



Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

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True Doctrine, Pure Gospel



Happy summer days, everyone!

The May Family is currently visiting congregations around the United States telling people about the mission of Lutherans in Africa. The Ristau Family will travel to Canada later on to do the same. While still in Kenya, Dr. Ristau together with his family organized two wonderful teaching events. May God bless the people who participated in these sessions so that through the hearing of the Word, they would be brought and sustained in the faith that leads to everlasting life in heaven!

LIA Teaching in Meru

During the month of June, Dr. Ristau was invited by the leadership of the ELCK to teach a two-day seminar in the region of Meru. The area is in the general vicinity of a region where a Christian cult caused many of its followers to fast to death. In light of that terrible internationally known incident, Dr. Ristau taught on the importance of true doctrine and the dangers of false doctrine. To support his teaching he distributed *Good News* magazine on "Heresy" in Swahili.

Dr. Ristau taught what St Paul writes in Titus 1:9. A pastor *"must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it."* Paul's instruction is one of the main reasons the Lutheran church spends so much energy on establishing and ensuring proper confessional pastoral formation. Ristau explained how the Reformation was essentially triggered by Martin Luther standing up for the true doctrine as the Pope put conditions on God's free saving grace found in our Lord Jesus Christ alone. Ristau's lectures ended with a brief explanation and distribution of the Small Catechism to church leaders and representatives of families. Attendees were very happy with the teaching.



Rev. Ristau preached and introduced the theological significance of four hymns that his family sung, accompanied by a violin and trumpet. In the afternoon, the Ristau children led a Bible camp to Meru children outside. They included a short skit on the story of Namaan washing in the river Jordan. That functioned as a picture of Jesus washing off the disease of sin in the river of Holy Baptism.

Participants received crafts and Christian material for home study. They also had a lot of fun playing with LST's parachute.



LIA is no stranger to the Meru churches and continues to offer theological support to them, and any others, that wish to receive it from the instructors at the LST. The trip started with an exchange of Lutheran materials between LHF and LIA: LIA offered several boxes of *Good News* magazines while LHF gave Small Catechisms in various African dialects. These catechisms will continue to be used in Christian outreach in which LIA is involved.

We praise God for this and all the other ways that the Holy Spirit has us working and partnering together for the sake of the Gospel.

The Benefits of Baptism VBS

To celebrate the end of another school semester at Olasiti Elementary School, LIA offered a one-day Vacation Bible School to over 150 people in attendance. The principal, teachers and – most importantly – the children were absolutely thrilled! Due to the large number of students, the population was broken into two groups receiving age-specific activities and Christian teaching.



The theme of the program was “The Benefits of Baptism”. The day included a play produced by the Ristau kids, hymn singing, crafts, a movie, lunch, outside games, and handing out Small Catechisms as well as *Portals of Prayer* to the older youth to bring home to their parents. The school is very impoverished and LIA has offered them support in practical and religious ways for years. It was no surprise how excited the children were to make crafts like colorful crosses with stickers and take home coloring sheets. In spite of the lack of reliable electricity, the kids had the chance to watch a Gospel-centered animated movie about the life of Jesus. Many have never seen a movie on a screen. They also had a blast playing a massive chasing game that was titled “Spiders and Scorpions”. LIA offered the lunch to the hungry crowds which consisted of a piece of meat, bread, and a cup of soda to each attendee. Too many smiles to count accompanied the delightful meal.

The Ristaus led the school in two hymns sung in Swahili: “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds” and – of course – “A Mighty Fortress is our God”. The singing was accompanied by a joyous trumpet

and violin, instruments that most of the children have never seen before. Dr. Ristau concluded all the activities with a prayer. In the end, the representatives from all the classes and the staff shared their appreciation. The underlying message was deep gratitude for all that LIA has done for them, especially under the guidance of the director, Rev. May.



The teachers asked for more and more Lutheran material to help them better understand the Gospel in the surrounding Christian culture that is very confused and legalistic; Jesus is normally presented as a helper in your efforts at making yourself righteous as opposed to Jesus being our Savior from sin and our Righteousness by grace alone. The final words of the principal expressed how much they have learned about Jesus from all the LST instructors who have taught at Olasiti school. "We all still continue learning. Thank you, Lutherans, and may God bless you for all your generosity and kindness."

Thank you, dear LIA supporter, for working together with us in spreading the pure Gospel to the people of Africa!

*How can a young man keep his way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.
With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from
your commandments! I have stored up your word in my
heart, that I might not sin against you.
~Psalm 119: 9-11*

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