



Newsletter of Rev. Vance and Linda Becker at Matongo, Kenya November 2021

Retreat Was a Real Treat

Twice each year, the LCMS missionaries in Africa meet for a retreat which usually includes some sort of training – except that the last three retreats have been canceled on short notice by COVID shut-downs.

We were excited to go to our first retreat in October. We met near Mombasa, a Kenyan town on the coast of the Indian Ocean.

The main item on the agenda was the opportunity to personally meet co-workers we have not seen in the flesh before. Among them were three “alliance” missionaries from our sister church in Brazil. One, Moacir, will teach at a college in western Africa. Two, Daniel Martins and Volmir De Rocha, will teach “next door” to us in Uganda.

Volmir and Daniel, with his wife Sabrina, visited us here at Matongo for a few days after the retreat to observe classes and see how things are done here.

This is a “small world.” They know relatives of Vance in Brazil, who are descendants of his grandfather’s brother who was a



missionary there two generations ago.

Please pray for us, praising God for opening doors to the gospel, thanking Him for all those willing to serve with us here, and asking Him to give each of us the abilities, support, and resources we need.

Helping with Health

The health of students is a challenge here. Some develop problems such as stomach issues, high blood pressure or high blood sugar and diabetes. Others have other longstanding issues that have just never been treated. One common issue is vision problems. When you have to do a lot of reading and writing, it becomes clear that you do not see clearly.

Students who have sponsors, like the LCMS or other mission agencies, have medical care paid for and so we take them to the doctor in

Kisumu. Those without sponsors get what treatment they can at the clinic next door or, if necessary, small local hospitals.

We do what we can to help. Linda has gotten a blood pressure machine and takes the pressure for students who need it monitored. She

provides soap for washing hands and dishes and has provided vitamins. Just this week, Vance used duct tape to mend a student’s broken glasses.

A lot is invested to train students who are greatly needed for ministry here. Soon after we were here, one student who had been sick went home and died soon after. We do not want that happening!



Deaconess students in red for Reformation Day

Please pray for us, praising God for knowing our needs and how to meet all of them, thanking Him for both common and miraculous healing, and asking Him to give us the strength and health we need.

Book Donations

As was mentioned in the last newsletter, there is a need for textbooks and other resources for students. Vance has now ordered about \$3000 worth of books, shipped to a U.S. location. This Christmas we will make our first trip home to the U.S. in two years and plan to bring back what we can. Others will wait for a later trip. Shipping would cost as much as the books themselves.

The books include Called by the Gospel, New Testament introduction; The Christian Faith; Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation; Gathered Guests; History of Theology; Concordia's Complete Bible Handbook; Visitation and wall sized Bible land maps.

If interested, you are invited to help provide these books by donating to LCMS International Mission, putting fund #11100-AA0012/Becker Books in the memo line. If you want your donation to go specifically for a particular resource, email us to let us know. Sent a check to LCMS, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-66861 or give by phone by calling 888-843-5267.

Please pray for us, praising God for every benefit from our work, thanking Him for making us His, filling our school with students, and asking Him to keep providing the resources we need.

Bible reflection

In Jesus' sermon on the mount, He taught about how life in the kingdom of God is quite different from what people normally expect. This is true in one of the most familiar parts of this sermon, the beatitudes.

Many would expect that being happy, well liked, confident, able to do good things, etc., means that you are blessed by God, especially when you are a Christian. On the other hand, if you are discouraged, not feeling good about yourself, disliked by others, easily pushed around, etc., then there must be something wrong.

But Jesus says it is actually such people, those poor in spirit, starved for righteousness, persecuted, etc., who are blessed by God. This would include many of the needy, helpless, overlooked and hopeless people around us. Why? not because of anything they are or do but because of the grace of Jesus who will bless even them with comfort, mercy and being given His heavenly kingdom.

Please pray for us, praising God for His unworldly way of doing things, thanking Him for undeserved mercy and asking Him to bless us so we can bring blessings to others.

People wonder...

Have you had visitors from the U.S.?

We have had members of the Africa team stay with us several times but have not yet had friends or family come from the U.S.

The guest beds are ready. We hope to have some family visit next year and you are welcome too. Seriously!

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

Please pray for us, praising God for leading us wherever we go, thanking Him for supportive friends and family and asking Him to keep us all safe as we come and go.

Swahili sample

Swahili doesn't often use pronouns like "me, you, he." Instead, these are indicated by added letters that are part of words. "He gives you" is "anakupa." "You give him" is "unampa." But "this, that and those" are commonly used. So "Huyu ni rafiki yangu" "This one is a friend of mine," rather than saying, "He is my friend."

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.

If you don't desire to receive this newsletter, email us or call or write Trinity Lutheran Church, 1010 Fleming, Garden City, KS 67846 (phone (620)276-3110)

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.