



# Himo & Moshi, Tanzania Africa

NEWS FROM : JERRY MAYS, LCMS MISSIONARY-ENGLISH TEACHER VOLUME 2 ISSUE 9 September, 2023

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**Meet the New Seminarians at St. Peter Theological Seminary in Himo, for the Fall of 2023 and all 2024**



### Tidbits From Tanzania:

- The Mpingo Tree found in Tanzania produces the costliest timber in the world
- Before Tanzania merged with Zanzibar in 1964, it was known as Tanganyika

- Tanzania has designated 25% of its land to wildlife sanctuaries and National Parks, among the highest percentage in the world

- This total area set aside for wildlife sanctuaries is greater than the size of Germany

The most famous National Park is the Serengeti, where a million Wildebeests cross over into Kenya on their yearly migration!

It is named one of the seven wonders of the world



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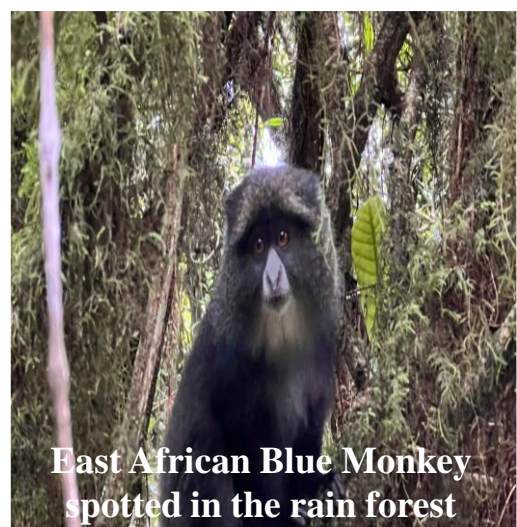
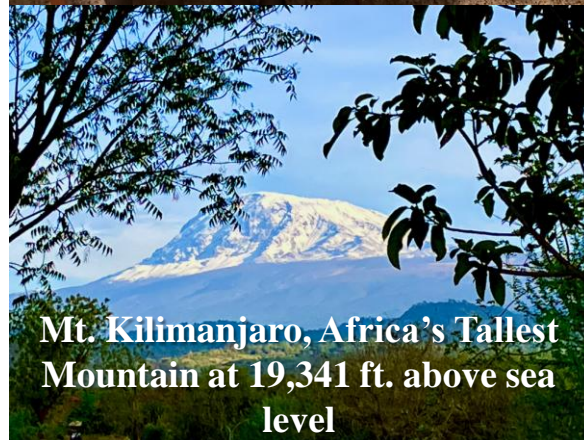


Beginning on August 28<sup>th</sup> the fall term began at St. Peter Seminary in Himo. In last month's newsletter I inadvertently stated that it would start on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, my apologies. With the start of the new school year we received eight new Seminarians beginning their new three year curriculum for graduation. Seated above from L-R are: Charles Richard, Sedekiah Mfugale, Vincent Amnaay, Anderson Hesilon, Edwin Mwangomale, Eliya Nkuinyo, Wilbroad Irafay and Rev. Ombeni Mwakisisya. They are members of this year's Grammar Form and Function 1, class. This will

be my first class that I will teach English to for one full year. If you remember I did not get my Tanzanian Work Permit until Dec. 2022, and therefore I was not able to teach the fall term last year, just the spring term of this year. They are very energetic and come to class ready to learn English. We start each class by singing the Alphabet Song as a group and then individually. They are working very hard on pronunciation with long and short vowels. Incidentally in Swahili the "E" is pronounced as "A" which sometimes confuses the students studying English. TGBATG!

# September 2023, "A Month That I will Never Forget"

September started fast and on Sat. the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the month and after a long hiatus from rigorous physical activity in my life, I participated in a half-marathon (13.1 miles) trail run on and around Mt. Kilimanjaro. It started at an altitude of 10,000 ft. and reached a height of 12,000 ft. I had never attempted a trail run, and believe me when I say it was a BIG CHALLENGE! Not only the height, but the rocks, boulders ravines and mostly always up and more up! You might say why at age 75, would I challenge myself. The simple answer was that the friend that joined me and I, had another goal starting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. We along with seven mission related friends had decided to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's tallest peak and the tallest free standing mountain in the world at 19,341 ft. above sea level. Our journey was a five day hike to the summit and culminates at Uhuru Peak. It is a journey that I have thought about since arriving in Tanzania in August of 2022. We began our journey at Kilimanjaro National Park for the Marangu Route at an altitude of 5,970 ft., beginning in the rainforest zone. Our first overnight was at Mandara Hut within the Moorland Zone at a height of 8,923 ft. and a distance hiked of 5 miles. Our second day was a 7 hour, 7 mile hike to Horombo Hut at an altitude of 12,205 ft. Day 3 was an acclimatization day at Horombo Hut to catch our breath and to rest, but our guide also took us on a 3 mile hike to Zebra Rock at a altitude of 14,400 ft. It was at this height that my journey ended. As we took a break to rest, I had blurred vision, and at the next break I had a total white-out in both of my eyes for over five minutes and I could not see. This condition is called High Altitude Retinopathy. I had never before lost my sight during my lifetime and it scared me to no end. After my sight returned, we hiked back to the 12,205 ft. altitude and I had an important decision to make. After many prayers, God was telling me to protect my health and I ended my journey. Of our nine climbers, four made it to the summit at Uhuru Peak. In between the beginning of the month and today, I continue to teach English at the Seminary and tutor students at MCCC. I also had the distinct pleasure of speaking via Google Meet to the LWML Dubuque, Iowa Zone at their meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>. TGBATG!



East African Blue Monkey spotted in the rain forest

## Jerry Mays-LCMS Missionary-Tanzania, Africa

May God continue to bless each of you daily with His Grace, Mercy and Peace. I am thankful for your continued prayers, that I remain healthy while I serve Him here in Tanzania. I thank God for the many congregations and individuals who pray for me, encourage me and support me.

Utukufu Wote Uwe Kwa Mungu

(To God Be All The Glory!)

From God's Inerrant Word:

Colossians 3:17, Psalm 9:1

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