



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

March 2022

Various Visitors

Our duplex has been a busy place in February. We were delighted to have our son and his wife come for a two-week visit. They enjoyed meeting students, seeing the neighborhood and going to a local church, and even practiced and sang with our choir. While in Kenya, they also visited a couple of park areas and had a great time.



During the same time, four others from the U.S. spent a few nights next door. Dr. Ross Johnson,



Director of LCMS Disaster Response and Rev. Peter Brock did training for Deaconesses on helping in time of Disaster. (about 15 other students chose to sit in on it too, which was great.) Ross's Father-in-law and Erik Lunsford, LCMS photographer were with them.

Erik also did day trips while here to see Project 24 Children's Homes.



Britt Odemba and Shara Osiro from our Nairobi office were on campus with them, and right after they left, John Wolf, our Africa Project Coordinator, was

here to take care of some things.

Tomorrow, Tuomo, Simokoji, the Africa Coordinator for Lutheran Heritage Foundation will be here for a few days. He is bringing with him some

books for our students.

Please pray for us, praising God for our various co-workers, thanking Him for preventing and protecting us from disaster and asking Him to make all that each of us do to be a blessing to His church.

Help with Health

One of our unofficial jobs is helping LCMS sponsored students and sometimes others with health problems. They will usually go to the clinic here first but if that does not help, they need more serious care. It seems sometimes that every time we go into Kisumu we are taking along a student who needs to see the doctor.

Problems recently range from vision problems to typhoid. LCMS sponsored students have their care paid for. For others who depend on home congregations, it is more of a challenge.



We have gotten familiar with several medical providers in town. This past week we had four with us and spent most of the day. This is one reason we were told to get a large vehicle.

Please pray for us, praising God for knowing all our needs and how to help us, thanking Him for keeping us healthy and safe, and asking Him to give health, healing, and financial means to our students and their families.

Travel Plans

We are working on plans to be in the U.S. this coming summer to make thank-you visits to churches and other supporters. After flying into Chicago at the end of May, we will spend mid-June to mid-July in Minnesota with a home base in the Twin Cities. While there, we will celebrate our 40th anniversary of marriage and ordination at Good Shepherd, Mankato, on Sunday, July 10. On Monday, July 23, we will give a presentation at Mission Central in Iowa on the way to Kansas. After a couple of other stops, we will head back to Matongo for the fall semester at the end of August.

We hope to see as many of our friends and supporters as possible but have realized there is not enough time to get everywhere.

One thing we are figuring out is transportation. If anyone has a car we could use for a few weeks while we are in an area near you, it would be great to hear from you.

Please pray for us, praising God for preparing in advance the things He has for us to do, thanking Him for providing for us richly and asking Him keep us free from every trouble as we travel.

Bible reflection

With Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration were two men from the Old Testament, Moses and Elijah. One thing both have in common is that both of them were taken by God before they finished the job God gave them to do. Moses didn't lead people all the way to the promised land. Joshua finished that job because of Moses' failure to completely trust and obey God. Elijah was told to anoint three men, including Jehu to be new king of Israel. He didn't get that done. Elisha, who followed him, did it.

We also fail to do everything God tells us to do but there is one who finishes and perfects things for us. It is one who shares the same name as Joshua, the Hebrew word for savior, and who leads us at last into the land promised for us. It is Jesus.

Moses and Elijah get to be in the glorious presence of Jesus, who is God, and we also will get to see God in His glory because Jesus has finished the job of saving His people by His perfect life and His innocent death on the cross in our place.

Please pray for us, praising God for revealing His presence and glory to us, thanking Him for finishing all

that needs to be done for salvation and asking Him to help us to know and do what He has for us to do during our earthly life.

Culture Contrasts

One of the differences between the culture here and in the U.S. was put this way by a local person, "You keep your dogs inside and your chickens outside. We keep our dogs outside and our chickens inside."

Attitudes about animals are different here. Most people don't have pets like those in the U.S. There are dogs who wander around and a cat here or there but most don't seem to belong to anyone in particular. They are usually searching for food, which includes catching rats.

They can fend for themselves but chickens, which definitely do belong to someone, need more protection, which is why they are let in at night. They also wander in and out of the open doors during the day.

Cows, goats and sheep may have their own shelter but are not kept in barns or pens during the day. Instead of pastures, they graze in yards and along the roadside. They may or may not be tied up by the rope around their neck or leg but are usually being watched by a man or boy.

People wonder...

What kind of dairy products do you have there?

We get fresh milk delivered every morning, still warm, and then pasteurize it. Most milk sold in stores is the kind that doesn't need refrigeration because that is rare here.

We can buy yoghurt and ice cream when we go to the city but Linda is able to make her own and cream cheese as well. We buy butter in the city but it can also be made at home because the milk is so rich and full of cream. Locals use oil to cook and use a type of margarine on bread.

We can buy cheese in the city where other foreigners shop, but that is not something that locals eat. Maybe, with milk so available all

year long, that method of preserving dairy products never developed here.

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

Please pray for us, praising God for the wonderful variety in all He has created, thanking Him for daily and richly providing for all our needs and asking Him to show us what we should be doing day by day.

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

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.