



Jambo

Jesus in Action with the Matongo Beckers & Others



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

January 2020

Good News of Great Joy

Merry Christmas to all our friends and supporters on this 10th day of Christmas. It is amazing that our almighty, immortal, eternal, omnipresent God fits Himself into the form of a helpless baby for our sake, but all of God's great gifts to us are too great to celebrate in just one day, spilling over into the new year, just as all His loving presence that fills our lives overflows from us to others and overflows our life on earth to life everlasting.

It will soon be Epiphany, a time for the good news to shine out to the whole world as happens in personal witnessing, congregational evangelism & international missions.

May the true light that has come into the world cause you to arise and shine.

Let's Go!

After the angels appeared to them, the shepherds said, "Let's go" to see what God has made known to us. Then they hurried to tell everyone what had been told them about Jesus as they glorified God for doing just as He said. We are eager to this too.

Just before Christmas we were officially approved to head for Africa, now that the necessary funding threshold has been reached. Thanks be to God!

Our tickets are now purchased, shipping is arranged for books and household goods we will take with us.

We will fly out of Chicago on Jan. 15.

Pray for us, praising God for His plan of salvation, thanking Him for giving us faith through His word, and asking Him to make us effective witnesses.



the LWML and church staff at Trinity, Faribault; and Pastor Joel Hess and the people at St. James,

We Traverse Afar

Since our last newsletter, we have enjoyed visiting and sharing about the work in Kenya in southern Minnesota, including Rev. Kevin Oster and friends at Our Savior, Hutchinson, where Linda taught;



Chicago (where our son is a member). We did not make as many visits during this season when Churches were busy with other things, but, on the plus side, we got in on some very nice Christmas celebrations!

We have one more stop before we leave the country, Holy Trinity, Edmond, OK, our daughter's church.

Pray for us, praising God for the privilege of being His tools, thanking Him for those who work together in

God's kingdom, and asking Him to open doors, provide for us, and keep us safe as we travel.



Pastor Nicholas Kooi, friends and neighboring church members at Emmaus, St. Paul; Pastor Rob Jarvis and the folks at Hosanna, Buffalo;



Treasuring All These Things in Our Heart

For the first time in 37 years, Vance spent Christmas with his Mother in Kansas. For this special occasion, all of his six siblings came from across the country, along with most of their children, a real houseful.

Since there was no Christmas Day service at church, Vance led the family in Christmas worship, after which they joined in a special prayer of blessing for him and Linda.



Swahili sample

We should start to practice saying Jina langu ni Vance. Mimi ni Mmarikani. Jina langu ni Linda. Mimi ni Mmarikani. Sisi ni watu wa Amerika. Can you guess what that means?

By the time of our next newsletter we will be at a camp at Iringa, Tanzania, where we are going to learn Swahili. We should have a lot of new words then.

Pray for us, praising God for all He reveals to us in His word, thanking Him for spreading it in every language, and asking Him to help us as our old brains learn Swahili.

Making a list and checking it off

We are checking off a list of things that need to be done before moving to Africa. Linda has finished vaccinations for Yellow Fever, Typhoid, etc.. Vance got his last year

when he went to South Sudan. We have a prescription for a daily pill to prevent Malaria.

We have arranged banking and credit cards for being out of the country and set up our son to take care of our banking for us.

We have gotten international driving permits which must be used with a valid license and so have gotten updated licenses to last until we get back.

We have bought a supply of sun-screen (which Africans don't need) and some other things that may be hard to find there.

We have arranged the shipping of about 1000 lbs. of the things we cannot carry with us and have our plane tickets. Next we get our visas.

Pray for us, praising God for His full control of everything, thanking Him for providing all we need, and asking Him to give us health and strength as we prepare to leave and to bring us & our things safely there.



Bible reflection

The coming of the Magi to worship Jesus is one way the Bible shows us He is truly God, but did the Magi themselves realize this? I doubt it. So, why would foreign dignitaries bring gifts to one they thought was a new king? I think it was in hopes that He would do even more for them, as an ally, the same reason gifts are given on state visits today.

True worship of Jesus today also is not about what we can give Him but coming to receive the greater gifts He gives us as our defender against our enemies, sin, death and the devil.

Pray for us, praising God for His amazing plans and promises, thanking Him for his patient grace despite all we deserve, and asking Him to give us confident trust in Him even when (as we should know to expect) things to go wrong.

Connect with us.

Email us at vance.becker@lcms.org & linda.becker@lcmsintl.org

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.

People wonder...

Will you have a vehicle in Kenya?

Yes, we are told that we will need a vehicle so that Vance can go with students on weekends to area churches where they or he may be preaching. It will need to be a vehicle built to handle very bad roads and dirt tracks. We will also use it to go to the city to shop for things we need. It also needs to have the steering wheel on the right side, like other former British colonies.

Financial support

All our funding comes through the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 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 6861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861* or *Mission Central, 40718 Highway E16, Mapleton, IA 51034-7105* (missioncentral.us),
- Give on-line at www.lcms.org/givenow/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.