



September 2016

## MISSION GRANT STORY

### OPPORTUNITIES IN UGANDA \$100,000

The Lutheran Church Mission in Uganda (LCMU) was started in 1993 and officially registered in Uganda in April 1995. Its vision as “A Christ-centered church body, growing in grace and committed to the Great Commission...” has helped to plant over 110 Lutheran congregations with over 25,000 members. All of this work has been done with less than 20 ordained pastors.

In conjunction with the LCMU, Women of the Pearl (WOTP) began in 2014. Women make up 50% of Lutheran congregations in Uganda. WOTP provides education in literacy, nutrition, personal hygiene, business and agriculture to women so they may be equipped to serve God and help support pastors, congregations and communities through the teachings of the Scripture.

Currently seminarians in Uganda need to travel to Ghana, Kenya or South Africa to receive training. In 2014 the LCMU, in partnership with Our Savior Lutheran Church, McKinney, Texas, broke ground for a seminary in Magamaga, Uganda. Phase one of construction is almost complete. The seminary will feature lecture halls, faculty offices, library, computer lab, 48 residential rooms, chapel, kitchen

and dining hall. The LCMU seminary in Uganda is vital to support the call to full time ministry. The need for pastors is great, as the Lutheran church in Uganda is expected to grow to 50,000 members by 2018.

Women of the Pearl focuses on working with women so they fully identify with the work of the church. Lynn Corker, Director of WOTP, said, “While educating them about feminine hygiene, the topic of taking communion arose. We learned the women are not taking the Lord’s Supper while they are menstruating because they are ‘too dirty to receive it.’ This catapulted us into a discussion about God’s grace and how none of us are ever ‘clean enough.’ This was a culture changing moment for the women leaders in the church. There was laughing and jumping and shouts of joy when they understood God’s love for them, even in their natural, God-given state of menstruation.”

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League grant has so far given \$50,000 to help fund the LCMU seminary construction completion, and provided \$20,000 toward funding for 100 women to attend Women of the Pearl conferences for the next two years.