

# The Church Is Christ's Mission to the Whole World

Yohannes Mengsteab  
Icms

01/15/2004

# Back Ground

- ◆ Childhood Experience In Eritrea:
- ◆ Refugee Experience and Ministry involvement in the Sudan
- ◆ Parish Ministry in Holland, Michigan
- ◆ Immigrant Mission and Ministry in North America

01/15/2004

1

# What does it mean to be in Mission to the Whole World?

- ◆ We live in a world that is hurting (Matt 9:35-38), however, God still cares for the hurting and the lost.
- ◆ The leadership in the African Immigrant Ministry of the LC-MS also recognizes the needs of the African immigrant:
  - ◆ Physical
  - ◆ Social
  - ◆ Most importantly - the need for God!  
(Rom. 3:19-31)

# What does it mean to be in mission to the Whole World?

- ◆ Jesus directives (Matt 28:18-20; John 20:21; Acts 1:8)
  - ◆ Go - They will not come to you
  - ◆ The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
  - ◆ Proclamation of the Word
  - ◆ Make disciples - not members
- ◆ Faithfulness to Jesus' teaching

# How Does the African Immigrant See God in Mission to the Whole World?

- ◆ He causes the sun to rise on the righteous and unrighteous (Matt 5:45; Gen. 8:20-19:17)
  - ◆ No dichotomy between the physical and the spiritual
  - ◆ All that he does either glorifies God or does not
  - ◆ Spiritual warfare - life on earth is understood to be a battle between good and evil

# Challenges of the African Immigrant In God's Mission to the Whole Whole World in North American Context

- ◆ Diversity :
  - ◆ Cultural diversity
  - ◆ Political conflict - Old wounds do not heal easily
  - ◆ Economic challenges
  - ◆ The battle between the sexes
  - ◆ Three cultural generations in the home
- ◆ Shortage of trained workers in the field - Thus the need for in context pastoral education
- ◆ Funding the Mission

# Mission Strategy of The African Immigrant Ministry - LCMS

- ◆ Apostolic mode:
  - ◆ Missionaries deployed to a region and not to an ethnic group
  - ◆ Church planting and leadership development happen simultaneously
  - ◆ Bi-vocational workers
- ◆ The use of natural net-works for evangelism
- ◆ A vision towards mission to the whole city

# Mission to the Whole World - Vision of AIM-LCMS

- ◆ One eye to wards Europe
- ◆ Another eye towards Africa
- ◆ Mission to African Immigrant Muslims international
- ◆ Mission to the second generation Africans
- ◆ The use of media in God's mission



# Many People - One Voice

- ◆ Not by accident, but by God's Design (Acts 17:23-31)
- ◆ Respect of Ethnic and cultural difference, while striving for unity in mission and purpose
- ◆ Faithfulness to the true vine - Jesus the Lord
- ◆ Thus One People, One Message, One Mission - Ablaze