



Newsletter of Rev. Vance and Linda Becker at Matongo, Kenya September 2021

Graduations and Good Byes

August was a busy month at Matongo. After a week of review, students took final exams which are 70% of their grade. Preparing, administering, scoring, recording and reporting on the two hour exams is quite a formal process with lots of rules, signatures and paperwork. Vance is almost finished grading his 80 exams.

Vance held an orientation meeting for fourteen students who are going for a one semester internship, four deaconesses and seven evangelists from Kenya and three pastoral students from Tanzania and Burundi. They return to their home area where the Bishop assigns where they will serve.

Vance also had a debriefing meeting for seventeen students

returning from internship. They learned a lot as they faced many challenges. They particularly mentioned the difficulties of lack of financial support and resource material in some churches.



Meanwhile there were good-bye parties for classmates who may not be seen again as they scatter throughout Kenya and eastern Africa.

Then came graduation day. Ten men received a Diploma in Theology. Fourteen more received a Certificate in Theology which has less requirements. Three women received a Diploma in Diaconia and four received a Certificate in Diaconia.

Two men who are receiving a Bachelor in Theology degree will graduate in Nairobi at the school with which ours is partnered in order to have accreditation.

The graduation ceremony had to be low key with no family guests because of

Covid restrictions, but was still about three hours and had some festive touches.

Please pray for us, praising God for growing His church against all odds, thanking Him for our dedicated and talented graduates, and asking Him to protect and provide for them and prosper their ministry for the benefit of His people.

Getting Ready for Something New

One new thing for Vance in the coming semester will be serving as Dean of Chapel. He will be responsible for picking hymns, scheduling student and faculty preachers and liturgists, etc. We have chapel every morning at 7:30 am, with communion on Wednesdays, and evening devotions Monday through Thursday at 5:30 pm.

During the semester break, there are often improvements being made on campus. This time, two small apartments were built for the single women who work as a librarian and the school secretary.

Another building project will be a new classroom and offices. From groundbreaking to occupying it is expected to be about two weeks.



Please pray for us, praising God for opening doors for His word, thanking Him for the opportunities, abilities and resources we have to work with, and asking Him fill our school with good teachers and eager students.

Bible reflection

The prophet Elijah won a great victory over the prophets of Baal with fire from heaven, rain after a drought and killing of the false prophets. Still, he was threatened by King Ahab's wife Jezebel and ran for his life, burnt out and ready to die.

Jezebel was actively evil. She threatened to make Elijah's life like that of the false prophets: dead. Ahab was passively evil. He did nothing to stop her. Satan's goal is also to make our life like theirs, if not actively evil, at least so discouraged or afraid that we are passive and do nothing.

But God, who fed Elijah miraculous food and brought him to Mt. Horeb, feeds us His Lord's Supper, brings us to Himself, and sends us out again with the assurance we are not alone and He himself is always at work in and through us.

Please pray for us, praising God for always accomplishing His purposes, thanking Him for never leaving us alone and asking that He enable us and others to serve faithfully.

People wonder...

How is the new classroom building being constructed?

A trench is dug by hand for footings (not as deep as back in Minnesota). The dirt inside is leveled and packed by hand. Sand and gravel is hauled in and concrete is mixed on the ground with a shovel. A concrete floor is poured. Reenforcing rod frames are built to go inside concrete

columns and beams which are poured in place with wooden forms.

Bricks are brought from a town just down the road. Trees on campus are cut down for roof timbers. A local roadside metal worker builds window frames and doors.

Once the walls are up, concrete is thrown on them and smoothed and maybe even decorative features are formed. Any electrical wiring is laid in a groove of the concrete on the inside wall. A corrugated metal roof is put on. If there is money left, ceramic tile may be laid on the floor.

If you wonder about a question, email vance.becker@lcms.org

Please pray for us, praising God for building up His servants, thanking Him for bringing us together to serve in this place and asking Him to provide the resources and abilities we need.

Swahili sample

This month's language sample is the names of our graduates: Abraham Thiong Nyang, Kinyangi Moses, Edwin Omondi Nyago, John Nyirongo, Timotheo Alfred Msengi, Martin Majier Agol Leek, Antidius Kaijage Cosmas, Elphas Masinde, Daudi Mamo Ababa, Farah Haider Jula, Evans Maina Ombati, Heroic Moses Mkwizu, Kerionka Lerionka Joshua, Lazarus Ole Singaru Laiser, Caleb Otieno Awuor, Patrick Ltswa Luhombo, Kevince Ouma Okuche, Opuro Oboho Agwa, Emmanuel Uduong Kwot Gilo, Goeffrey Nyangu Maina, Lenasaiyan Kelvin Ltumoka, William Sagero, Moses Matundura, Thomson Onkundi, David Otieno, Joseph Mpoke Swahili Atungonza Proscovia, Janipher Proscovia Koote, Lituinya D Rispah, Naomi Clement, Janes Bonareri Nyangate, Irine Okoth Atito, Esther Simukoko.

Contact us at the address below to let us know how we can be praying for you too.

If you get this newsletter in print but could get it by email instead, it could save funds for our ministry.

Email us with your name and the mailing address now receiving it.

If you don't desire to receive this newsletter, email us or call or write Trinity Lutheran Church, 1010 Fleming, Garden City, KS 67846 (phone (620)276-3110)

Connect with us.

Email us at vance.becker@lcms.org & linda.becker@lcmsintl.org, or send us postal mail at the Mission Central address below.

Help expand our network by liking [vance.becker.lcms](https://www.facebook.com/vance.becker.lcms) on facebook and sharing it and this newsletter with friends. Let us know about yourself and prayer requests. We will pray for you too.

Financial support

All our funding comes through the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, which is not just an office in St. Louis but the people and congregations. We are grateful for many generous people, for yearly & monthly gifts, and also single gifts.

A monthly or yearly gift is ideal, but a start-up gift is also very helpful.

- Checks written to LCMS with Becker/Kenya in the memo can be mailed to: *LCMS, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-66861* or *Mission Central, 40718 Highway E16, Mapleton, IA 51034-7105,*
- Give on-line at www.lcms.org/givenow/becker
- or missioncentral.us/becker
- Give by phone at 888-843-5267.

Please pray for us, praising God for daily providing out of Fatherly, goodness and mercy, thanking Him for those who are able to give generously, and asking Him to keep providing funds for this work.