

Current Seeds of Hope Commitments

- Maintenance for the solar light system at Betela Seminary, making possible study and other events at night
- Maintenance of the solar powered water pump at Betela
- Annual continuing education theological meetings for pastors and women theologians in our companion synods
- Support of Mme. Holiharifetra Rakotondramiadana, Professor of New Testament at Betela Lutheran Regional Seminary, in her doctoral studies
- Future projects to be determined in consultation with our Companion Synods



Members of the 2005 RMS visit to Madagascar greet graduates and their families at the Betela Seminary graduation.



We are gifts to each other,
encircling the world with
God's love in Jesus Christ.

Contributions for Seeds of Hope
may be sent to:

Rocky Mountain Synod - ELCA
455 Sherman Street, Suite 160
Denver, CO 80203
303-777-6700
rmselca.org

For further information contact::

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Companion Synod Task Force
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SEEDS OF HOPE



Student housing at Betela Seminary,
made possible with gifts to Seeds of Hope.

**Making a Gift for the
Companion Synod
Program of the
Rocky Mountain Synod**

Betela and the Rocky Mountain Synod



The 2005 graduating class and families sing at the Betela Seminary graduation.

The Rocky Mountain Synod has established relationships with four synods of the Malagasy Lutheran Church in Madagascar: Mahajanga, Antsiranana, Avaratra-Atsinanana, and Sophia Synods. Our primary focus has been on helping support Betela Lutheran Regional Seminary, which educates pastors and women theologians. Fifteen students are enrolled every other year.

The Rocky Mountain Synod provides annual financial support for the operating budget of the seminary in addition to the designated funds given to Seeds of Hope.

What You Have Done

Since April 2002, congregations and individuals have contributed to the Rocky Mountain Synod Companion Synod Project providing funds for solar lighting and power at Betela Lutheran Regional Seminary, bicycles for pastors, and funding for theological conferences which allow Malagasy pastors and women theologians to gather for discussion and support. Since its inception, Seeds of Hope has generated over \$200,000 for projects in Madagascar.

The *Seeds of Hope—Buildings for Betela Project* was initiated in 2003 specifically to provide funds for special projects—the most important of which was for new student housing. Generous gifts from congregations and individuals made it possible for our Rocky Mountain Synod to underwrite construction of new student houses at Betela Seminary to accommodate families of seminary students, plus construction of a shower and toilet facility for the complex.

In August 2008, your contributions enabled the RMS Companion Synod Committee to bring six guests from Madagascar to our synod for a *Fifamangiana Event* to deepen our relationships and set new goals for the future. Other contributions have helped a woman professor at Betela Seminary prepare for doctoral studies; we also helped to build a house for the family of Pr. Joseph, the former President of the Antsiranana Synod, after his death this in fall 2008.

Accompaniment

The ELCA's mission philosophy is expressed through accompaniment. Accompaniment means "walking together in solidarity, characterized by mutuality and interdependence. In this walk we share gifts, experiences, and resources, but also advice and admonition that will assist both companions for expanding and deepening the capacity for ministry."



How To Be Involved

The RMS Companion Synod Committee invites individuals and congregations to support generously this ministry through the Seeds of Hope Fund. A video is available from the Synod office that tells the story of a growing church in Madagascar! There is a great need for trained pastors and theologians and we can continue to partner with Betela Seminary.

Names of members who have visited Madagascar and who are willing to visit your congregation and share experiences are available through the Synod office.