



# Jambo

Jesus in Action with the Matongo Beckers & Others



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

October 2019



Pastor Richard Cox (left) and the good people at Peace in Christ, Walkersville, MD, went all out and his daughter was ready to put on the "Africa hat." While there, Vance's sister, Susan, and her husband were very generous to us for a whole week.



## Wonderful Welcomes

Our trip out east went well. A benefit of this support raising phase, besides connecting with a lot of people who will be praying for us, is meeting people who are really excited about what we will be doing, which encourages us as well.

Not being millennials, we had a hard time remembering to take pictures, especially at first. Not pictured here are Pastor Alan Scott, who serves Trinity Ellitsville and St. Paul's, Indianapolis, IN. He and his wife were very enthusiastic. We enjoyed staying with Linda's brother, Dave, and his wife.

We were impressed with the students at White Creek Lutheran School near Columbus, IN, where Pastor Justin Whitmore and Principal Whitney Vandercar serve. We were marvelously hosted by the Meyers while there.

Pastor Steve Girard at St. Mark, Brunswick, was enthusiastic (as usual) and the Thompsons were wonderful hosts for the night.

It was good to get to know Pastor Frederick Hoffman (below) at St. Johns, Glen Arm, MD, and he arranged a great evening for us.



We enjoyed catching up on old times with Pastor Steve Niermann as we visited St.



John, Napoleon, OH, where he and his wife also hosted us.

We had a delightful visit

with the Arbeiters (below) in IL. What an extraordinary couple!



It was great to see Pastor Al Janneke (above) and his wife again as we met the gracious people at Emmanuel, Percy, and St. Paul's, West Frankfort, IL, before a week of training in St. Louis.



Pastor Brent Hartwig welcomed us back to Our Redeemer, Iowa City, IA (where we first met!) and we were enthusiastically hosted by the Wilsons (below) before getting back home until another trip in November.



## ***Bible reflection***

In 1 Samuel 17, the Philistines terrorize the Israelites, especially Goliath, the giant. David, when visiting his brothers on the battlefield, is not intimidated. Why not? He knows from experience that God is able to protect him from lions and bears. He also recognizes that Goliath is threatening not just the Israelites but the honor of God. When Saul tries to at least help by dressing him in his armor, David realizes this will hurt more than help. He goes to fight Goliath, not just confident in his slingshot, but “in the name of the Lord of Hosts” (v. 45).

Each of us will also face great challenges and will be tempted to back down and give up. Even when we are courageous, we may try to rely on our own devices, which can cause more problems. Yet, we can remember how God has helped us in the past, trust in His great wisdom and power, seek His honor and will, and give Him all the glory for the ways He is able to use us as His own “pebbles.”

*Pray for us*, praising God for His wonderful plans and promises for us, thanking Him for the power with which He works for us and through us, and asking Him to give us confidence not in ourselves but in Him.

## ***Connect with us.***

Our email addresses are [vance.becker@lcms.org](mailto:vance.becker@lcms.org) and [linda.becker@lcmsintl.org](mailto:linda.becker@lcmsintl.org).

Vance's Facebook page focuses on our ministry. Help expand our network by liking it and sharing it and this newsletter with friends. Let us know about yourself and prayer requests. We will pray for you too.

## **Scheduled visits**

Come and met us at...

- Oct. 9, Noon Bible study group, Hosanna, Mankato, MN
  - Oct. 12, 6 pm worship & talk, Christ, Lebanon, SD
  - Oct 13, 10:30 am worship, 9:15 am talk, Emmanuel, Gettysburg, SD
  - Oct. 13, 6 pm Supper & talk, Trinity, Spencer, SD
  - Oct. 17, District Workers' Conference, Mayer, MN
  - Oct. 20, 9:15 am talk, First Ev., Glencoe, MN
  - Oct. 24, 6:30 pm, talk at Salem, Madelia, MN
  - Nov. 2, 5:30 pm worship and talk; Nov. 3, 9 am worship & 10:30 talk at Trinity, Garden City, KS
  - Nov. 2, 9 pm, 5:30 pm worship & talk, Grace, Ulysses, KS
  - Nov. 6, 4 pm, supper & group talks at Messiah, Hays, KS
  - Nov. 9, talk, Concordia, Hoisington, KS
  - Nov. 10, 8 & 10:45 am worship, 9:15 talk, St. John, Ellinwood, KS
  - Nov. 17, 4:30 pm, Mission Central Event, Norfolk, NE
  - Nov. 24, 8 & 10:30 worship, 9:15 talk, St. John, Woodbury, MN
- Pray for us*, praising God for giving so many people an eagerness to support Gospel outreach around the world, thanking Him for the opportunities we have to share about it, and asking Him to open doors to do this near the places are going.

## ***Swahili sample***

One word we may as well get used to is *mzungu*, which means “white person.” The plural is *wazungu*. Swahili changes the beginning of the word rather than the end.

## ***People wonder...***

*When will you be going?*

We will be told when to go as soon as sufficient funding is in place and visas are arranged, which we expect soon after the first of the year. We have had a second week of training in St. Louis, focusing on the transition. We will be out of our house, which is being sold, by the end of Oct. and then stay with a relative. Until then we are sorting, tossing, selling, storing and figuring what to ship.

## ***Financial support***

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

There are several ways to do it. A monthly or yearly gift is ideal but a start-up gift is also very helpful.

- One is through Mission Central ([missioncentral.us](http://missioncentral.us)), a branch office of LCMS International Mission. Mail in an “adoption agreement” with a check written to “Mission Central” and “Becker/Kenya” in the memo.
- Checks can be mailed to LCMS, P.O. Box 6861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861, written to LCMS with Becker/Kenya in the memo.
- Give on-line at [www.lcms.org/givenow/becker](http://www.lcms.org/givenow/becker)
- Give by phone at 888-843-5267.

*Please pray for us*, praising God for daily providing all we need through Fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, thanking Him for those who have received generously so they can give generously, and asking that He allows us to be fully funded soon so we can begin work in Kenya.