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Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN CHRISTIANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

May Family Newsletter

Merry Christmas Dear Friends!

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10,11



Teaching in Ethiopia

Tomorrow Pastor May will return home after telling about that Good News to hundreds of youth in Tanzania. He has been quite busy traveling during the past few months hoping to reach as many people as possible with the very same message. Before Tanzania, he was in Ethiopia. Then circling around the USA raising funds. I've already forgotten all the

places where he has been, but at least Congo was on the list during this fall. When he is not abroad he is planning and supervising the work at LIA's new land.

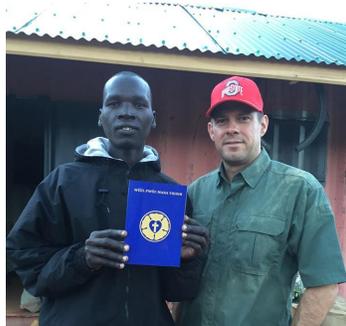


Yes, finally after over two years of searching for a suitable plot we were able to purchase one back in September! It's a large piece of land that borders the beautiful Ngong Hills. One of our translators from Southern Sudan put together a team of men who came to help getting things started. They assisted in fencing the plot, cultivating, building an outhouse, clearing rocks from the road and gathering them for building material etc. These Sudanese friends were happy to work for food and safe place to sleep. Most of them come from refugee camps where Christians are persecuted and they have to live in fear. Upon their arrival they attended our chapel service and afterwards took turns to thank over and over that they were given an opportunity to come. "There were so many others who wanted to join" they told us.





Pastor May is trying his best to fulfil all his vocations and keep the husband-father-missionary scale in balance. It isn't easy with so much work, but the general consensus in the family is that we aren't lacking anything. Somehow my amazing spouse is able to make his care to be felt even if he isn't home. On the other hand when he is with us everything feels so complete that our batteries get charged enabling us to handle his next trip. Having so many back to back trips during past few weeks made him decide to take couple of kids with him to Tanzania. Tristan and Sarai have been providing a needed distraction to continuous work. Between teaching periods this trio has done some fishing and hiking.



Because travel, new land, and the family would not quite fill up all Pastor May's minutes, he completed editing our team's seven recent translations and publications. Each year the Lutheran Heritage Foundation gives us a grant to translate and publish Confessional Lutheran literature to teach the pure Gospel in Africa.



This year the printed books included; The Large Catechism in Swahili, Luther's Small Catechism in Anuak, The Greatest Part of the Greatest Story in Swahili, God's Yes and God's No in French, Luther's Small Catechism in Swahili, An Open Letter to The Christian Nobility of the German Nation Concerning the Reform of the Christian Estate in Swahili, and Luther's Small Catechism in Jieng. Thank you for your support and thanks be to God for making this all possible!

We are truly enjoying the kids' Christmas break. Everybody was pretty tired with tests, projects, and early wake ups. All our children had excellent grades which seem to be relatively easy to obtain at least most of the time. Thankfully there is also time for sport and music hobbies after school hours. Four oldest kids are working towards piano exams that will take place in the end of spring, and Tristan will also attend in trumpet examination. Both Maggie and Tristan have played in school's basketball teams and Maggie just started the soccer season. Jonas attends the soccer club and is getting pretty talented in basketball as well.



I have been busy organizing events for the school and the Finnish community especially



... Finnish community, especially, during the past three months. It is great to strengthen our kids' Finnish heredity by celebrating the Independence Day or Christmas by gathering together with my countrymen, singing Finnish songs and eating traditional food. I have failed badly in teaching Finnish language to our kids, especially to the little boys, but I'm certainly not going to give up on including Finland into the American-Kenyan identity mix!



As the year draws to the end we are reflecting on all the kind support in words, deeds, and prayers that you are sending our way. We are blessed beyond measure to have all of you! May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, whose first coming to the world we are remembering and celebrating, bring you peace that this world cannot give!

Yours truly,
JamesTiinaMaggieTristanSaraiSofiaJonasMatthew

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