



Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

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Come with Us to the Refugee Camps

Thanks be to God for the month of July! During the past thirty days our good Lord spread His Word among the people at the Kakuma and Kalobeyei refugee camps. Afterwards, three different groups came here to the Lutheran School of Theology to participate in teaching seminars. Days were busy for Pastor May, but since teaching is his passion, he enjoyed the ride. We will cover the LST's seminars next month. For now, enjoy the trip to Kenya's far Northwest region close to the border of South Sudan!

As we mentioned in the previous newsletter, Pastor May and Vicar Adelino Upwoth traveled to Kenya's refugee camps to teach and baptize. It is not possible for a foreigner to spend night at the camp. Therefore, Pastor May took a motorbike ride through a sandy desert landscape to get there each day. Winding, bumpy paths were jammed by herds of camels at times, which greatly enhanced the uniqueness of surroundings. Upon arrival to the camp, one first observes the barbed wire fences. Most refugees live in tents, but some have been able to purchase or make bricks to upgrade their dwellings.

Refugees are divided according to tribes. These two settlements are so far apart that it would not have been feasible for people to walk over two hour distance back and forth to attend the lectures. Therefore, Pastor May and Vicar Adelino held training sessions in both camps.

In Kakuma, Pastor May trained evangelists and deaconesses from Nuer and Nuba tribes using Good News magazine's Baptize and Teach and Baptism / Ark Connection issues. The teaching was based on



Matthew 28:19, 20. Pastor John Jock of Kakuma had efficiently organized all seminar details beforehand, such as list of participants, time tables, and the venue. That enabled smooth teaching to take place. Kakuma's evangelists also requested an introduction to Luther's Small Catechism, specifically, how to teach it. Pastor May taught them to speak the words of Catechism to people and have them echo the words back in order to commit them to memory. Note that in Greek 'kata' means 'again'. 'Echo' means 'to sound back'. Kata-echo... catechism... Repeat back again.



"Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you always to the end of the age." Matt. 28:19,20

LST student, Bravo Uwäär, who resides in Kalobeyei organized the other seminar for the Pärei Lutheran congregation. They asked for teaching about the topic of Faith. The theme Bible verse that Pastor May used was Hebrews 12:2 *"Look to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith."* Pastor May tells about the seminar:

"So often people think faith is something I do or create. The truth is that the Holy Spirit creates faith by means of the Word. This is what makes Jesus the author of faith. Secondly, in our daily lives, we have challenges and doubts in our life. It was a great relief to the participants to hear that they do not

have to look for ways to rely on our strength and efforts to perfect faith. Jesus is perfecting our faith daily as we hear the Word. This happens, because it is the Word of God that is living and active both in creating and strengthening our faith. This is why it is so important to train pastors, because their job is to preach and teach that active Word. It was great to be in a church full of young people eager to hear and learn the Word of God."



On Sunday morning, Pastor May was asked to preach and to baptize more than thirty new members of the congregation. The joy was overwhelming, as they were cleansed from their sins in baptism and were marked with God's Triune Name. Amongst those who were baptized were Adelino's twin daughters who were born during COVID lockdown. Also baptized were the wife and son of another LST student, Anjelo.

Vicar Adelino summarizes his thoughts about the outcome of the refugee camp seminars as follows, "I was pleased how the training went especially in Kakuma. Many women participated actively, and I believe it would be beneficial if a seminar could be organized specifically for them in the future. They are often neglected. Women in our culture would be more comfortable attending training and taking part in discussions if the teaching was only for women." This highlights the need for deaconesses to be trained and to teach women how to be godly wives and mothers as Paul said in Titus 2:3-5. Adelino continues, "I received good feedback. The refugee evangelists and pastors felt encouraged,



motivated, and equipped with knowledge. More training on different topics was requested from Rev. James May by all church leaders. The Anyuak tribe wants to send some students to Lutheran School of Theology. The Pări tribe has already selected three young men to come for the training at LST this year."



What did the daily commute to the refugee camps look like? If you want to see, enjoy these short videos.

<https://youtu.be/Sb16HyDMwkw>
<https://youtu.be/YZRTsM6uTxI>

Mission presentation 6/6

This last segment of LIA Mission Presentation covers the continuous construction of the Lutheran School of Theology, volunteer opportunities, and samples of the training that is being given here. You

also get to see photos of ordination services of our graduates.

43:20-End: Current and Future:

<https://youtu.be/DY5KFiDhkOY>

If you missed any of the previous clips, you can find all of them at <https://lutheransinafrica.com/home>.



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