



MINISTRY MOMENTS

“And you will be by witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)



Moments in Mission...

Have you ever thought about what the moments in your day would be like? As a missionary, I think about that all of the time. Sometimes I have an idea of what I hope the day will be like, but God in His infinite wisdom often has other things in mind. I can't begin to count the amount of awesome "moments in mission" that I have experienced. I do know that I am blessed beyond my imagination to be part of God's mission and that I get to share these moments with all of you. God calls us and gathers us into His mission, and it is our privilege to be messengers of the Gospel, pointing others to Christ. September and October were filled with wonderful moments in mission that will be imprinted in my heart for years to come.

CAMPUS LIFE, A VISIT TO MATONGO - KENYA...

It was a joy to spend a few days on the campus of Neema Theological Lutheran College (Matongo). With 90 students from 8 countries in Africa, this year is the largest student body to date. Spending time in the classrooms, greeting the students around the campus and attending chapel helped me to be part of this community of believers and strengthen my relationships. I met some of the students in their home countries and have seen them serving across various ministries. Seeing them blossom and doing well in their studies brings me joy knowing that they will be strong witnesses of the Gospel to many.

CONTINUING EDUCATION - ETHIOPIA...

Once a year all of the missionaries on our Eastern and Southern Africa team gather together for our continuing education retreat, this year it was hosted by our colleagues in Ethiopia. Concordia Seminary provides these continuing education experiences for clergy, church workers and laypeople in efforts to serve the church and world through theological education. Rev. Dr. Jeff Oschwald, from Concordia Seminary St. Louis, led us through "Reading the Acts of the Apostles as Holy Scripture." It was very enlightening for me and I gained a deeper understanding of the book of Acts. During events like this, our team is able to worship together and receive Holy Communion together. This is something that strengthens us and refreshes us.

WHEN THE MUD WINS - TANZANIA...

The adventure began as my colleagues and I traveled to the Tanga Diocese of the Lutheran Church in East Africa (LCEA). Tanga is an interior area which is very beautiful and lush with winding mountain roads. This time of year the short rains have started, making travels tricky. As we started our journey we could see that there were some places where the mud would be a challenge, but we pressed onward. It however got deeper and slicker and with about 20 kilometers to go, a decision had to be made. Looking ahead to the mud, we decided, THE MUD WON that day. We went back to a central place and tried to call the bishop along the way. Several hours later, the bishop and pastor met us. We went back to a town two hours away, spent the night and in the morning had very fruitful conversations. Even when the mud thinks it wins, God's mission goes forth.

Yours in Christ... Shara & Michael



Prayers & Praise

- Pray for God's strength and guidance as Michael and I serve in Eastern and Southern Africa.
- Pray for Neema Theological College, the students and faculty.
- Pray for the missionaries in Eastern and Southern Africa.
- Pray for the pastors and congregations of the LCEA.
- Praise God for the many moments in mission that I have experienced.
- Praise God for all of the love & support that you give to me and Michael.

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