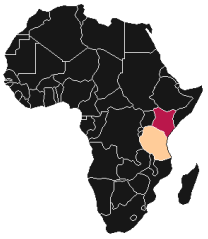
THE NEWSLETTER OF SHAUEN & KRISTA TRUMP

FIELD NOTES



Writing to you from Nairobi, Kenya

October 2011

Photos in Focus

Pokot, Turkana, & Kakuma

Kakuma Refugee Camp

In a shallow depression of a parched and desolate land lies the Kakuma Refugee Camp. Approaching its 20-year anniversary, the refugee camp is located close to Kenya's border with Sudan and at its peak provided living space to 70,000 refugees. Today the camp contains an unknown number of refugees from Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, and Uganda.

Shauen Baptizes in Kakuma Refugee Camp

Years ago, as part of its work with the developing Lutheran Church in Sudan, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) began to provide pastoral care for the Sudanese Lutherans in Kakuma. At one point there were four Lutheran congregations in the camp, each ministering to a different people group. A lay leader provided for the day-to-day spiritual needs of the congregations and LCMS missionaries or pastors from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) visited as they were able. It's been three years since a Pastor was able to visit the congregations in the camp.

Last month the ELCK's Archbishop asked Shauen if it would be possible for LCMS World Mission to send someone to visit the congregations in Kakuma. Shauen's immediate response was "I myself will go. Who will you send with me?" So this month, as part of an Advance Trip for New Hope Missions Church of Mooresville, NC, Shauen and seven others were able to visit the three congregations in the camp.

Together we rejoiced as Water and the Word flowed in 150 baptisms of men, women, and children. We presided over scores of confirmations and celebrated Holy Communion with those who had not received it in three years. In one congregation a small group of eight children sang, danced, recited Scripture, and presented a dialogue with energy and conviction that astonished us: "We are the young soldiers of Jesus Christ that will move the church forward into the battle of tomorrow. Yes, we are bishops, pastors, and evangelists of tomorrow. But without some foundation we cannot hope to go on… We must be sure we are in the Lord, the One Foundation … Remember we are marching through the world with the cross of Jesus Christ!"

Children Share Their Faith in Kakuma

As is often the case, Shauen set out to joyfully serve and encourage God's people here only to find that it was they who served and encouraged him. Praise the Lord for His people in Kakuma!

Contact Info

Shauen & Krista Trump
PO Box 22
Karen 00502, Kenya

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

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The Global Gospel Outreach of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Prayer Requests

- For the safety and well-being of God's people in Kakuma Refugee Camp
- For the people of Naurien, that God continue to encourage and sustain them
- For the continued growth and faith life of the congregation on the mountain top

In Praise

- For the successful visit of New Hope of Mooresville, NC
- For Krista's good health and the health of Baby Trump as he prepares for life outside the womb
- For Shauen and the team's safe travels to remote areas of Kenya in October

When There is No Road

In the Pokot communities we are always met by the women of the congregation singing songs of welcome, waving branches, and dancing. But as Shauen and his companions approached the Naurien Congregation there were *men* at the roadside, singing, waving branches, and dancing. It was but the first of many surprises at this small congregation in the Pokot Lowlands.

The Road Cleared for Us

Shauen's team wasn't even supposed to stop at Naurien but the congregation had heard that we would be in the area and they wanted to greet us. Their place of worship is 300 yards from the road and they wanted us to come so badly they decided to clear a road for the vehicles. For two days, thirty of their congregation members cleared a path through the bush for us.

Peter, 2nd Grade Student

When we turned off the main road onto the newly created road the men escorted us, in front and behind, until we arrived at their church where the women and children were waiting to greet us with more singing, waving branches, and dancing.

As we visited, we learned that this small congregation is currently buying the land for their church and they've started a preschool there for their children. The preschool director is a man by the name of Peter, who is married with two children. Peter recently decided that he wanted to go to school. So last year he began attending school, starting with the 1st grade.

The warm welcome we received at Naurien, their hard work clearing a road just to ease our visit, their progress in buying their own land, and the diligence of their people, like Peter, are inspiring and encouraging to us. Praise the Lord for His people in Naurien!

Congregations Planting Congregations

Within six hours of your congregation I'm sure you could find a mission opportunity—a place where a new church could be planted and grow. Would you be willing to repeatedly send a team there from your congregation to do door-to-door evangelism and lead Bible Study groups? Would you send your pastor there twice a month to lead worship services? Would you go if it was six hours by *foot*, up a mountain with no roads and a path so rough you couldn't even take a motorcycle or bicycle? That's exactly what the Kassei Congregation did in the Pokot Lowlands in northwestern Kenya. Today God's work through them is yielding fruit, with the congregation on top of the mountain thriving. Praise the Lord for the efforts of His people to share the Gospel Message!

Kassei Members Looking up the Mountain