







# MINISTRY MOMENTS

"That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ." (1 John 1:3 ESV)



## Tuko Pamoja! (We Are Together)...

This month the theme of togetherness, partnership and mission have echoed across various ministry moments. Our LCMS East Africa field office works closely with church bodies throughout Eastern and Southern Africa, and those words bring us together as we point others to the Cross of Christ. One of my colleague's often reminds me that in all that we do in the various ministries put before us, "We are together - tuko pamoja". As members of the one Body of Christ, we share in fellowship with all other Christians through Jesus. We are also interdependent, focused on one common task, God's mission. God's mission challenges us, knitting us together in this partnership of sharing the Gospel. In doing so,

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we use the gifts that God has given to us. The gifts of prophecy, service, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading and mercy. (Romans 12:6-13)

#### Committee of Mutual Christian Responsibility (CMCR)...

I attended the CMCR in Ethiopia the first week of February. The theme for this 41st gathering of partners of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), was "Transformation of Partnership Through Mission". What does this mean and how is this accomplished? These questions were discussed in depth during the conference. Answers centered on using the gifts that God has given to us, focusing on being in relationship with each other, sharing and communication and lastly transformation through mutuality. Conferences like this afford us the opportunities to grow and learn from each other.

#### State of Project 24 Forum...

Towards the end of the month I attended the State of Project 24 forum which was held at the Nyambiri boarding facility. The forum brought together the leadership of the ELCK, site managers of the seven Project 24 boarding facilities, LCMS missionaries and Project 24 advocates from the U.S.A. It was exciting to see the growth of Project 24 as each of the sites strive for excellence. Annual reports gave a picture of the uniqueness of each site, and of the joys and challenges. The common thread was the importance of caring for the children in a loving, Christian environment. Project 24 director John Kissinger did an excellent job moderating the forum and has been a strong mentor and advisor to all involved in Project 24. His love for the children is amazing to see. He lights up whenever he is around them, and this love is reciprocated by the children. As the forum came to a close, Archbishop Ochola of the ELCK addressed the group saying, "Projects come and go, but the Gospel goes on forever. The Cross of Christ will always be leading Project 24." A bonus for me was spending time with the kids at the Nyambiri and Othoro sites. I look forward to seeing all of the children at the upcoming Catechetical Bible competition in April.

Togetherness, partnership, and mission unites us as the body of Christ. The work of spreading the Gospel is not something we do alone. God calls us all into His service in different ways. No matter what the many ministry opportunities may be, may we always remember to let God's mission be our purpose.

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 the LCMS missionaries serving in Ethiopia through the EECMY.
- Pray for the continued growth of Project 24 and for the children as they grow in faith through the faithful teaching of God's Word
- Praise God for keeping us in His care.
- Praise God for all of the love & support that you give to me and Michael.

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