



e-mail: britt.odemba@lcms.org

Growing in their faith and knowledge of God



IT'S NOT JUST A BUILDING...

This is not just any building, this is currently the home for 25 new students in the Nyamira diocese. It is designed to eventually house 80 students who come from within the local Lutheran parishes around Nyamira. Its construction was a well coordinated effort, from the architect drawing the plans to the contractor implementing his vision. With the support of the local Lutheran church leadership and board of management for the site, this project exemplifies love in action, and now it can be called a home. We thank God for the partnership that we share with our brothers and sisters in Christ, who also have a heart to help their own.

Acts 20:35 "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus how he himself said "it is more blessed to give than to receive".



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Students from Project 24: Lenkishon perform their original song and recite their poem, wearing their traditional Maasai dress. Below: The Acting Archbishop Ochola cutting the ribbon at the sixth Project 24 site: Nyambiri.

It was just last year in January that we celebrated the opening of our fifth Project 24 children's boarding facility. This facility in Lenkishon is now the current home of 25 Maasai children who come from the county just south of Nairobi. When we first visited the site in conjunction with the Catechetical Club Competition there, the new students were timid and shy. They had just arrived at the site a few days before and really did not grasp what was going on. They knew that this would be their new home while they went to the nearby Lutheran sponsored school and that the church was helping them, but they did not realize what this truly meant. During the competition the new students were quiet as they watched the "veteran" children from the other sites perform their dramas, recite Bible verses and parts of the small Catechism.

After the competition had ended however they settled into their studies

and then started practicing for the next Catechetical Club Competition. As their knowledge of the Bible grew, so did their faith and confidence. They also bonded and became a new little family. Fast forward to a year and half later, and I was overjoyed to see these once timid students belt out their love for the Lord in song and praise. Their understanding of the word of God was evident in their recitations and poems. Now that we have a new set of students at our sixth site, I'm looking forward to seeing how they mature and grow spiritually just as the Lenkishon children did. To God be the glory.





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- the new students from Nyambiri (pictured above) who will be a part of our Project 24 program
- all of the Kenyan students who are on school holiday

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- the wonderful partners in the United States who support the work here in Kenya

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- the opening of our sixth Project 24 site, Nyambiri.

Local family and colleagues



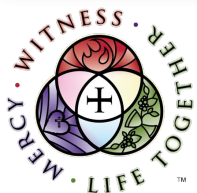
From left to right: Hillary, Cynthia, me and Maureen

The many American LCMS missionaries here in East Africa rely on the three supporting staff above to help guide, lead and manage our internal affairs while we are out in the field. These people include our accountant Hillary, administration assistant Maureen, and our receptionist Cynthia. Each of them works tirelessly to ensure that everything runs smoothly, including immigration and work

permit issues as well as the accounting for every project and visit we do. Beyond their office responsibilities and just as important, they guide us through cultural issues as we missionaries continue to learn more about the communities that we serve. They are patient and kind as we sometimes stumble through things, but we know that they will always support and advise us when we need their help. We thank God for them everyday!

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We thank and praise God for His provision. We also continue to thank him for the growth of our family. Ever since Silas started walking, Rael has started walking too. It is wonderful to have a little brother who can challenge her. It has been fun to watch them start to play and care for one another.

Thank you all for your love! The Odembas



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