



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

June 2022

Interns Going and Coming

A large group of interns has started their work, practicing what they will soon do as pastors, evangelists and deaconesses.



Meanwhile, the previous group has returned for debriefing. They told of challenges, especially lack of money, but also the important things they learned, such as the value of preparation and the importance of confidentiality.

A pastoral student told how he remembered what he had learned about using law and gospel and was able to lead a man's Moslem wife to faith when she had been considering leaving him. An evangelist student told of being responsible for leading worship in a congregation of 40 people. He went out and made visits during the week and at the end of his three-month internship, there were 60.

Please pray for us, praising God for drawing all people to Himself, thanking Him for the gift of students ready to learn, and asking Him to keep growing His church.

More Books

More textbooks and Lutheran Study Bibles have been waiting for us in the U.S. and we have begun to prepare them to be carried back with us to Kenya. Most of the textbooks will be used for classes in the fall semester. Also coming along are two sets of Bible land maps.

Although there will not be room on this trip, more copies of the Concordia Complete Bible Handbook will be ordered when there are funds and will be brought over later to be distributed to students. To contribute toward this, mark your donation for the fund #11100-AA0012/Becker Books.

Since there is a limit to how many books can be bought in the U.S. and carried to Kenya, Vance is continuing to write and print books that seem to be desired and helpful. Even though the worship and teaching in the local congregations is not usually done in English in the countries of most of our students, two books that many students want to get are a catechism and a book with the "proprs" (introit, collect, etc.) for Sunday worship.

Vance has just finished preparing a book of readings for worship, with a Sunday service, orders for baptism,



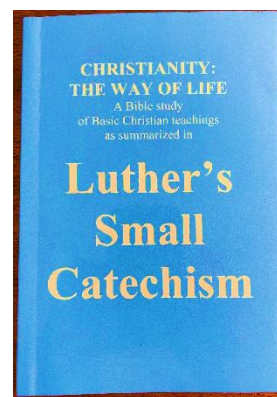
confirmation, wedding and funeral, and proprs for each Sunday and holiday. It can be freely copied because it is based on historic materials rather than anything under copyright. At the same

time, all the language was adjusted to use only simple, common English. One student has already said that he is translating parts of it into his tribal language. That is the idea.

Another book that Vance finished and had printed just days before we

left Kenya is an explanation of Luther's Small Catechism. Again, it is a non-copyrighted version, using common English.

Please pray for us, praising God for His inspired word which equips the saints, thanking Him for providing what we need for this work, and asking Him to continue giving material and spiritual blessings for this work.



“Thank You” Tour Begins

We have safely arrived in the U.S. Even before recovering from jet lag, we made our first visit to the folks at St. James Lutheran Church, Chicago and the 7th and 8th graders at St. James Lutheran School.

Our upcoming schedule includes:

June 8, LCMS International Center, St. Louis, MO. We will give a presentation about 10:45 am.

June 9-11, Minnesota South District Convention, St. Paul, MN

June 12, Redeemer Lutheran, Church, Owatonna, MN; 9 am worship and 10:15 am presentation.

June 13, First Ev. Lutheran Church, Glencoe, MN; presentation at noon LWML salad luncheon.

June 14, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, MN; presentation at 11:30 am LWML luncheon.

June 16-18, Minnesota South LWML Convention, Willmar, MN

June 19, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lewiston, MN; 8:15 and 10:30 am worship, presentation at 9:30 am.

June 26, St. John Lutheran Church, Montevideo, MN; 10:30 am worship; presentation at 9:45 am.

July 3, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Pequot Lakes, MN; 8 am worship, presentation a 9 am.

July 10, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, North Mankato, MN; presentation at 10:15 am. *(That afternoon will be an open house for our 40th wedding anniversary and Vance’s 40th ordination anniversary.)*

Please pray for us, praising God preparing for all the work we do, thanking Him for all our supportive partners, and asking Him to be with us giving us safe travels.

Culture Contrast

In the U.S., our future security may depend on how much money we have in the bank. In east Africa, few have much money, much less a bank

account. If people want to invest money, they buy a cow or start a building. Security is in relationships, so, if you have any money and a relative or friend needs it for any reason, you are expected to give it to them, and they are expected to do the same in return when needed. Don’t think a “loan” will actually be repaid except in this way. Help with money usually includes hospitalizations, weddings and funerals. People often have public fund-raisers and go into debt for these. It is not uncommon for even relative strangers to ask you to “assist” them if they think you have money.

Bible reflection

At Babel, people built a tower with its “top in the heavens,” not as if they could climb up to God by their own powers, but as a sign of how great they were, rather than trusting in God. As a consequence of sinful pride, God scattered them by keeping them from understanding each other’s language. Languages continued to change over time.

At Pentecost, God reversed the process. People came together from many places, speaking different languages but were made able by God to understand the apostles and were united in faith in Jesus.

Through the gospel message, God reverses the effects of sin. He tears down pride and builds up faith in what He has done for us. This brings us back together with him and also with each other. This is what truly brings us up to heaven, where we will all join with one voice in praising him.

Please pray for us, Praising God for being with us in every time and place, thanking Him for continued love and asking Him to give use the ability to share it with everyone.

People wonder...

Is there anything you miss that you want to enjoy while in the US?

Vance and Linda both intend to enjoy cottage cheese, which they

have not found in Kenya. Cheese is not common among Kenyans. Milk is used fresh, drunk by children and used for cooking, but ways of preserving it is not something that developed in eastern Africa as in Europe.

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

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 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.