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**ENCOURAGEMENT FROM
GOD'S WORD**

*"Fear not,
for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name,
you are mine.*

*When you pass through the
waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers,
they shall not overwhelm you,
when you walk through fire
you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not
consume you.*

*For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
your Savior.*

*Behold, I am doing a
new thing;
now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?*

*I will make a way in the
wilderness
and rivers in the desert...
to give drink
to my chosen people,
the people whom
I formed for myself
that they might declare my
praise."*

-Isaiah 43:2-3a, 19-21



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Eyes on the Lord



Bishop Charles Bameka prays during a radio broadcast of Sunday morning worship.

What a blessing to see the ways God is working for good here in Uganda, even in the midst of current changes and challenges. He is providing new ways for the Lutheran Church of Uganda (LCU) to reach people with the life-giving water of the Gospel during this time. While congregations are unable to gather in person, the LCU is broadcasting Sunday morning worship services in English and the local language on the radio. This is a ministry they are hoping to continue even after we are able to resume regular worship because it has opened a door to share God's Word with people outside the church, as well.

Like most of the world, life and ministry here in Uganda look a little different these days due to COVID-19. We are sheltering in place as we adhere to government restrictions aimed at controlling the spread of the virus. Schools and churches are closed. Borders are closed to everything except essential cargo. Public and private transportation have been restricted. Only essential services are open, leaving many people without work.

As we all learn to adjust to the new realities of life, our eyes are often drawn to the changes and challenges, the fears and uncertainties. Yet, in the midst of this, God calls us to stop and instead turn our eyes toward Him, our Savior and Redeemer. "Behold, I am doing a new thing," God says through the Prophet Isaiah. "Do you not perceive it?"

God is also working through the LCU to reassure congregation members and communities that God is walking with them in the midst of life's challenges. Pastors continue to encourage members through phone calls and visits to the sick. Together with their partners in ministry, the LCU has also been able to provide food and soap to members of the congregations and communities who are facing economic challenges due to the extended lockdown.

We praise and thank God for the ways He is working through His Word to make a way in the wildernesses of life. May we faithfully declare His praise so that others too may come to see our Savior and His mighty work with eyes of faith.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *The Lord to bring more people in Uganda and around the world to saving faith in Christ*
- *The LCU as they minister to people in new ways during this time*
- *God to protect and provide for people throughout East Africa in the midst of the coronavirus, flooding, locusts, and economic challenges*
- *Wisdom and guidance for all leaders as they make difficult decisions during this time*
- *Health and safety of people around the world*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *God's loving presence, protection and provision*
New ways in which God is reaching people with His Word
- *The many congregations, schools, and individuals who pray for, encourage, and support me*

YOU ARE IN MY PRAYERS.

- *I regularly pray for the individuals and congregations who support me by name. Please share any specific prayers I can bring before the Lord for you.*

Counting My Blessings

I thank God for His hand of protection during this time. The other LCMS missionaries and I are safe and well as we shelter in place here in Uganda.

While I miss my students and look forward to the day when we can safely go back to class again, I do thank God for this time at home. It has allowed me to dedicate more time to lesson planning and curriculum development, important components of my new role here. I am also thankful for phone calls and text messages that keep me connected with the people I serve alongside in the churches and schools.

As people around the world are also at home during this time, God has provided increased opportunities for fellowship via technology. Our team of LCMS missionaries in East Africa now meets via Zoom for daily morning devotions as well as for Sunday morning worship. I have also been blessed to join congregations in America for worship and Bible study online. In addition, I thank God for increased opportunities to communicate with my family and friends around the world.

I thank God for all of you, and for your continued prayers for me and the ministry here. Please know you are in my prayers, as well.

Kids' Corner

What are kids in Uganda doing right now?

Just like you, my students are at home right now. Most of them are helping to work in the gardens to provide food for their families.

Some students have packets of homework to study at home. Others are able to access review lessons if they have a computer, TV, or radio.

We are praying that God provides a way for our students to safely complete the school year, which ends in December.



This boy made his own toy. What toy can you make out of materials in your home?

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. -Philippians 4:8

*Humbly in the Lord's service,
-Rachel Meyer*



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