



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

Classes Begin

Vance has now begun teaching as classes have resumed to finish the semester begun BC, "Before Covid." It has been very challenging for the students from other countries to get here but, after a couple of weeks, most have now been able to arrive.

Each of Vance's classes meets for three hours at a time and he has three class periods per week.

Each class day begins with chapel at 7:30 am. Vance has preached twice for chapel. The students lead the liturgy while other teachers and also advanced students take turns preaching.

Please pray for us, praising God for His powerful word, thanking students eager to learn, and asking Him to help Vance and the other teachers to do their work well.



A larger church is also being constructed and partly in use at Iterio, where Lutheran mission work in Kenya was

first started by Scandinavians. When Vance went to preach there (with the



Bishop interpreting), we stayed overnight with one of the members. Linda enjoyed helping cook the supper we had at the Bishop's home and meeting other women.



Please pray for us, praising God for the joyful Gospel, thanking Him for the growth of the church here, and asking Him to help us and all the leaders here to have the resources and abilities to be effective.



Worship at Area Churches

We were invited to worship with the church which has the choir that made a music video with Linda. Their church is being expanded and still under construction but, as they worship outdoors, the new entry is already being used as a chancel.

Just Another Day in Africa

We have learned to expect the unexpected. One day we had an unusual hailstorm that also brought down some trees. Our garden did not get

covered by snow like back in Minnesota these days, but it was white.



Some of our travels take us on very bumpy dirt roads. When one of the straps that holds the gas tank on broke off on such a road, Vance was



able to fasten it up with a piece of seatbelt strap until we got to

a small town shop the next day.

Road construction and traffic are both challenges when we make a weekly trip into Kisumu for supplies. Recently we experienced a traffic jam. Here, people don't stop just because the car in front of them does. They try to pass any way they can. The two lane road was blocked for



hours with cars spread out on the shoulders and ditches, up to nine cars wide. We ended up taking a detour through the next county and got home late at night.

We are still working on the adventure of getting all our necessary paperwork and permits. But we now have enough to allow for the things we packed up at Christmastime last year to be shipped from Minnesota. Maybe we will get it by this Christmas!

Please pray for us, praising God for His wisdom and knowledge of all we need, thanking Him for providing for and protecting us, and asking that Vance's Resident Card and Linda's Dependent Pass will soon be issued.

People wonder...

Did you vote in the election?

Yes, we were able to download a mail-in ballot like many other people, although getting it mailed in was more challenging than if we lived in the U.S. Due to Covid, there is not regular mail service to the U.S.

People here are very interested in the U.S. election and how it compares to elections in this part of Africa.

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

Please pray for us, praising God for Guiding the whole course of the world, thanking Him for freedom to preach the Gospel, and asking Him to give us good, honest, wise and just leaders both in the US and here.

Bible reflection

Like many others in this beautiful country, my wife and I have visited a nature reserve and gone on a "game drive." There were times when we looked out over the landscape and did not see any

animals. You can be sure, however, that they saw us. Fortunately, we had a guide with us to point and say, "Do you see those ears sticking up there, that tail? Keep looking carefully. Let's keep going and I will show you more."

There are times when we may look at the landscape of our life and not see God. We may not see how He loves us and why He is allowing troubles we have. Yet we can still be sure He sees us and what is going on.

Fortunately, we have a guide. It is the apostles and prophets who wrote the Bible. They point out for us what we should expect to see as we go on in our lives, drawing closer to God until finally we reach heaven where we know fully as we are fully known.

Please pray for us, praising God for His great mercy, thanking Him for leading and guiding us in mysterious ways and asking Him to help us know, believe and follow his word more closely.

Swahili sample

Now that classes have started we also have daily chapel. We often use the Swahili liturgy and hymns in the hymnal, *Ibada Takatifu*, which means "Worship holy." In Swahili the adjectives come after the noun.

Translating the weekly hymn takes work for us but some phrases are becoming familiar, such as these:

Atukuzwe Baba na Mwana
He ought be glorified Father and Son
na Roho Mtakatifu.

and Spirit Holy
Kama ilivyokuwa mwanzo
As it which was first
na iwe sasa na siku zote
and it ought to be now and every day
na hata milele na milele. Amin.
and even forever and forever. Amen.

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

If you get this newsletter in print but could get it by email instead, it could save funds for our ministry.

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* or *Mission Central, 40718 Highway E16, Mapleton, IA 51034-7105,*
- Give on-line at www.lcms.org/givenow/becker
- or missioncentral.us/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.