THE NEWSLETTER OF SHAUEN & KRISTA TRUMP

FIELD NOTES

Writing to you from Nairobi, Kenya

December 2010, January & February 2011

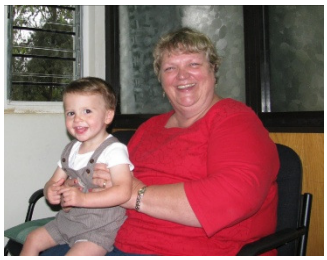
Photos in Focus

Rhoda, Claude, and Josiah

Mt. Kilimanjaro from Tanzania

Claude, Shauen, & a new friend

Sunset in Tanzania



Josiah and "Aunt" Rhoda

Agricultural Seminars with the Meyers

Six days after we landed in Nairobi, Shauen was on the road again for a two week trip into Tanzania. Over the initial days of the journey, Agricultural Missionaries Delano and Linda Meyer stood in corn fields, looked at cattle in stables, asked questions about plants, fertilizers, and land practices, and learned everything they could about the farming techniques employed in the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro. All this to establish the background for the program they brought to the people of the Lutheran Church of East Africa (LCEA), a small church body currently exploring opportunities for joint mission efforts with LCMS World Mission.

Delano Meyer Teaches in Kisaseni

This amazing team-teaching duo spent decades farming in the United States before "retiring" to mission service in West Africa. There they continued to do what they knew best, infusing instruction on soil conservation, nitrogen fixation, and small-business management with solid Law and Gospel proclamation through discussions on Christian stewardship, marital fidelity, and the two kingdoms.

Shauen Preaches in Mkombozi Congregation

Years of fine-tuning their two-day program has resulted in a polished presentation of information in an intuitive teaching style. Each section begins with questions, "Tell me how…" that are discussed in groups. Well-versed in some of the sweeping generalizations we can make about African culture, the Meyers divide discussion groups by sex and age and solicit responses in order: young women, old women, young men, old men. Were the old men to speak first (the social custom), no one else would speak to contradict them. The Meyers know that their class may be the first time some women have ever been publicly asked their opinion and they lavish praise.

After learning *from* those gathered before them, the Meyers begin pointing out opportunities for improvement. "If fast-moving water will carry away the soil, how can we slow it down?" "How can we put more hummus into the soil so we need less fertilizer?" "How can we take advantage of the yearly cycle in the price of maize—is it possible to sell later?" Together the class explores ways to improve the life of the soil, the yield of their crops, and their quality of life. The Meyers masterfully present a compelling and interactive opportunity for these subsistence farmers to give their farms a boost while hearing the Gospel message.

Shauen was privileged to travel with the Meyers and Rev. Claude Houge for this program, taking an opportunity to meet the leadership of the LCEA for the first time. He also participated in the program by leading a Bible Study called "Honor God with Your Body." On Sundays they worshiped with many of the participants attending the agricultural sessions. The first Sunday Rev. Houge preached and they witnessed the church grow through baptisms. The second Sunday Shauen shared the message and witnessed the confirmation of three boys. Praise the Lord for His work in this part of Tanzania!

Houges Retire from Africa Mission Field

Last night Shauen updated his Facebook status: "*Shauen Trump is feeling sad, lonely, and just a little bit scared. My boss's boss just returned to his home in South Africa. A few hours later my boss and mentor left for the airport with his wife, retiring from mission service in Africa. Although we have other coworkers here, and I've known it was coming for some time, I somehow feel wholly inadequate and unexpectedly alone.*"

Rev. Claude and Rhoda Houge

Last year as we accepted the call to serve as Mission Facilitator in Kenya and Tanzania we eagerly looked forward to working with Rev. Claude and Rhoda Houge who also lived in Nairobi where we would serve. Shauen would be taking over responsibility for the work in Kenya and Tanzania where Rev. Houge had been serving for some time. Although we knew they would eventually retire from service in Africa, we hoped for at least several years of overlap to ease the hand-off and be mentored and guided in the partnerships here.

Unfortunately, while we were on home-service the Houges shared with us and then made public their plans for retirement from LCMS World Mission by the middle of February 2011. That gave us just about five weeks of overlapping service before they left the field. Besides moving into our new home, unpacking things that had been in storage for almost a year, adapting to life in a new place and a new culture, Shauen now also had to absorb as much as he possibly could before his mentor and predecessor retired.

Introductions to national church leaders had to be made. Histories had to be shared. Philosophies had to be put into words and explained. Procedures had to be codified. Overseeing the LCMS World Mission East Africa Field Office had to be handed off.

Claude and Rhoda served for over twenty years on the Africa mission field. They knew Krista when she was a little girl in Liberia. Their knowledge, wisdom, and insight have shaped the fields where they worked and the people they worked with. We pray that in some small way we too have been shaped and can carry on in some semblance the work God did through their hands.

Thank you, Claude and Rhoda, for your service in Africa. Our appreciation for all you did here grows more and more every day. Blessings on the work God brings before you in the US mission field!

Return to East Africa

After 110 days in the United States, 8,748 miles, 38 presentations, 26 sermons, 1 formal Trump Mission Society Gala, 1 newspaper interview, and countless meals with mission boards, hosts, and pastors, we have finally made it back to Africa. It's good to be home.

Our new home in Nairobi—residence on the left, and the East Africa Field Office on the right

Contact Info

Shauen & Krista Trump
PO Box 22
Karen 00502, Kenya

Shauen.Trump@LCMS.org
Krista.Trump@LCMS.org

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Prayer Requests

- For the work of Tanzania's Lutheran Church in East Africa
- For our family as we settle in to our new home
- For Shauen as he adapts to his position as Mission Facilitator

In Praise

- For Josiah sleeping through the night
- For the safe journey and good health during our time of home-service
- For Josiah sleeping through the night
- For the 12 men who graduated from Shauen's TEE class in Uganda
- For Josiah sleeping through the night
- For a successful and safe journey with the Meyers in Tanzania