

Dapaong, Togo

THE LUTHERAN CENTER FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (CLET)

\$32,650



Students at chapel.



Students in library.



*Rev. Dr. Dongo Lussambu
Director of the CLET*



Sign outside the CLET

THE LUTHERAN CENTER FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (CLET)

The Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) trains church leaders so that they can return to their churches and be catalysts for evangelism throughout the villages, cities, and regions where they will be doing ministry. Students come from the French-speaking countries of Guinea, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin, Congo-Brazzaville, and Congo-Kinshasa. While the first part of this training is done through theological education by extension (TEE) in the different countries, the last part of this training takes place on the CLET campus located in Dapaong, Togo. CLET's secondary purpose is to prepare students for higher theological training in a Lutheran seminary.

The CLET program includes two tracks—a novice (pre-seminary) track tailored for leaders who have little formal education, and a pastoral track leading to ordination. This approach was developed based on the realities of the fields – where the people are and what they need – rather than trying to take a syllabus from the United States and transfer it to Africa. Many church leaders have had only five years of formal education, and read and write at a low level. Courses are all contextualized; they speak to West African issues. Students at the CLET are involved in daily field work activities, including mentoring of students by professors, pastoral visits, evangelism at the prison and hospital in Dapaong, church planting efforts in the neighborhood around the CLET, and chapel services. With an average of 12 students per class, the CLET is able to instruct a total of 35 students each year.

Upon completion of the pastoral program's academic cycle, the students return to their home churches and begin supervised vicarages. Some of the students have been at the CLET for two full years without having seen their families. A vicarage at the CLET is a pastoral internship that can last up to four years, depending on the vicar's church and support context.

Scholarships are available, which provide the students with medical assistance and the necessary supplies and books for success in classes and future ministry and mission. Amounts are calculated according to the student's family situation.

Funding will be used for:

Funding from LCMS World Mission enables the CLET to offer a small monthly scholarship and a small medical assistance to each student. Mission funding also helps to support the cost of running the program (faculty and staff salaries, utilities, property maintenance, supplies, equipment, etc.).

Prayer needs:

- Pray for the effective teaching of CLET's instructors and LCMS missionaries who serve as guest professors.
- Pray for the students who are far away from home and family, that they may be able to focus on their studies, finish their coursework, and return home to their churches and begin their vicarage.
- Praise God for two new churches that were planted by students through their own desire to put into action what they learned at the CLET.