



Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

www.lutheransinafrica.com | December 2018

This is the first newsletter by LIA's new missionary Leena Simojoki. Leena moved to Kenya with her family this August to help LIA with its communication. Her husband, Tuomo, works as the organization's Chief Operating Officer. Leena has studied educational sciences and pedagogics. She has worked earlier as a teacher and as a customer care trainer through her own consulting company.



With Grateful Minds Towards The New Year



On December 5th, we had a grand celebration. We celebrated: Staff Christmas party, end of the academic school year, and the retirement of two long serving employees; Rev. Japheth Dachi and Mwalimu Naftali

REV. JAPHETH DACHI AND MWALIMU NAFTALI IGENDIA

Reverend Japheth Rabach Dachi was born 1948 in Mititi, West Kenya. His parents were the first Lutherans in their village. In 1967 he was accepted into the Bible School in Matongo to study as



an evangelist. After successfully completing his theological studies, Rev. Dachi was ordained in 1986. In the beginning of his career, Dachi was working in Christian radio and TV programs of the church. In 1999 he was elected as the Deputy General Secretary of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya (ELCK). Rev. Dachi was an outspoken Confessional Lutheran who endeared himself to the Lutheran Heritage Foundation when they began working in Kenya and Sudan. When the Concordia Lutheran Institute for the Holy Ministry was opened in a while Yambio, South Sudan, his leadership and teaching ability were put to service in the church by becoming a teacher and principal until his retirement in 2018.

It was a great joy to have the celebrations in our new Chapel at LST! Little by little all operations are now taking place at the mission center in Kimuka.



Mwalimu Naftali Mayoyo Igendia served as our Senior Translator. Mwalimu which means teacher, hails from Kisii land in Western Kenya. Earlier in his

career, he served as a teacher while assisting the Lutheran Church in various ways. While teaching full-time, he also pursued a Masters in translation in the Kiswahili language, one of the few people in all the country who have a Masters in Kiswahili translation. The LHF-Africa were blessed to be able to hire a precise and well trained translator to head the department from 2009 onwards.



Thankful for the 15 and 10 years of good service with LHF-Africa we wish Rev. Dachi and Mwalmu Igendia, with their families, blessed years of retirement!



THE WORK CARRIES ON

More and more pastors and teachers are needed so that the Gospel may reach more people. That is why we have the Lutheran School of Theology in Kenya. By deepening the Lutheran teaching of the students of theology and by providing congregations with

Lutheran literature, we bring them the true doctrine in the midst of false and confusing teachings.

During the past semester, the students were able to deepen their understanding of Luther's Catechism, the Old Testament Survey, Pastoral Counseling, The Augsburg Confession, The Formula of the Concord and Paul's letter to the Galatians.



Besides Rev. May we had also visiting teachers: Pastors Ylilehto and Väättäinen from Finland and Rev. Osugo and Dr. Okoyo from Kenya. Whilst Rev. May was on teaching trips in Zambia and South Sudan, the visiting lecturers had the responsibility of teaching at LST. Having visiting teachers to the LST is needed as different pastors have strengths in various speciality areas. It also allows Pastor May to conduct continuing education seminars in countries outside Kenya where pastors or evangelists are not able to come to Kenya for extended periods. It also allows him time for translation projects in other countries.

MOVE TO KIMUKA AND ONGOING CONSTRUCTION

In the beginning of December, the majority of operations, including the chapel, was moved to LST. Thanks to a professional moving company, the move to LST went well despite the challenging location. At the moment chapel services are being held in the library until construction on the church is complete. It was nice to begin the new Church Year in the new premises.

The construction work has, after a brief pause, started again with good speed. We are really grateful for a generous donation that allows us now to finish the library building. A great improvement was receiving solar panels for electricity, which brings proper lighting to the study areas.

Mission center and house has advanced steadily. The roof and windows are now in place and the base work of the interior and exterior walls are pretty much finished. Our hope is that the house would be ready for occupation by next summer.



The next construction projects are a clean and functional kitchen and permanent dormitories for the students. Current conditions are very much temporary. Having said that, it is incredible what delicious food the cooks have been able to make in these very basic environments. Yet another reason to be thankful for!

VOLUNTEERS

During the past year we have had the joy of receiving many volunteers from congregations around the world. We have marvelled at God's good guidance: we have been sent the right people at the right time. The Lord is never too late nor too early. His wise plans has been prepared with the smallest of details!

With the help of the volunteers, many things have moved forward. They have given us many helpful tips, eg. on farming and looking after the animals. The volunteers have worked with the library books, done professional digging, etc. Even now we are expecting our next group of volunteers to arrive

around the turn of the year to give us a hand with many things! May God bless their efforts abundantly!

“UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE, THOSE WHO BUILD IT LABOR IN VAIN. (PS.127:1)

When reviewing the year at its end, we can see that there is so much that we can be grateful for. God has done and given so much! We also want to extend our thanks to all the supporters of our work. Without your prayers, commitment, work and donations, our work would not be possible. We ask that God may give us the strength and wisdom to be good stewards of His work here in Africa.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Refreshing holiday for the students

We pray that the students would have a blessed and refreshing holiday with their loved ones. We pray that they may have the chance to practise what they have learned amidst their congregations.

Safe travels

We pray for safe travels for all the volunteers. We pray for safety of all those on holiday.

Blessed Christmas time

We pray for a blessed Christmas for everyone. May the Child of the manger bring the light and joy!



“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (ISA. 9:6)

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For no one can lay a foundation
other than that which is laid, which
is Jesus Christ.
1 CORINTHIANS 3:11