



Jambo

Jesus in Action with the Matongo Beckers & Others



Newsletter of Rev. Vance and Linda Becker at Matongo, Kenya September 2020

Home in Kenya!

What an eventful month! At the beginning of August we hired a small bus for a scenic three day trip across Tanzania to the Kenyan border near Lake Victoria. It took several hours to do entry processing. They may have been out of practice because we were among the first in many months.



Our regional director, Rev. Shauen Trump and other regional staff welcomed us to Matongo and stayed a few days to help us get settled. We made a whirlwind trip into Kisumu for shopping and within the first week our house had appliances and was furnished with surplus furniture we bought from Finnish Lutheran missionaries.

Our home is half of a duplex. The other side is occupied by fellow Minnesotan, Dr. Tom Aadland, who



is back there for right now. You can see that we live in a beautiful place.

Most of our time since then has been spent cleaning, fixing up and arranging. It is a long process, so it is helpful that classes are not able to start yet.

Vance is glad that, after over half a year, Linda still remembers how to cook. We shop some in Sondu, a small town about 5 miles away, but also buy produce at a nearby village and from small stands just up at the corner. We get milk delivered fresh every morning, still warm! Some fruits and vegetables grow right here on campus.

Please pray for us, praising God for His knowledge of all the future holds for us, thanking Him for guiding and providing for us through changing times, asking Him to help us learn and fit in well in this culture and community.



New Friends & Neighbors

Since arriving, we gotten acquainted with Principal Omolo, other college staff, and also other workers around the campus. Simon, the gatekeeper who is head of security, was there on the long-awaited day when our work permits were delivered to the gate.

We worshiped one Sunday at the local Lutheran church which could seat 1000 but is now practicing social distancing. That service was in Ekugusii, the language of the local Kisii tribe. The next Sunday, Vance preached at the church at Lwanda (outdoors because of Covid), with



translation into the language of the Luo tribe there.

Beside being visited by the new Archbishop, Rev. Dr. Ocholo, we

also visited Bishop Omwoyo at Itierio, the town where the Lutheran mission first started in Kenya. There is a large compound there now with boarding schools for almost 2000, a recording studio, a clinic, etc. We met several women's Bible study groups while there.



Please pray for us, praising God for the wonderful truth of the Gospel, thanking Him for all those who work with us, and asking Him to guide and protect all who serve our church here in Africa.

People wonder...

How expensive are things there?

The money we use now is Kenyan shillings. One hundred shillings is worth about one dollar.

Some things here are quite cheap, including local fruits and vegetables, especially if you can bargain to get the "African" price. The "white person" asking price may be double or more. Labor costs are also low. A man who spent most of the day digging up our garden area asked for 1000 shillings (\$10).

Manufactured goods, especially if imported are more expensive.

If you wonder about a question, email vance.becker@lcms.org

Bible reflection

Isaiah 56:6-8 says that God scattered Israel with the intention of regathering them and gathering others along with them. He does the

same today. He disperses His people among unbelievers in their communities, schools and jobs and even around the world so that they can be an influence on them and draw them to the true God.

Isaiah goes on to say that his house will be a house of prayer for all nations where the offerings of these outsiders will be welcomed.

Throughout the history of the church, it has changed and developed with contributions from many cultures,

Jewish, Greek, Roman, African, German, British, American, etc. The church continues to encounter new people groups to add to the mix.

He intends us to share the gospel with them but also intends for us to welcome gifts they have to share with us because all of these gifts are gifts from God Himself, who gave His own son to save the whole world and gather us all into His church and His home in heaven.

Please pray for us, praising God for His unlimited presence, power and wisdom, thanking Him for His gifts to all of us and opportunities to use them, and asking Him to increase our wisdom, faith and love.

Swahili sample

Although many people in Kenya speak English (at least much better than we speak Swahili), we use our Swahili when we go shopping locally. Some important words to be ready to use are:

Gani? "Which one?"

Ngapi? "How many?"

Wapi? "Where?" Lini? "When?"

Nini? "What?" Nani? "Who?"

Bei: "Price"

Contact us at the address below to let us know how we can be praying for you too.

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Email us with your name and the mailing address now receiving it.

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Connect with us.

Email us at vance.becker@lcms.org & linda.becker@lcmsintl.org, or send us postal mail at the Mission Central address below.

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.

Financial support

All our funding comes through the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, which is 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 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-66861

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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.