



Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

www.lutheransinafrica.com | May 2021

Becoming a Part of the Community



Living in the Maasai Community

When an outsider settles into any tight knit community, he is likely to face a range of reactions from the people around him. Some welcome a newcomer without hesitation, some want to drive him out. People in the community desire to see how this new person can benefit them. There can be frustrations on both sides if the demands are presented too strongly and too fast. A newcomer gets overwhelmed trying to balance getting himself settled and responding to the needs of the people. Some members of the community may get angry thinking that the outsider is worthless to them since their needs and wants are not being satisfied immediately or in the way they would prefer.

When the Lutherans in Africa began to build the mission center in the midst of the Maasai community, Reverend May experienced a lot of this

push and pull. The Lutheran School of Theology was started in order to spread the Gospel throughout the continent of Africa by training Lutheran pastors, evangelists, and deaconesses. The Maasai community has been welcomed in Sunday services, some have attended theological classes, and some have jobs helping in construction and operations of the school. But still other requests from our neighbors arise. It has taken some years, but little by little they have begun to understand our mission better. LIA is here to teach the Word of God. We do care about peoples' social needs as well: we fix roads, provide water for cattle, hand out food during famine, and attend the neighborhood fundraisers among other things, but our first priority is not

to make the life here on earth prosperous. We wish to help people focus on the eternal life.

People Around Us



Since attending the burial of our neighbor, we have been blessed to receive more invitations to visit homes and churches in the Maasai community. Pastor Konana from Ewaso asked Pastor May for a home visit and a baptism at his house. It was also a 'harambee' fundraiser for their church construction. Pastor May taught, and our dear LST student, Gabriel, translated a sermon based on John 16:16-22 into Maasai-language.

[16] "A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me."

[22] "So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."



The sermon discussed how the life here on earth includes pain, sorrow, and sickness. But every day Jesus' return gets closer. He will take us to Him in Heaven where there is endless joy.

Later on that same weekend, one of our staff members, Francis, invited us to his home for a celebration; his sister had returned home after a year spent in and out of hospital following a terrible road accident. We sat together with Grace drinking 'chai' tea, and then many neighbors arrived to share a meal and sit on the Ngong Hills to give and listen to speeches. The same message of heavenly joy from the Gospel of John that Pastor May had preached in Ewaso was very relevant to Grace. She absolutely has pain and sorrow now being stuck in a wheelchair without one of her legs. Pastor James wanted to comfort her by sharing about eternal joy that no one or nothing can take away from her.

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Many neighbors and family members of Grace got up and thanked Pastor May for walking with the people of the Maasai community during hard times and good times.



Please join us in prayers for Grace: we received the sad news today that she was taken back to the hospital due to complications in the amputation area.

We drove to Ewaso the second time for Gabriel's brother's wedding. It was a beautiful, traditional



Maasai wedding. We learned some interesting culture aspects. First of all, a wedding is a community affair, everyone works to make it happen and everyone is there to bless the family. People work together making the jewelry, clothes, food, and gifting of all things needed to start a home. But also the vows are not only between the individuals, the man and wife, but between the two families. This is to demonstrate that they will help the new couple to learn to be husband and wife, father and mother, and that they will also be with them to guide them through challenges which they will face. This insures that the marriage does not fall apart because of challenges; they are not doing it alone. All family members and society support marriage because it is the bedrock of society.



Pastor May was invited to speak. He was prepared to take this opportunity to share about God's purpose in creating man and woman for each other, but a rain storm had just begun. Therefore, he quite briefly addressed the couple wishing them every blessing, especially the blessing of many children.

Ordination

The latest travel took Pastor May, Jonas, and LST's dean of students, Alfred Kaburu, to Kibwezi. This joyous celebration was the ordination of a LST graduate, David Matheka. Pastor David Matheka graduated in 2019 and was now ordained by the presiding chairman, Reverend Mark Anariko. Pastor David received boxes of Good News magazines for teaching his congregation and stoles in all liturgical colors as a gift from the LIA. The faithful supporters of LIA have also donated communion vessels to be given to the ordained pastors who graduate from the Lutheran School of Theology. We are overjoyed, because the Lutheran Church Kibwezi now has their own ordained pastor who will be delivering the gifts of Christ to his congregants!

"Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. -1.Peter 5:2,3



Important Notices, Read on!

Overseer Needed

Lutherans in Africa is looking for a part-time project manager or construction inspector to oversee construction of the Lutheran School of Theology dormitories and cafeteria. If you can read plans and would like to help serve as a volunteer in God's mission, please let us know @ info@lutheransinafrica.com. The need is especially for August - September. Housing will be provided. The work includes overseeing that construction workers show up to work each day and perform their duties effectively, verifying that delivered materials and amounts are correct, and supervising that no property of the LST is taken out from the compound.

Maybe you are retired and would not mind living in a beautiful setting at the foot of the Ngong Hills in Africa for awhile? Or someone who can arrange for a little change of scenery? Contact us to ask more details!

LIA Mission Presentation Continues, Part 2/6



The second mission presentation segment covers the beginning of Pastor May's missionary life. Watch and listen as he tells about his time as a church planter in Burkina Faso.

7:41-19:57 Missionary Work: https://youtu.be/CDT_EI2J64E

The May Family Prayer Card

As the children grew taller and parents got older, an updated May family prayer card was needed. It is on the Lutherans in Africa website

www.lutheransinafrica.com

lutheransinafrica.com/s/May-Family-Prayer-Card.pdf



If you would like to receive a hard copy of this prayer card and other mail from LIA, please send your postal address to info@lutheransinafrica.com

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Photo Gallery

At Pastor Konana's Home



Visiting Grace



Wedding



Ordination

