for Him.

Nigeria: try to make the NCLC more self-sufficient, outreach to the Muslim north.

Tanzania: assist in outreach to the Maasai, help in setting up and sponsoring seminary.

Congo: assist to establish congregations in Kinshasa, assess in visitation how to help in Katanga province.

Kenya: help Etago to mother other congregations.

Togo: assist in setting up congregation in Lome.

Ghana: assist Gideon in setting up new place of worship and center of activity.

It of course goes without saying that we want to assist our brethren overseas to make each of their fellowships a truly orthodox Lutheran fellowship. While we may have much to teach them, we also are learning. Praise God for His patience and mercy to us as we seek to serve Him to the best of our ability.

Whether we get a 2nd for, miss or not we should be exploring & moving to implement ^{several} NCLC pastors for imo. To six weeks each summer assisting regularly (serve pastor, same area) in foreign work especially in India but also in Africa.

