

Musings from MATONGO

NEWS FROM REV. DR. WALTER & ROBYN STEELE



September 2020



STEELES IN AFRICA

—We have made it across the border into Kenya!

—Walter's work permit has been approved and issued.

—We have officially taken up residence in Karibuni House.

—Karibuni means, "Welcome Y'all!" And we have already entertained guests, including the Archbishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya.

—We are grateful to our hosts at Masumbo Camp for their hospitality over the past seven months as we waited this day.

—We prayerfully await the arrival of students in January.



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Preaching at Matongo Lutheran Church, Matongo Parish, Kenya

We have finally arrived in Kenya, to our home at Matongo Lutheran Theological College. And Walter is already busy preaching the Gospel in the local congregations! On August 30, he preached at Matongo Lutheran Church, Matongo Kenya. This congregation is the mother church for the parish in this area.

As we mentioned during our time visiting congregations in the USA last year, there are not enough pastors to serve every congregation. So a pastor serves a parish, which is comprised of between five and fifteen congregations. Matongo Parish is made up of seven such congregations. Each congregation is then served by an evangelist, who reports to the pastor. Additionally, Matongo Parish is served by a deaconess. The pastor rotates between congregations each Sunday. You can imagine how much it means to him and to the people to have another man preaching where he is not able to be that day!

While most of his sermon was in English, Walter was able to use Kiswahili to quote from the Bible passage he was preaching. In the picture above, you see the man who was translating. He was not translating into Kiswahili, but into Ikegusii, the vernacular language of the Kisii people, who make up that parish.

The typical Kenyan lives a very basic life. Many hardships are endured daily. Therefore, those "churches" which proclaim a "prosperity gospel" often lead people away from the cross of Christ. Sadly, this is usually to the detriment of the people and the enriching of the preacher. Thank God, through your continued support, the people of Kenya and East Africa can continue to hear the true and saving message of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen for them and for all.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Thanksgiving to our Lord for traveling mercies to Kenya.
- Pray that the Word of Christ continues to go forth without hindrance in this place.
- Pray for peaceful elections in the countries in East Africa.
- Give thanks to God that the work permit has been issued.
- Pray that the issuance of the final paperwork would proceed without issues.
- Give thanks to the Lord that, despite this pandemic, the churches remain open here and the Word of Christ is being heard.
- Pray that those who live in fear would find the peace they need in Christ Jesus our Lord.

As we enter into the second year of service in Africa, we are deeply grateful to our partners who have continued to faithfully support this work with prayer and finances.

We also thank our Lord, in advance, for those who will continue to support us as the year progresses.

You are the ones that make it possible for the people of Kenya and East Africa to hear the pure, clear Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you!



After lunch on Sunday with the Matongo congregation's leaders and deaconess. We had Ugali and Sukuma Wiki. Delicious!

Remember:

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Make the memo line: Steele/ Kenya

For more information on our work and our progress check out:

Our Website: SteelesInAfrica.com

Our LCMS page: lcms.org/steele

On Twitter: @WalterRSteele

Or Facebook: Walter Steele



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

To support the LCMS through the work of Walter and Robyn Steele, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Steele/Kenya." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/steele.