



# Lutherans IN Africa

*May Family Newsletter*

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

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## Life in the Bush



### FAMILY AT THE LUTHERAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

I look outside and above acacia trees I see the long necks and heads of giraffes that are passing through the Lutheran School of Theology plot. The Ngong Hills in their vivid green, brown, and bluish gray

shades rise to the clouds behind the herd. Today the clouds hang heavy on the hills and seem to be pouring down the side like a giant wave that might rush on top of us at any moment. A steady stream of shepherds with their herds lead their animals towards the seasonal river which continues to





provide water to the community thanks to a dam that was built in the north side of our home. Two mamas wave to me as they finish washing their clothes in the same river and depart with their donkeys. I have to admit I winced yesterday when I



saw a Maasai shepherd first bring his cows in for a drink and then scoop the brown water into his own mouth. I have seen what else those animals do in that river other than drink.

I am learning to adapt to the new concept of a “home with wide open doors”. We do not have a private house where only our family lives, but we share the space with the mission center. Since our move two months ago, we have spent very few nights with the family alone. Not only does the construction crew still work on final touches, but we also had two groups of volunteers who were lodging in and sharing all the meals with us. The mission center was designed so that our family has private rooms upstairs. Downstairs is public: laundry facilities and a guest room, living room for relaxing and devotions, kitchen and dining room for meals and, while the

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library building was under construction, the dining space served also as church on Sundays. Our thinking and planning cannot be limited to the family’s needs only, but we have set meal and devotion schedules establishing a smooth routine that fits into volunteers’ work times.



## **VOLUNTEERS FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD**

Our first group of volunteers included my mother and a friend from Finland. They spent two weeks sewing all the curtains for the mission center and even had time to make some seat covers to replace worn out ones.

Merv from Australia put plans together for a vineyard and began fencing the area. Our hope is that in the future we will be able to make our own communion wine and possibly provide it to others depending on how well the grapes produce.







Jim from the United States helped us to move from our old rental house to the LST. He also did yard work improving roads and helped building a stone wall.



The second group consisted of four gentlemen from Phoenix. They planned and worked on new chicken coops, made great improvements at the guest cottage, organized the tool shed and library books, built shelves, made a shelter for our guard dogs, etc. We are indeed blessed by every helping hand. I am thankful that our children enjoy the “new” normal: having people around all the



time. They like to cook and help with guests' laundry and delight in conversations. God has showered us with his favor by blessing our children so that the guests also enjoy them.



## EVERYDAY LIFE AND KIDS' NEWS

Homeschool is a challenge when our home is still a bit of a mess and being worked on. Many a day I feel that I fall short at every front because I cannot put full effort into anything as I am being pulled in many directions at the same time. It is hard to even begin to understand how all this affects my husband since he is wanted and needed at every front. Volunteers need instruction, tools, and materials. Construction





crew has questions. Our own LIA workers bring in their requests. There is an obvious need for a site manager and the interview process has begun. Please pray that we would find a reliable and responsible person to fill this post.

Our oldest child, Maggie, is a senior (12th grader) at Mayer Lutheran High School. She performs superbly at school, finished soccer season, and passed the test for a driver's license. She earns money by giving piano lessons and working as a cleaning lady at a hotel.



Tristan is a junior (11th grader) in the same school. He was welcomed to live in the same host family with Maggie and for this we are forever thankful to



our dear friends, Bill and Jolene. Also Tristan does very well at school, and probably due previous Kenyan high altitude

training has had success in cross country. He plays basketball during ongoing sport season. He helps around house and his friends' homes, and



fits in fishing and hunting whenever possible during weekends.

Sarai does online school for her Freshman year (9th grade). She is wonderfully conscientious, gets her work done fast, and has plenty of time for sewing which is her new passion. She was a full time sewing help to mom and Tuula and truly enjoyed the "curtain boot camp".



Sofia studies at 8th grade level and differs from her sister's study habits quite a bit. Sofi would much rather cook, organize the house, do laundry, take care of chicks, and be social than stick to her books. But she is an incredible help!

Jonas (6th grade) and Matthew (4th) are taught by mom. Teaching them has gotten less complicated than last year when we were just getting used to homeschooling. We often finish the school day by lunch time and then they play at the river or look for giraffes. They are getting quite talented at shooting with a bb-gun.



To our delight (and horror) we do not have an unlimited internet package. Without YouTube entertainment, the kids have rediscovered a ~~galore~~ of board games, legos, crafts, and many other creative ways to spend time inside and outside.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

- We ask you to pray for reliable people to be found to fill the site and project manager posts
- For all construction work to continue without injuries or mistakes
- For us as we try to find a balance between family and work needs
- For endurance to face the assaults of the devil
- For the older kids to get ideas and peace of mind about their future vocations

## SUPPORT THE WORK

Your prayers, volunteer work, and monetary help carry us and the work of LIA from one day to another. We cannot thank you enough. May God continue to bless his work through all of you and through us.

## TO MAKE A DONATION

### USA

Send your check made payable to :  
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PO Box 121, Ocean Shores, WA, 98569

### AUSTRALIA

#### Electronic deposit

Name: Lutherans in Africa - Australia Inc.  
BSB: 704942,  
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#### By cheque

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