



Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

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From the Home Front

May Family Newsletter

Opening Apologies

Surprise, surprise! It has been a while since I wrote a family update and I am sorry. However, we haven't forgotten you and we really do appreciate your prayers. So what has your missionary family been up to?

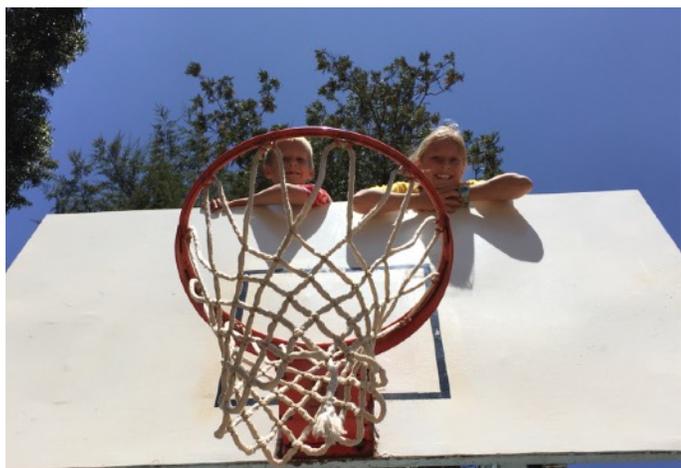
May Kids Update

Our kids continue to do marvelously well at school and with friends. We are very proud of them. Matthew (6) has started to like school a bit better. I don't remember when he last complained about leaving home in the morning (yesterday, says dad). He reads fluently and has no trouble in any other subject. Jonas (8) has become Mr. Popular in his class and receives plenty of invitations for sleepovers and other parties. I had thought that he's too young to go for nights, but have relented since.



Sofia (10) and Sarai (12) have been doing well in academics and with their instruments. However, we have decided to homeschool both of them next year. We have already ordered and received their Memoria Press Curriculum books and I FEEL TERRIFIED! This was absolutely one tough decision to make. Please pray for me and us!

I can't help feeling conflicted about it: one moment I dance around feeling "Yes! This is going to be so cool! My girls will learn to be better writers. They will benefit so much when they learn Finnish and home economics." Then the next day, or two, or three I sink lower than low and think "Oh. My. Goodness. I'm going to mess up my kids. How will I have time? They'll be missing their classmates so much. This was the worst choice." (I have no idea why my husband thinks that I have some emotional



issues ;)) Note to myself: Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. *Matt. 6:34*



The homeschool idea has been brewing for many years. James has always rooted for it, because in his opinion, it is the best way to bring out academic excellence in a Christian environment while the kids can be geared towards vocational thinking: how they can serve their neighbor rather than just making money. I agree, but then there are all these other worries: Am I a good enough teacher? Will my English be sufficient for teaching in English? My days are filled up now, where will the time for full time schooling be coming from? And the biggest and hardest is the issue of reducing the



social mingling with friends to a minimum. Thankfully the school has already accepted the girls' participation in band and orchestra. It took some convincing, but I also managed to get a permission for them to try out for after school sports teams. I hope that through these times at school my little ladies will be properly socialized.

Tristan (13) was happy to be reunited with his best friend, Sam, who returned to Tristan's class in January after being gone for a year and a half. The boys hang out often even on weekends building forts in forests, exploring bat caves, or swimming. The eighth grade had a three day class trip where the students got to enjoy whitewater rafting, wall climbing, and other team building activities. This improved much desired bonding between the classmates. Tristan has passed me in height and sport skills, and is happy to show off his six-pack especially if he can compare it with my slightly softer version of a stomach.



High school has piled a lot of work on Maggie (14). I thank God that she is responsible and doesn't require any prodding from me to get it done. Also thankfully she loves her friends at school which helps her endure even the busiest times. I was the same way, except I tended to ignore the academic side of school some and cherish the friendships more. Don't tell my kids.

Busy Life Of Pastor May

The past few months have been quite crazy. I would get my husband home one day and he'd take off the next. His latest trip was to Burundi. He travelled with our dear friend, Pastor Matt Anker from Australia, and they co-taught about Lutheran Worship. Matt was with us for three weeks; or he was coming and going, spending nights here in between. He arrived for the LIA and LHF-Africa Annual General Meetings in April. Those meetings provided plenty of activity for James from putting the agendas together to organizing rides for the participants as they arrived to the airport from USA, Europe, Australia, and other parts of Africa. Here we once again saw the value of our building project manager and architect, Jason Stephens, who handled a lot of pick ups and drop offs and prepared the Lutheran School of Theology (LST) to receive all the guests. The Annual General Meetings were held there during two days and things went smoothly enough even though rains made the dirt road to LST to be soft and slippery. Extra excitement for the rides! By the grace of God there were no accidents.



James catching up with his former seminary professor Rick Nuffer during LIA AGM

The LST hosted seminars to pastors, evangelists, and Sunday school teachers before and after the meetings. Pastor Timothy Rossow opened with the topic of Church Constitutions and Reformation. Pastor Robert Green took the podium after the AGM and taught about preaching while Karina Lindsey taught Luther's Catechism to a group of women. Pastor Matt Anker finished the seminars by teaching Lutheran Worship. Matt and James somehow had time to sneak out also to Democratic Republic of Congo to teach this same course. So, truly it was a blessing to have all these guest teachers, but since James was leading the meetings, stepped in here and there to take turns in teaching, and also traveled a lot, these past weeks will remain a blur in the history books.



LST site plan presented at the LIA AGM

Construction moves forward at the LST although rain has caused some challenges for transporting building materials to the site. A truck that was bringing one thousand or so large concrete building blocks, couldn't get past a lengthy distance of sinking mud. Fortunately we had some strong seminar participants to assist our own men in carrying them from the truck to other vehicles on the opposite side of

mud. The walls of next seminary building are rising and now also the digging of the foundation of our future home has begun. Jason keeps producing drawings after drawings changing details to make the buildings even more functional. Exciting times!



Another term in Kenya drawing to an end

Since we moved to Africa, I started to regard my calendar differently. Instead of beginning the year in January, my year begins in August with kids' school and closes when we travel either to United States or Finland for summer furlough. In June an airplane takes us towards my Fatherland where thousands of clean lakes, saunas, and berries await us. We have managed to lock down several church visits and mission



Presenting Finland at kids' school's International Day

days in order to meet old and new people and let the Finns know how everything is going here in the mission field. Believe or not, it's still snowing there in May, so our kids are getting quite excited about the prospect of being able to build snow castles and go ice fishing. Other Finns are not so happy about the extended winter; it isn't that short even under the normal circumstances!

The month of May has included some event organizing for me. Kenya Finns Society provided a May Day party for Finns at the ambassador's residence. I was pleased to have my American husband and our international guests join the event. At kids' school's side I'm relieved to have organized my last event for the school community at least for the time being. Due to homeschooling next year I have worked my way out of the Parent Organization and won't be as active in volunteering as I have been for last several years.

Our family wishes you all a wonderful summer time filled with God's Blessings! Enjoy your friends and family. That is what we are going to do.

Yours in Christ,

JamesTiinaMaggieTristanSaraiSofiaJonasMatthew
May



Sarai playing flute in the WNS Band



High school basketball 2017 champions



High School Prom

