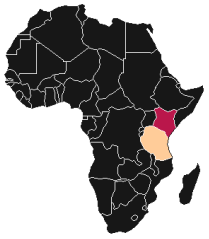
THE NEWSLETTER OF SHAUEN & KRISTA TRUMP

FIELD NOTES



Writing to you from Nairobi, Kenya

March, April, and May 2011

Facts in Focus

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK)

- Lutheran mission work began in 1948 by the Swedish Lutheran Mission
- Church formed in 1958
- LCMS World Mission partnership began in 1998
- Entered into Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with the LCMS in 2004
- About 130 pastors
- About 200 evangelists
- About 700 congregations and preaching stations
- About 110,000 members
- One seminary
- Two Bible Schools
- About 20 mission training centers
- Has an Episcopal structure with an Archbishop overseeing Bishops in 4 dioceses
- In addition to the Swedish Lutheran Mission (SLM) and LCMS World Mission, the ELCK has partnerships with the Swedish Lutheran Evangelical Association of Finland (SLEAF), World Mission Prayer League (WMPL), the Lutheran Evangelical Association of Finland (LEAF), and the Norwegian Lutheran Mission (NLM)

MTC Manager's Training

Twelve pastors look at Shauen expectantly. He remembers again that he's not in Uganda anymore. As he idly thumbs his Bible and feels that special anxiety that comes when speaking before a group, he begins, "We don't have time today to cover the entire Gospel of Luke, or even just those parts emphasized in the MTC (Mission Training Center) book. But I think we can learn a lot about Luke by looking closely at one chapter…"

An MTC Manager Presents on Church History

In some ways Shauen feels like he's finally doing the work he's put here to do. Theological Education is among the top priorities for LCMS partnerships across Africa. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) has numerous partnership opportunities in this area. They have a four-year seminary issuing Bachelor's Degrees for Pastors, a two-year Bible School issuing Certificates for Evangelists, and the Mission Training Center program dispersed across the country which trains laity as Helpers in congregations that don't have a Pastor or Evangelist of their own.

With almost twenty MTCs across Kenya, it's certainly beyond Shauen's capacity to teach at them all. The ELCK has a coordinator for the MTCs and each center is managed by the Pastor overseeing the area. So Shauen is privileged to participate at this point in the training of the trainers. Four times a year the MTC managers come together for two days of encouragement, fellowship, and a review of the two books to be covered in months ahead. Manager's training is led by the MTC Coordinator along with those he calls on to assist him, generally one or more of the MTC managers, or for at least one day of this training, Shauen…

Shauen continues, "So let's look at Jesus' parables of the lost things in Luke 15…" With the Scriptures open before them, as is normally the case, his nerves settle and as heads bow down to peer into the text, Shauen's anxieties are replaced by that special joy of gathering around God's Word. Soon the group is deeply involved in discussion and debate that occupies them for most of this second day of training. As the afternoon turns to evening the thoughts of these servants again turn toward their parishes and the five to fifteen congregations they oversee. Pray for these shepherds of God's people in Kenya!

Grace Place Gathering

LCMS WM's Africa Team and Volunteers at the Grace Place Gathering, Malindi, Kenya

A good friend recently told us that missionaries are known for neglecting rest. It's a common problem among pastors across the States too. There just seems to be so much to do all the time—and it's all good, important work. But rest is important. Before Rev. Claude and Rhoda Houge retired from the East Africa mission field they set into motion an opportunity for rest—for ALL of our missionaries in Africa.

Josiah playing on the beach during free time

After attending a Grace Place retreat in the States, the Houges suggested to Grace Place that our missionaries could really benefit from a similar program. Grace Place (graceplaceretreats.org) "invites church workers and leaders to take a 'pause point' to reflect on the state of their whole health, re-tool by learning new health skills and strategies to combat chronic stresses, and then rejuvenate through rest, fellowship and being in God's Word" (taken from their website).

This spring Grace Place came to Africa. Generous sponsors provided for all of the expenses of the gathering—lodging, food, childcare, and so on. For the first time in many, many years, all of our missionaries from across Africa (many of whom had never met each other) came together for a time of rest and fellowship right here on the coast of Kenya. The gathering was a refreshing, rejuvenating, and encouraging time. Thank you, Grace Place, for ministering to us.

International Confessional Lutheran Conference

Lusaka, Zambia: The International Confessional Lutheran Conference convened once again with bishops, pastors, and missionaries from East, Central, and Southern Africa in attendance. The conference featured presentations on mission topics, a focused look at the church in South Africa, an analysis of the Lausanne III revival meeting, and a panel discussion. Shauen attended with fellow missionaries Rev. Jacob Gillard (Uganda/Sudan) and Dr. Michael Rodewald (Regional Director). It was a good opportunity to meet and visit with church leaders from the region and to hear different perspectives from missionaries and locals.

Attendees of the Conference

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Prayer Requests

- That the rent increase at our new home and office is manageable so we don't have to move
- For Shauen as he continues to adapt to his position as Mission Facilitator
- That we make time for language study
- For those who teach in Mission Training Centers across Kenya

In Praise

- For Josiah sleeping through the night
- For Shauen's safe journeys in Zambia, Tanzania, and Kenya
- For the time of rest and fellowship at the Grace Place Gathering