



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

Getting Up to Speed

We are preparing pastors, evangelists, and deaconesses as fast as we can for the fast-growing church here. Pictured below is Peter. He joined one of the mission churches, having been a youth minister in a Pentecostal church. His bishop has recommended and sent him for pastoral training even though he has not had basic confirmation instruction yet! (This also happened a few years ago when I was in South Sudan.) So, one of my jobs as campus chaplain is meeting with him for catechism instruction. He will be accelerating from convert to clergy in three years.



There are several other students who will have to accelerate as quickly as they can. They were here last semester, went home during the two-week break, and now, three weeks after the start of this semester, they have returned. They were delayed not so much by COVID as just plain regulations and paperwork.

So, class rosters tend to be dynamic. Several students Vance expected in one class are not in that class, as it turns out, but overall, they are mostly replaced by other students who were not expected.

Please pray for us, praising God for the Spirit's work in causing faith, thanking Him for bringing us students eager to learn, and asking Him to give each of us the wisdom, understanding and abilities we need.

Beginning New at the Beginning

Linda's weekly Deaconess Bible study has resumed with some new faces. She is now doing a study of Genesis. The Deaconess students who come enjoy the study and also get to keep the study guide. Any resources that students can take with them to use in their work are always greatly appreciated. There are no Lutheran bookstores here.

Please pray for us, praising God for the power of His creating word, thanking Him for making us His chosen people, and asking Him to lead us throughout our lives.



Building Up Room for Building Up

Five weeks ago, right after the graduation ceremony, ground was broken for a new classroom building. It has been interesting watching the progress each day, just up the hill from our house.



It was not quite done in the two weeks some predicted but is almost finished. It will contain two offices and one classroom that is larger than our others. We will probably still be rearranging the chapel several days each week for other classes, but this new classroom will be greatly appreciated.

Books are Precious

As was mentioned in August, one challenge here is having textbooks for classes. They are not published in Africa. Usually, they are brought in suitcases of missionaries and visiting volunteers, some of whom will be traveling this way after Christmas.

We have put together a wish list of books. Textbooks that are to be checked out by students, including:
-15 copies of Called by the Gospel, New Testament introduction, \$43 each.

-15 copies of The Christian Faith, \$32 each (for Christian Doctrine class).

There are also books that will be used for class and then kept by students as a resource:

-28 copies of Luther's Small

Catechism with Explanation, \$16 each

- 28 copies of Concordia's Complete Bible Handbook, \$21 each

- 30 copies of Visitation, \$24 each.

Also needed is: Abingdon Bible Land Map Set, \$190 each

These books would be paid for through an LC-MS International Mission fund for our school. If you want to donate specifically to it, it is fund #11100-AA0012. If you want your donation to go specifically for a particular resource, email us to let us know.

Please pray for us, praising God for every benefit from our work, thanking Him for making us His, filling our school with students, and asking Him to keep providing the resources we need.

Bible reflection

The Letter to the Hebrews says that when man was created, he was a little lower than the angels with creation subjected to him. It goes on to say we don't see this now.

Because of sin, creation is out of control and our attempts to improve it often backfire. It is often hard to see Christian influence in the world in other ways also.

But we do "see" Jesus. He has defeated sin and death and now reigns over all things as creator and preserver of the universe.

Because of what Jesus has done, we do rule on earth now in another, unseen way. We have the power to forgive sins, freeing people from the dominion of darkness and opening

up the kingdom of heaven.

We don't always see how the things we do are used to cause God's kingdom to go forward, but we have His promise that we do.

Please pray for us, praising God for His rule over all things, thanking Him for working in unseen ways and asking Him to guide our efforts and use them for good purpose.

People wonder...

How do our students come and go to school?

Travel over a few miles is often done on motorcycle taxis. If students don't have much luggage, two may fit on one.

Longer distance travel is done in minivan busses, packed tight with people and with luggage piled on top. There are also a few larger coach busses. Students from other countries often spend several days in a bus going each way. Few can afford to fly.

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

Please pray for us, praising God for leading us wherever we go, thanking Him for bringing us together with these students and asking Him to keep us all safe.

Swahili sample

Chapel worship is in English some days and Swahili other days. We sing the same hymn several days in a row to learn them, so Vance often picks one that is in both hymnals.

Here is one that is already a favorite. Hint: "Penda" means "love" and "toto" is "child."

Ananipenda kweli neno lasema hivi;
Sisi watoto wake; hachoki kutulinda.
Chorus: Yesu anipenda, Yesu anipenda, Yesu anipenda, Mungu amesema.

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.