



Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

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"This Teaching Is Truly Straight from the Bible"

Greetings from Wisconsin! We traveled to the USA for a brief fundraising trip at the time when we also need to help our three oldest children move in their current places of study. We will tell more news from the family front in our next letter. In this letter, we will recount our blessings from last month when we were able to offer three teaching seminars at the Lutheran School of Theology. In addition to the seminar action at the LST, the construction of the kitchen building and dormitories is now at the full swing.

Many new faces at the LST



In Kenya, before leaving for our trip to the US, the first group that arrived in LST consisted of local pastors, evangelists, and other church leaders from various denominations. They requested this seminar after we proposed to organize a Vacation Bible School for local youth. The church leaders wanted to come and learn about Lutheran teaching before recommending it to their youth. Since many of them had not heard of Lutheranism before, they were a bit skeptical. But after the first day of the seminar, pentecostal leaders who are serving as pastors without training were so overwhelmed by the teaching that they now want to enroll at the school since many of them did not have a chance to attend



a seminary. The participants learned about the Small Catechism for the first time and comments like this were overheard during tea time conversations, "This teaching is truly straight from the Bible." May the Lord bless all these new friends and draw them to study and understand His Word more and more.

The following week, we were privileged to host Lutheran pastors and bishops. They came from all over Kenya. It was heart warming to see many LST's former students face to face again and hear about their family and congregation news! The lectures for the week included Lutheran Ethics, but more importantly, Pastor May held a Preaching Workshop



for the attendees. Everyone prepared a sermon for upcoming Sunday. We have experienced that there can never be too much emphasis put on preaching the Law and the Gospel. So easily does one slip fully on the Law side and sermons become recitations of rules of what one must and must not do.



The final seminar of the month was for youth, who were on their school break. We loved to have many of our staff members' children or siblings attend in addition to local teenagers who walked to the campus every morning even from over an hour's distance away and then back home late afternoon. Most of the participants had no previous knowledge of the Catechism, but at the end of the week they all knew what the six chief parts are, could recite the Ten Commandments, and many had their meanings memorized. Our long-time workers, Chepkwony and Paul's girls, got the highest marks in the final test, writing out also the Creed with the meanings,



and earning scholarships to help with their school fees. We witnessed some profoundly proud fathers indeed!



Youth attended the morning and evening devotions together with the LST family, and every day after three Catechism lectures they gathered in small group studies. In these groups they worked mainly memorizing the Catechism and having discussions about related topics in their lives at home or at school. Vicar Adelino lead the boys' small group and the girls had the May women folk as their mentors. The VBS went by swiftly as everyone enjoyed spending time with peers learning, sharing meals and laughs, and competing in games. Our prayer is that these studies will help the youth discover the truth and peace as the common message they hear in their schools and churches is based on law-heavy works righteousness.



"He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the

washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,"
Titus 3:5

Construction and Visitors



After the seminars, we received three very dear guests: the oldest May son, Tristan, Tiina's mom, Marjatta, and our veteran volunteer, Duane Smith. How greatly blessed we were to spend nearly a month together as a family. We definitely needed that to survive the future with our three oldest in another continent! Having "mummi" (grandma) with us made the time all the more special. Duane Smith gave LST and us a tremendous boost by repairing the backhoe and operating it in connection with the work on dormitory foundations and roads. Duane with his wife and granddaughter were the final volunteers we had before the Covid crazy kicked in, and now he was the first one to open a new season for volunteers. Therefore, if he can do it, you can do it too! We welcome all volunteers who are eager to lend their skills and time for the Lord's work in Africa!



We have two building teams from the Douglas Projects company at the site and the construction of the kitchen and dormitories is proceeding well. The dormitories will have a large rain reservoir in between them and digging work has taken time. The foundations for the cafeteria were an easier project and therefore the crew has gotten the building's walls up sooner. Here you can see photos of the progress. Please continue to pray for the

project, safety of the workers, and in whatever capacity possible, consider supporting the Lutheran School of Theology financially.



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