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Culture Bites

Here you will find a small sample, tiny nibble or little bite of some of the things we are learning about Tanzania.

The baobab tree, yes a tree with great importance here, is just another way in which God shows us His creativity in creation! The tree looks like it was pulled up and planted with its roots in the air.

The fruits of the tree are hard yet fuzzy green shells that when you crack open contain the picture below. The fruit is actually in powder clumps around seeds and connected by dried veins. It has a tangy, bitter, sweet taste making a great juice or tangy snack. This powder is so nutritious including: riboflavin, calcium, magnesium, potassium, iron, and phytosterols, with low levels of protein and fats. It is a great multi-vitamin fruit to have throughout the dry season as people await the rains to grown fresh greens.



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A Baobab tree on the Seminary Campus

is that it blooms at the driest hottest part of the dry season, which would be now. The beautiful white blossoms remind us of the Southern magnolia blossoms, only the baobab's flower petals are more delicate looking and the flowers face downward. The leaves are just now beginning to bud out as well. The leaves develop just before the rains come. Find more info in the culture bite about their fruits.



Signs of Rain

Dear Friends and Family,

"O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens." (Ps 8:1).

We have also seen the signs that the rains are going to return soon. The baobab tree called *mbuyu* (m-boo-you) in Swahili is one of Africa's iconic trees, varying in look somewhat around the continent. It is the largest tree here in Tanzania. They do not look like much this last month, in fact, they all look dead. This is much like the trees in the USA that drop their leaves for winter. What is unique about this tree

The general secretary of the South East of Lake Victoria Diocese (SELVD), Happiness, and her husband, Julius Panga, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary! What a wonderful celebration which started in their local church. The church was so full there were people sitting outside all around as well. After the service and a blessing, the whole procession went to a place where

they could continue celebrating the couple and their family with toasts, gifts and some dancing. We were so thankful to be included in the celebration with the family and friends of this wonderful couple!



Bishop Nzelu blessing Happiness and Julius Panga at their 25th wedding anniversary service.

September is the month! The SELVD Seminary starts this very month. The first students are ready to start classes and the teachers are busy preparing for them. The campus is continuing to be built up. They have completed the last large concrete pour for the classroom building. That is quite the process! 24 hours to



Attending the 25th Wedding Celebration for Happiness and Julius Panga in Mwanza.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The South East of Lake Victoria Diocese as they start the Seminary this Month.
- Continued good health.
- Our continued learning of Swahili.
- Our acquisition of a vehicle.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- Tables, chairs and bed frames for the kids.
- The other missionaries we have met in Shinyanga!

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The many congregations and individuals who pray for, encourage and support us in so many ways, **such as you!**

complete the pour from start to finish. When you mix every bag of cement by hand and literally hand haul it up by five gallon buckets to the third story floor, that is how long it takes to get it done!

Our home update includes new furniture! We now have tables and chairs and beds for the kids. We noticed the children's handwriting has improved overnight! And now we enjoy meals together around this table. The box we had been using as a table has graduated to the burn barrel and/or mulch pit!



Our new to us dining room table and chairs.

As we adventure around finding foods available here, we found something that we have made into Frito chili pie; a comfort food for our family! And most importantly it has the children's stamp of approval. The chips are actually sweet potato chips with a chipotle flavoring and baked in thin strips that sort of resemble Fritos.



We just add some homemade chili and a little cheese, and we have what looks like a familiar comfort food! This dinner was eaten on the box table before we got our nice new one.

God's Peace,

Rev. Bryan, Dcs. Keah, Rory & Dalton Payne



Kids' Corner

Dalton is now 8! He had two different birthday dinners. The first was in Mwanza with other missionaries, and the second was in Shinyanga with those Dalton requested to celebrate with him. Those included the Bishop, Assistant Bishop, General Secretary, many Pastors and workers of the SELVD with their families! The cake was provided by Tiffany Smith, our local Lutheran Bible Translator Missionary.

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Rev. Bryan and Dcs. Keah Payne. Make checks payable to:

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