

SD District LWML Mission Grant
Mite Box Devotion – Land Grant Purchases for African Churches
\$3500 (Paid in Full)
January 2011

- All:** 1 Kings 9:3 says, "I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there;"
- Reader 1:** Here in America, events have a cause and effect. Sickness is caused by a disease or virus. For African people, life is understood very differently. Life is unity. Politics, economy, social realities and spirituality are interconnected.
- Reader 2:** "If you wish to reach the soul of an African, you cannot neglect the daily ritual of life," says former LCMS World Mission's Africa regional director, Dr. Paul Mueller.
- Reader 1:** The main emphasis used to reach African people with the Gospel message is through human care ministries. Many African congregations do not have a permanent building and cannot provide church-based outreach to their mostly Muslim communities as they would like to do.
- Reader 2:** The national churches, working closely with LCMS World Mission missionaries, need land in large cities to provide permanent facilities so that their ministries can be seen as credible and thus able reach the most people.
- Reader 1:** But the cost of land is more than young congregations can afford. This mission grant will help purchase land for African churches in urban areas where the church can reach out to the most people possible.
- Reader 2:** One country that has a great need for land is Guinea. It is difficult to find someone willing to sell their land to a Christian church. The church in Guinea competes with Muslim businesspeople for the purchase of land. The church needs to buy it right away before the person has time to change their mind. By having locations in cities, the church will have the greatest opportunity to reach people with the Gospel message.
- Prayer:** Gracious and loving heavenly Father, as we bring our Mite offerings before You today, we remember the missionaries serving in Africa and especially in Guinea. May these land purchases in Africa help provide a permanent witness in predominantly Muslim communities. We ask Your blessing on these African churches as they work to build up the body of Christ on the African continent. We thank You, too, that through our mite giving, You make it possible for us, the members of the South Dakota District LWML, to reach out to these people in faith, love, and compassion, as You have done for us through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In His dear name we pray. Amen.