



HOW DO YOU PICTURE IT?

I know that the Christmas season has passed but I wanted to share a little story with you. As a preschool teacher and now mom, I have always enjoyed watching children play with nativity sets. This last Christmas, my family visited other family members in western Kenya. When we returned home, I noticed that my niece and nephews had rearranged my nativity sets while their family housesat for us. In one set, all the figures were tightly crowded around Baby Jesus (photo above), In the second set, everyone looked like they were standing in awe and respect of their Savior and King(photo below). These two scenes led me to think about the curiosity, wonderment, awe, and worship suggested by the children's placement of the figures. What a blessing to see how children recognize the importance of the Baby who came to save us.



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Why we do what we do



One of the Project 24 students receiving a Christmas gift for his family.

Last November, our Project 24 Advocacy team was asked if we could do something different this year for the Project 24 students in light of the many challenges they faced due to Covid. It was suggested that we assemble Christmas gift bags containing special items for the children and a few items to take home to their families over the school holiday. We all agreed that this would be a great idea, despite having limited time to put them together.

We are happy to report that all 343 students in the Project 24 program received their very own Christmas bag which included a T-shirt, socks, treats, flour and cooking oil. The children and families were filled with joy and gratitude.

Through the numerous gifts from donors and our partnership with the Lutheran Church here in

Kenya (the ELCK) we were able to work together to make this special gift happen.

We are especially grateful for the team below that includes LCMS missionaries and the leaders of the ELCK, who come together on a regular basis and discuss the status and future of the Project 24 program, ensuring that the children receive great care and more importantly, come to know Jesus as their Savior.



Lutheran Schools Everywhere



PHOTO: A QUICK TO STOP TO LOOK AT THE TEA FIELDS IN KERICHO, COMING FROM WESTERN KENYA TO NAIROBI

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- our government documents to come together in order for us to travel to the states this summer
- Lutheran schools around the globe, that they may continue to reach out to their surrounding communities

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- the many donors who contributed to the Project 24 Christmas gift project
- Lutheran school teachers who continue to share the love of God with their students

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us



Teacher Ann conducts a lesson with her 2nd grade class at Karama Academy, Nairobi

As you may know, every year in America, our synod designates a week to recognize and celebrate Lutheran Schools. This week may include fun activities for the children, wacky dress-up days and usually a church celebration at the end of the week. All of these events are designed to acknowledge the importance of Christian education, to provide congregational support for the students and families in the school, and commemorate the long history of Lutheran Schools.

I have seen from experience that the Lutheran Church excels in educating children through their schools, bringing the Gospel to their communities. The number one mission field for Lutheran Churches in America are our schools.

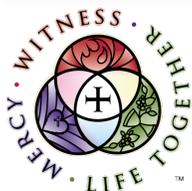
This is also true around the world. As I have closely worked with Lutheran schools here in Kenya, I have again realized the significance and joy in teaching little ones about Jesus.

May God continue to bless our efforts and give us His Spirit to carry on this great work.

We want to thank you all for your continued support and prayers. We look forward to seeing you all this summer as we return to the states for our home service.

Love from Kenya,

Britt, Micah, Rael and Silas



To support the LCMS through the work of Britt Odemba, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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

or to: Mission Central - LCMS World Mission
40718 Highway E16
Mapleton, Iowa 51034

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