



# Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

[www.lutheransinafrica.com](http://www.lutheransinafrica.com) | July 2023

## LIA Reaches Out

Greetings Dear Supporter!



The Lutherans in Africa (LIA) organization's main task at the Lutheran School of Theology (LST), is to form Lutheran pastors, who faithfully shepherd their people by teaching them the true word of God as it is written in the Bible. The more pastors we train, more people will learn that Jesus is the only way to everlasting life. Other means such as money, works, or spiritual behavior do not merit Heaven. In addition to the work done at the LST, LIA also takes teaching requests from outside. LIA leads seminars

on a wide variety of theological topics to laypeople and pastors from different church backgrounds. LIA strives to share the pure Gospel amongst church bodies that have been deprived of solid teaching but are now seeking for the Truth.

In our recent newsletters, we have written about many seminars that were held this past year. LIA's professors taught in Kenya's refugee camps, Kibwezi, Burundi, Meru, and several other locations. In this letter you find photos and stories of few more seminars and also of other LIA visits as we like to nurture the relationships formed over the last two decades in Africa.

### Great Need to Train Elders

One of the requests was for Pastor May to teach at an elders' seminar in Kisii, Kenya. The main interest was on how to address questions about Lutheran identity and how to prevent heresies entering the church from other denominations. Elders have a different role in Africa than in America. Since there is a lack of ordained pastors in Africa, these elders often preach in churches. Most of them have families to support and therefore have other jobs. They are





not willing or able to take the time to attend a seminary for several years to receive a proper training and ordination. While LIA does not have enough people to respond to all ongoing need for more training seminars outside the LST, this elders' seminar is an example of a small way we attempt to help. LIA also wants to distribute more and more materials such as *Good News* Magazines that elders and pastors can use as a teaching tool. *Good News* has bible studies and provides doctrinally sound answers to many issues.

### Teaching for Lutherans and Pentecostals



Pastors May and Ristau were also invited by Bishops Bernard Mbarushimana and Selestine Seburikoko to teach Luther's Small Catechism to Lutheran pastors and also some clergy from the Pentecostal Church in Rwanda. Although Lutheran pastors present were ordained, the vast majority of them had no pastoral training and did not even know what the Small Catechism is. However, they sincerely wished to know more, and learn theology in order to serve their churches more faithfully. Pastors May and Ristau gave a "crash course" on the six chief parts of the Small Catechism. The students were very appreciative and had lots of great questions. After the course, all of them wished to study more as their faith in their Lord Jesus and Lutheran doctrine deepens.

Approximately half of the students spoke French and were very glad to receive a French Catechism coloring book from *Lutheran Hour Ministries* Canada. In the photo the students are holding up other

Lutheran literature such as *Good News* Magazines in Swahili, and the Small Catechism in their local Rwandan dialect.



During their time in Rwanda, Pastors Ristau and May connected with one of the LST students and got to meet his family. They also spent time with the bishops and participated in worship services in several congregations.



### Continued Relationship with Lutherans in Tanzania

After Rwanda, Pastors May and Ristau traveled together to Tanzania. The retiring bishop, Emanuel Makala, had invited them to attend the installation of the new bishop for the Shinyanga diocese. Pastor May and Bishop Makala's relationship dates back to 2010 when the first ever translation of the Book of Concord in Swahili was printed and launched. Bishop Makala was one of the most interested





Tanzanian church leaders to have confessional Lutheranism taught in his diocese. Pastor May tells, "Even though the LCMS does not have altar and pulpit fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church Tanzania (ELCT), I thought it was important to respond to their teaching requests. We should always take the opportunities to build up the Church by teaching the pure doctrine. I was invited to teach the Book of Concord in Shinyanga's training institute a couple of different times in the subsequent years. The Bishop's encouragement and learning the confessions led some of the men to further their studies in Fort Wayne, and now the LCMS is also building a Lutheran Bible School in Shinyanga."



"It was good to wish God blessings to the retiring bishop and to extend the hand of friendship to his successor, Bishop Nzelu, offering a continuous willingness of LIA to teach if invited to do so. We pray that Shinyanga diocese continues to embrace

the importance of holding on to the pure doctrine. Many Lutheran pastors in Tanzania have been trained in seminaries that use higher criticism as the interpretation method. That has led to false teaching because Higher Criticism does not accept that all Scriptures are inspired by God and are infallible and inerrant. If the Scriptures are not inspired by God and contain errors, then human beings try to 'correct', ie. change the doctrine. Teachers from LIA will continue to point this out and hopefully others will see the error and turn from it."

We praise our Lord Jesus Christ for all of our partners in the ministry who strive to feed the spiritually hungry with the Gospel, and those who provide generous donations. The greatest challenge in Africa is keeping up with the desire for teaching as the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Please keep us all in your prayers.

### Help Wanted

You may have read on Lutherans in Africa Facebook site that the book shipment from USA was finally received. We thank God and all donors and volunteers who made this happen! It was a long road to get this, roughly 29,000, quantity of books to the LST. First, the Covid rules put a halt to all shipments. Then, individual shippers had to wait





when backed up loads considered more urgent were handled.

Now we are looking for volunteers who could spend some time in Kenya helping to get these books labeled and into the library system. It would be great if a person who has some practice in data entry or library cataloguing was interested in coming! Contact Pastor May, [proliturgy@icloud.com](mailto:proliturgy@icloud.com), for inquiries.

## Support the work of Lutherans in Africa

### USA

- By mail: Checks may be sent to  
*Lutherans in Africa*  
PO Box 121, Ocean Shores, WA 98569
- Online: Go to [www.lutheransinafrica.com](http://www.lutheransinafrica.com) and select either the Paypal button or the Donor Perfect button.

### Australia

- By mail: Checks may be sent to  
*Lutherans in Africa - Australia Inc*  
C/O PO Box 6094  
Shepparton, Victoria, 3630
- Online: [LIA-Australia Paypal](https://www.paypal.com/au/web/webpage?_ga=2.111111111.111111111.111111111-111111111.111111111&_ga=2.111111111.111111111.111111111-111111111.111111111)

### Canada

- By mail: Send a cheque, payable to "Concordia Lutheran Mission Society" and with the memo line "2118 Lutherans in Africa", to  
*Concordia Lutheran Mission Society, P.O. Box 455,*  
*Water Valley, AB T0M 2E0*
- Online: through Canada Helps: visit the link below and apply your donation to project "2118 Lutherans in Africa" – <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/concordia-lutheran-mission-society/>

## Photos of LIA Outreach, Fall 2022 - Spring 2023

*Invited by Pastor Konana, LIA visits a Lutheran Church in Ewaso, Kenya.*





*LIA made frequent trips to Kenya's Homa Bay County. Here, checking the construction site and the drawings of a new church building with Bishop Amayo and other church leaders and participating in a Sunday service.*



*Ristau Family visits Bishop Bakari and congregation in Kibera, Kenya.*

*Various events in different congregations and homes in Kisii County, Kenya. Working together with Bishop Omtwoyo.*





