



December 2015

MISSION GRANT STORY

RENOVATION OF JEM SEMINARY BUILDINGS \$120,000

The Lutheran Church in Nigeria (LCN) is the LCMS's oldest partner church in Africa, currently with approximately 80,000 members in 339 congregations. The seminary in Obot Idim, Jonathan Ekong Memorial (JEM) Seminary, continues to be an important partner for gospel proclamation, preparing young men for the ministry in the LCN in the most populous country in Africa.

To accommodate the record-high number of students enrolled in JEM, the existing dormitories need renovations such as repairing roof structures and termite damage. Without renovation work, these buildings will become dangerous to the students, if not useless. The goal is to make the buildings safe and serviceable for the growing student population as well as serving the Seminary community made up of teaching and non-teaching staff and students totaling approximately 150 people, not including visitors.

The proposed repair work is to resurface the floors and walls, replace roofs and ceilings, replace all electrical and plumbing installations, and paint. Termite treatment is also planned.

In addition to making the buildings safe and serviceable, the seminary is preparing to apply for accreditation from the Nigeria Universities Commission. Students at JEM complete five years of academic work and three years of internship before graduation. The seminary seeks to provide recognized credentials for their students as well as for the development of the seminary and church.

LWML grant money will help pay for some of these renovations providing a safe and serviceable space for the continuation of training pastors to carry the message of salvation to people of various languages and cultures in their respective homelands.