



Tanzania 2022



St. Stephen Lutheran Church -- Lukani Lutheran Church

Tanzania 2022

Guide and Devotional Book

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Introduction to/and Use of this Book

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.” *Philippians 1:3-5*

This book is designed for members of the Mission Team, families and friends of Team Members and for our Prayer Partners. It gives information we all need to feel connected; itineraries, communication lines, daily schedules, maps, daily devotions, and specific prayer concerns.

Mission Team Members will use this on a daily basis as we gather for daily devotions and prayer. There are 5 team members.

Families are encouraged to do the same daily devotions that Team Members are doing. The section on communication also gives emergency phone contacts, and e-mail communications.

Prayer Partners have several uses for this book. You are also encouraged to **do devotions** along with our Mission Team on a daily basis. Each of the 47 prayer partners has offered to **pray for the team** each day. Each day there are specific items to pray about. There is also a page of general prayer concerns, which should be reviewed on a regular basis. Please do not feel limited in your prayers to what is printed in the book, one of the things we’ve prayed for is that God would direct prayer partners in their daily prayers for the Team as a whole or for specific Team Members they remember in prayer. **God will show you what to pray for.** It has been suggested that prayer partners might **check in with team members families** here to see how they’re doing and offer help if it is needed. In case of any emergencies all prayer partners will be contacted by e-mail with specific prayer requests.

St. Stephen 2022 Tanzanian Mission Team Participants

Betsy Clark

Karen Smith

Ken Smith

Juli Thompson

Jim Woodruff



Left to right: Jim Woodruff, Karen Smith,
Juli Thompson, Betsy Clark, and Ken Smith

Commissioning Service

8 May 2022

Commissioning St. Stephen Mission Team to Tanzania

Presiding at the service at St. Stephen on May 8: Pastor Marla Amborn, Vice- President of the Congregation.

Each person comes forward as their name is read.

The following persons have accepted the call to serve as members of St. Stephen's Mission Team to Tanzania, May 24 through June 6 of 2022.

Betsy Clark
Karen Smith
Ken Smith
Pastor Juli Thompson
Pastor Jim Woodruff

Today we commission these people to serve as Mission Team members, sent out by St. Stephen Lutheran Church.

As a brief lesson, the following is read.

A reading from Romans: "Just as each of our bodies has several parts and each part has separate function, so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body, and as parts of it we belong to each other. Our gifts differ according to the grace given to us. If your gift is prophecy, then use it as your faith suggests; if administration, then use it for administration; if teaching, then use it for teaching. Let the preachers deliver sermons, the almsgivers give freely, the officials be diligent, and those who do works of mercy do them cheerfully." (*Rom.. 12:4-8*)

Presider

The following questions are directed toward the team members:

To each of the following petitions please respond: "I will and I ask God to help and guide me."

Will you accept this commission and carry it out in accordance with the Holy Scriptures? If so, please respond: "I will and I ask God to help and guide me."

R: I will and I ask God to help and guide me.

Will you endeavor in all things to conduct yourselves as is fitting for ambassadors and servants of Jesus Christ?

R: I will and I ask God to help and guide me.

Will you be faithful, understanding and loving to the people among whom you will live and work?

R: I will and I ask God to help and guide me.

Will you serve alongside the church to which you are sent?

R: I will and I ask God to help and guide me.

Will you be open to the teaching of the Holy Spirit and seek to learn all that God wants you to learn about God's love, God's people and the mission of the church?

R: I will and I ask God to help and guide me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

R: Amen.

Presider

The following questions are directed toward the congregation:

To each of the following petitions please respond: "We will and we ask God to help us."

Will you, people of God, support and encourage these messengers of Jesus Christ, sent by God to serve God's people with the Gospel of hope and salvation?

C: We will and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for them, help and honor them for their work's sake?

C: We will and we ask God to help us.

Will you remember and encourage their families who stay behind?

C: We will and we ask God to help us.

Will you continue to carry out your ministries in this community and in all things strive to live in peace and unity in Christ?

C: We will and we ask God to help us.

Presider

We thank you God for making us your children and sending us all out as ambassadors to the world. Help us unite in our mission and be your representatives in this community and world. We ask your special blessing on this group of people traveling to Tanzania, on our sister parish - Lukani, and on the mutual sharing of the Gospel that will happen while these people visit our brothers and sisters in and around Iringa. Bless these your servants, O Lord, in the work you have called them to do, so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, they may show your love to all people and glorify your name.

C: Amen.

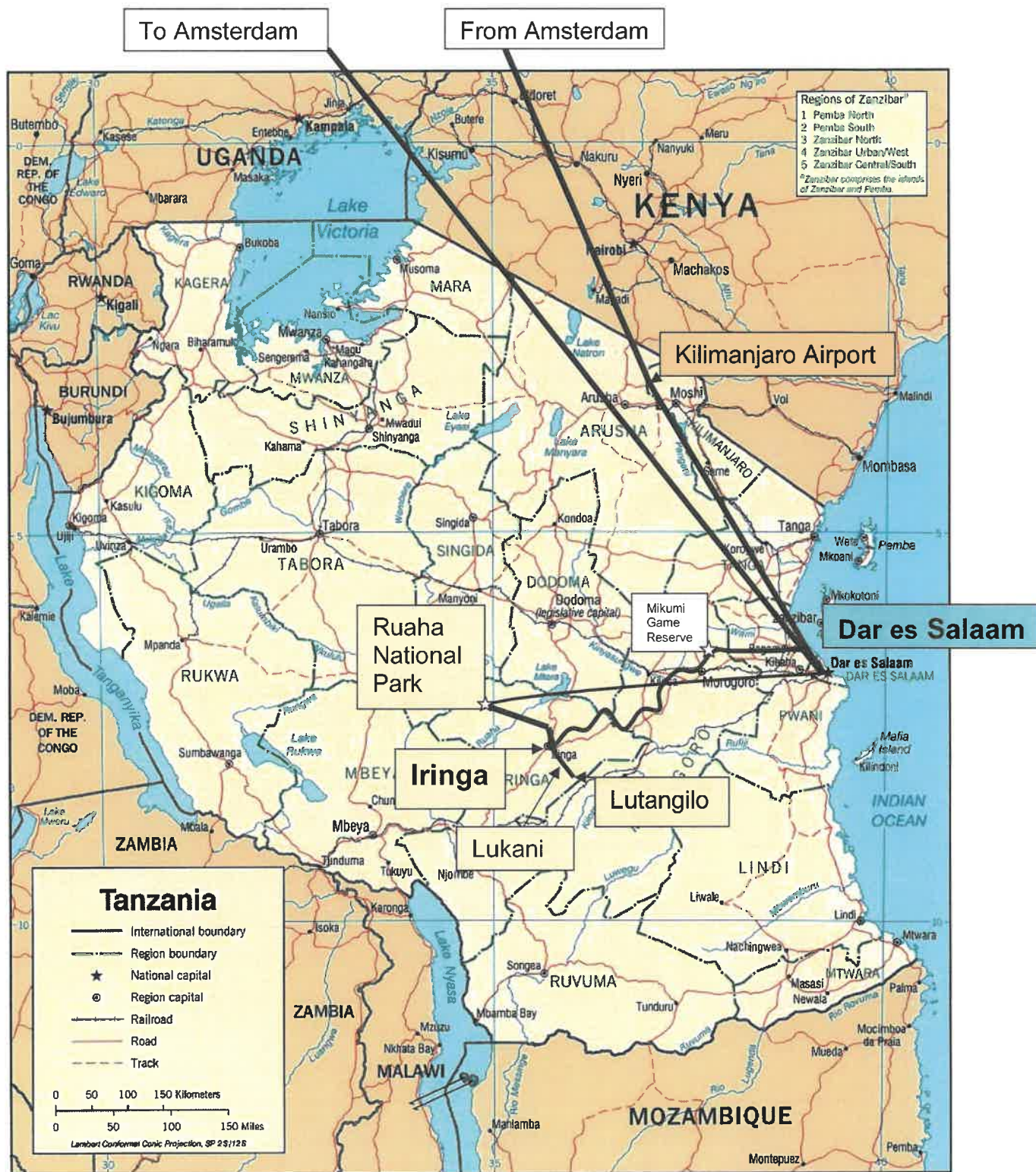
St. Stephen Tanzania 2022 Mission Trip Itinerary

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Sat., May 14 | Ken Smith departs Minneapolis/St. Paul. |
| Sun., May 15 –
Wed., May 25 | Ken does work in and around Iringa for St. Paul Partners.
Meets Mission Team in Iringa on the evening of May 26. |
| Tues., May 24 | Betsy, Karen, Juli and Jim leave Minneapolis/St. Paul at 5:00 pm on Delta flight 160 to Amsterdam. |
| Wed., May 25 | <p>Arrive Amsterdam at 8:15 am (1:15 am CDT). Leave Amsterdam at 10:45 am (3:45 am CDT) on KLM flight 569. Arrive Kilimanjaro Airport at 8:10 pm (12:10 pm CDT). Leave Kilimanjaro Airport at 9:20 pm (1:20 pm CDT). Arrive Dar es Salaam at 10:20 pm (2:20 pm CDT). Meet Miraji Makupa who will drive us while in Dar es Salaam and bring us to Iringa. Stay overnight at Wista's Inn, Dar es Salaam.</p> <p><i>(Note: The group will lose 7 hours flying to Amsterdam and an additional 1 hour flying to Dar es Salaam. When in Tanzania the time is 8 hours <u>ahead</u> of Central Daylight Time, that is, when it is 6:00 pm in Tanzania it is 10:00 am, earlier the same day, in Minnesota.)</i></p> |
| Thurs., May 26 | <p>Breakfast at Wista's. Karen flies from Dar es Salaam to Iringa on Auric Air flight 173 at 7:00 am (11:00 pm Wed. CDT), arriving Iringa at 8:30 am (12:30 am CDT). Ken meets her at airport. Betsy, Juli and Jim Leave Dar es Salaam in the morning for an 8 hour ride to Iringa. Stop for Lunch somewhere between Mikumi Game Reserve and Morogoro; likely Tan Swiss or the Oasis in Morogoro. Arrive in Iringa early evening. Connect with Ken and Karen Smith and Bega Kwa Bega Coordinators. Dinner at Lutheran Centre. Get settled in the Mission C6 Apartment.</p> |
| Fri., May 27 | <p>Orientation meeting at the Iringa Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Meet Bishop Blastone Gaville. Day in Iringa to adjust to time change and get acquainted with Iringa. Overnight at Mission C6 Apartment.</p> |
| Sat., May 28 | <p>Leave Iringa in the morning to travel to Lukani, St. Stephen's companion congregation. Meet Pastor Stephano Maketa, elders and people of Lukani. Visit Makwema Secondary School, various projects/sites around Lukani (preaching points, well project, tree/avocado farm, clinic, Primary School) . Return to Iringa for overnight at Mission C6 Apartment.</p> |
| Sun., May 29 | <p>Early morning drive to Lukani. Worship with St. Stephen's Companion Congregation, Lukani Lutheran Church. Four hour worship service! We'll give them our gifts. Meet with Church Elders following worship. Upon completion of visit return to Iringa. Mission C6 Apartment overnight.</p> |

- Mon., May 30 Ken returns to Dar es Salaam and then on to Amsterdam and Minneapolis/St. Paul. Betsy, Karen, Juli and Jim continue on in Iringa. Day in Iringa. Overnight in Mission C6 Apartment.
- (While in Iringa we'll schedule time to visit a variety of mission projects. The schedule for doing this will have to be flexible until we are on site. Some of the places we'd hope to visit (though we'll probably not see all of them) include: an Agricultural Project, the Cooking School, Dignity for Daughters (women's hygiene project), Huruma Orphanage, Dispensary, Neema Crafts, Tumaini University, Isimila Stone-age Site, and a Well Drilling Project.)*
- Tues., May 31 Ken arrives in Minneapolis/St. Paul. Day in Iringa. The Mission C6 Apartment overnight.
- Wed., Jun. 1 Day trip to Lutangilo Secondary School. Visit Sebastian Chaula, as well as the Lutangilo students and school. Tour the facilities including the solar powered water system and the new science laboratories. Give gifts. Return to Iringa and the Mission C6 Apartment overnight. *(Sebastian Chaula, a longtime friend of St. Stephen and former scholarship recipient, is the head master (principal) at Lutangilo school. One of the girl's dormitories is named after our St. Stephen Church.)*
- Thurs., Jun. 2 Last day in Iringa. The Mission C6 Apartment overnight.
- Fri., Jun. 3 Leave Iringa in the morning and travel to Ruaha National Park, a 3 ½ hour trip. Arrive around noon at Ruaha National Park. Be met at gate by Mwaguzi staff to transfer to Mwaguzi Safari Camp. Get settled into tented bandas. Lunch, relaxation, and tea before late afternoon- early evening safari around the Park in 4-wheel drive vehicles. Dinner on River bed. Overnight at Mwaguzi.
- Sat., Jun. 4 Full day on Safari in Ruaha National Park. Breakfast in the bush. Game drives in the morning and late afternoon. Lunch at Camp, leisure time, tea. 8:00 pm social and Dinner on River bed. Overnight at Mwaguzi Safari Camp in tented bandas.
- Sun., Jun. 5 Early morning in the park. Dropped off at the Msembe Airfield, Depart Ruaha at 11:45 am (3:45 am CDT) on Coastal Airways flight 312. Arrive Dar es Salaam at 2:00 pm (6:00 am CDT). Meet Miraji Makupa who will drive us for the day. Afternoon/evening in Dar es Salaam possibly visit Mwenge Carver's Market, Makumbusho Village Museum, and eat at Slipway or Sea Cliff Village, on the Indian Ocean. Depart Dar es Salaam at 10:50 pm (2:50 pm CDT) on KLM flight 515.
- Mon., Jun 6 Arrive Amsterdam at 6:55 am (11:55 pm CDT). Depart Amsterdam at 10:55 am (3:55 am CDT) on Delta flight 161. Arrive Minneapolis/St. Paul at 12:45 pm

Map of Tanzania

Route of 2022 Mission Team



Tanzania 2022

Prayer Partners

Bob Alexander
Marla Amborn
Susan Asplund
Carol Balk
Viki Bosin
Lee Branwall
Martha Clark
Lynn Evans
Caitlin Frevert
Jennifer Hansmann
Linda Hetland
LiJun Kasten
Nancy Lemon
Nancy O'Brien
Pat Robinson
Allison, Ryan, Michael,
and Stella Schenian
Scott Smith
Paul Swanson
Vindhya Thompson
Jaime Woodruff
Justin Woodruff
Marissa Woodruff

Joyce Alexander
Randy Amborn
Phyllis Ballata
Courtney Bengtson
Judee Bramscher
Florence Bye
Phyllis Eske
Ted Field
Maija Gutekunst
Tami Heart
Carole Jensen
Denise Koring
Courtney McCullough
Patsy Olson
Betty Rombach
Karen Schultz
Cindy Scott
Diane Swanson
Emmett Thompson
Doug Van Beek
Jonathan Woodruff
Lisa Woodruff

Prayer Concerns:

Spiritual:

Clear Gospel communication
 God's protection
 Courage in face of danger
 God prepares the way for the team
 Jesus be Lifted Up
 Jesus would use us effectively
 in the work of His Kingdom
 Effective time in Iringa and Lukani
 Positive spirit

God's plans will be accomplished
 Enemies plans and purposes destroyed
 Joyful in midst of adversity or confusion
 Common vision between Team & villages
 Growth of Team Members
 Prayer Partners have discernment to pray
 as situations arise
 Team grows in faith
 Increase Vision for Mission
 Meaningful devotions

Physical:

Safe Travel
 Good Rest
 Energy
 Cleanliness

Good Health
 Wise choices regarding food and activities
 Protection from disease
 No positive Covid tests
 Everyone returns safely and healthy

Relational:

Harmony between Team Members
 Patience
 Build lasting relationships & friendships
 No Complaining
 People set aside pre-conceptions and
 prejudices
 Discern ways to effectively serve
 Lukani Villages

Good communication with Tanzanians
 Listen clearly to Tanzanians
 Bond between Prayer Partners and Team
 Members stays strong
 Families at home stay safe and well
 Build bonds with ELCA & ELCT staff in
 Tanzania, especially with BKB
 coordinators: Ryan and Astine Bose

Practical:

Flexibility
 Focus on 2-3 peoples names
 Bless music ministry
 Keep good memories to bring home
 People have a good time

Time to appreciate country and people
 Food be tasty, plentiful and safe
 Sense of Joy (and show it)
 Show respect for Tanzanian Culture
 Baggage gets there and back safely

Please pray for the Preaching Points that make up the Lukani Parishes, their Pastor and the Bishop of the Iringa Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania:

Bishop Blastone Gaville, Iringa Diocese

Pastor Stephano Maketa, Lukani

Lukani Preaching Point (Main)

Mifugo Preaching Point

Mjimwema Preaching Point

Mtanga Preaching Point

Nazareti Preaching Point

Communication

Stateside:

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
 1965 E. County Road 'E'
 White Bear Lake, MN 55110
 Phone: 651-777-1107; 651-748-0521
 e-mail: office@ststephenwbl.org
 WEB: ststephenwbl.org

St. Stephen Web Site: www.ststephenwbl.org (Check this occasionally; we plan to send reports and photos for posting on the Web site.)

Pastor Juli Thompson (traveling with Mission Team):
 Home Phone: 651-276-5780; e-mail: julia.a.thompson@gmail.com

Pastor Jim Woodruff (traveling with Mission Team):
 Home Phone: 651-335-7947; e-mail: jamesawoodruff@comcast.net

Ken & Karen Smith, Ken Cell: 651-336-7273; e-mail: klsmith@alum.mit.edu

Ryan and Astine Bose, Bega Kwa Bega Coordinators
 e-mail: begakwabega@spas-elca.org.

Contacts in Tanzania:

We can be reached through 3 contacts in Iringa, Tanzania, prioritized in this order:
 (Remember Tanzania is 8 hours later than Minnesota—Noon in MN is 8:00 pm in TZ)

Ryan and Astine Bose, Coordinators of Bega Kwa Bega
 Phone in Tanzania: 011-255-787-616-118
 Bega Kwa Bega Land Line: 011-255-687-080-897
 e-mail: begakwabega@yahoo.com

Onno Mella, e-mail: onnomella@yahoo.com
 Phone in Tanzania: 011-255-716-567-916

Ken Smith in Tanzania: 011-255-763-220-370 (number may change)
If there is any change to that number it will be posted on our web site at
www.ststephenwbl.org *or available through the Church office at 651-777-1107.*
 This number should work in Lukani and most of the time in Ruaha, but not in Lutangilo.

We may purchase another SIM card when we are in Tanzania, That number, if purchased, will be posted on our web site at: www.stephenwbl.org or available through the Church office at 651-777-1107.

Mail Address while in Tanzania (Air mail takes 2-3 weeks to be delivered – so, if you'd like mail to reach us while we are in Tanzania, a letter should be mailed about a week before we leave the U.S. Also, don't send money or stuff and have Post Office do an ink stamp, rather than postage stamps):

**(Name), St. Stephen Group
Bega Kwa Bega
P.O. Box 511
Iringa, Tanzania**

Individual e-mail addresses while in Tanzania:

The best way to communicate with any of the Mission Team members is through their individual e-mails. There are many ways to connect to the internet throughout Tanzania so we'll be able to receive and send e-mails most of the time we're there, (Lukani, May 28-29, may be the exception, but even there we may be able to get access). Here are our addresses:

Betsy Clark: eaclark001@comcast.net

Karen Smith: karen.sawyer.smith1@gmail.com

Ken Smith: klsmith@alum.mit.edu

Pastor Juli Thompson: julia.a.thompson@gmail.com

Pastor Jim Woodruff: jamesawoodruff@comcast.net

Communications from the Mission Team

During our time in Tanzania we'll plan on sending back regular reports about the trip with photos and reflections on how things are going. Please check your e-mail regularly for these reports, other information and any special prayer requests. Or, you can go to the St. Stephen web site to find these reports. The address is: www.ststephenwbl.org

Daily Devotionals

Tues., May 24

Ken is already in Iringa. Betsy, Karen, Juli and Jim leave Minneapolis/St. Paul at 5:00 pm on Delta flight 160 to Amsterdam.

II Peter 1:12-13

“Therefore I intend to keep on reminding you of these things, though you know them already and are established in the truth that has come to you. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to refresh your memory,....”

Here We Go Again

Most who are going on this Mission Trip have made the trip before; in fact, many times. Of the 35, or so, members of St. Stephen who have visited Tanzania in the past 19 years, through this Mission outreach, at least 8 have returned to do extended work with organizations different than Bega Kwa Bega. One in our mission team is experiencing this trip for the first time and hopefully will experience the amazing faith of God's people, the joy of the culture and the beauty of the Country in a deep and enduring way. As we begin this journey it makes me ask the question: what is the draw that keeps people coming back? I would suggest that repetition of this experience encourages us to maintain and grow this Companion Congregation relationship. The Apostle Peter suggests that his repetition of the Gospel to the believers whom he addresses is an important part of the life of the church. An educator at St. Stephen often talks about repetition as a way to deeply learn and maintain truth, information, or skill. That we are going again, affirms the value of this relationship. Our repetition of the kinds of things we've done in the past 21 years cements our bond. Much that we do will be a repeat of earlier experiences. But, that repetition highlights those places we have commonalities, helps us better understand the diversities that exist, and allows us to join together as one community, founded on the faith about which Peter wrote.

1. Why are you returning, or going, on this trip to Tanzania? Or, why do you want to be a part of the trip by being a Prayer Partner?
2. What do you expect from this trip or what experiences are you looking forward to?
3. What have you seen happen in this Companion Congregation relationship over the past twenty-one years? Or, what do you hope will happen at Lukani as this relationship grows?

Prayer: God of our communities, bless those who are traveling, bless all our prayer partners, bless the people of White Bear Lake, Lukani, Lutangilo, and Iringa. Be present in all that happens with us over the next two weeks. Grant that seeds will be planted, our congregational relationships will grow, and each of us will grow in a faith that is deep, and rooted in You. For Jesus' sake. Amen. *Pastor Jim Woodruff*

Prayer Concerns:

Ken kept safe and gets work done
Everyone remembers everything
Everyone gets to airport on time
Flights remain on schedule
Safe travel
People able to sleep en route
People come with an open heart

God prepares the way for team
God calms fears and anxieties
People stay healthy
Bags stay with right planes and
arrive with team in Dar es Salaam
Families at home kept safe

Wed., May 25

Arrive Amsterdam at 8:15 am (1:15 am CDT). Leave Amsterdam at 10:45 am (3:45 am CDT) on KLM flight 569. Arrive Kilimanjaro Airport at 8:10 pm (12:10 pm CDT). Leave Kilimanjaro Airport at 9:20 pm (1:20 pm CDT). Arrive Dar es Salaam at 10:20 pm (2:20 pm CDT). Meet Miraji Makupa who will drive us while in Dar es Salaam and bring us to Iringa. Stay overnight at Wista's Inn, Dar es Salaam.

Psalm 19: 17-19

*Deal bountifully with thy servant,
That I may live and observe thy word (17).
Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law (18).
I am a sojourner on earth; hide not thy commandments from me (19).*

Sojourning on Earth

This scripture is about being on a journey. Its verses relate to *sojourning* away from home in two different ways. Home may be a place of origin, the place or country where the sojourner comes from. Or it may be the Earth in a broad, global sense (*sojourner on earth*).

The "sojourner on earth" identified in Verse 19 may be on a journey to reside temporarily in a foreign land or, if earth is regarded in the global sense, may be on a lifelong journey. In either case, they ask for God's blessings.

The sojourner of this scripture can be viewed as a disciple on a mission trip. Their work requires that they take a journey to reside someplace temporarily away from home with intentions of returning home someday. But, whether we interpret this scripture as being on a temporary mission trip or a journey that lasts a lifetime, all "sojourners on earth" will return one day to their permanent home.

Regardless, the journey of this scripture connects to a Christian life. The sojourner is asking for God's blessing as they travel as a servant, as someone who is obeying God's commands to do His work, like on a mission trip. If they are to do God's work, they will need certain blessings. But on our lifetime journeys, too, to obey His commands to do His work, we will need blessings.

Also, in either journey, the sojourner seeks along the way to behold all the beauty and wondrous things God has blessed the earth with. This requires the gift of open and curious eyes (Verse 18).

A mission trip is travel with a will to do good work. It is a generous act that can be difficult and confusing at times. But it can also be exciting, adventurous, and revealing. The earth is a beautiful and wondrous place. It was God's gift to us. But so were the open eyes he gave us to enjoy it.

1. Any journey needs a map so as to avoid getting lost. What are the "maps" of God's sojourners?
2. The sojourner in this scripture seems to confess that their obedience to God requires that God be "bountiful" with them. Is that true? What bounties do we ask for?
3. A lifelong journey, even one taken as a disciple of Christ, can begin with steps in a wrong direction. A mission trip is taken with a definitive purpose and direction, but can it begin with missteps?

Prayer: God of all Sojourners, give us eyes to see the wonders of Your creation, open our hearts to experience the wonders of Your grace and bless us with Your presence on the way. Amen.

Ted Field

Prayer Concerns:

God prepares the way for team
Flights remain on schedule
Safe travel with time to rest
Bags arrive safely in Dar es Salaam
Make connection with Miraji Makupa

People stay healthy
God calms fears and anxieties
People keep an open heart
Able to adjust quickly to time change
Rooms at Wista's Inn ready and comfortable

Thurs., May 26 Breakfast at Wista's. Karen flies from Dar es Salaam to Iringa on Auric Air flight 173 at 7:00 am (11:00 pm Wed. CDT), arriving Iringa at 8:30 am (12:30 am CDT). Ken meets her at airport. Betsy, Juli and Jim Leave Dar es Salaam in the morning for an 8 hour ride to Iringa. Stop for Lunch somewhere between Mikumi Game Reserve and Morogoro; likely Tan Swiss or the Oasis in Morogoro. Arrive in Iringa early evening. Connect with Ken and Karen Smith and Bega Kwa Bega Coordinators. Dinner at Lutheran Centre. Get settled in the Mission C6 Apartment.

Isaiah 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

Psalms 23: 1-3 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
 he leads me beside quiet waters,
 he refreshes my soul.
 He guides me along the right paths
 for his name's sake.

Giving and Receiving

Throughout the Bible, Jesus encouraged his followers to spread the word of the Lord: "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel" (Mark 16:15). Mission is most often viewed as an outward action of giving, but it is just as important to reflect on what you can learn from the experience. While you took the initiative to volunteer for this mission, God chose you for this mission and has been guiding you to this point. He chose you not just for what you can impart on others, but he viewed this as part of your own growth and path in faith. This moment could reflect a stripping away of everything known and comfortable to you, and having to rely only on God. Maybe the chaos of life has weighed heavily on you and this is a time to cleanse your soul. Perhaps the experience will open questions for you to further explore your faith. Our growing in Christ is never complete, and through mission we can not only spread his word, but deepen our connection with him.

1. In what ways do you feel like God has guided your path to be on this trip?
2. What are your expectations for what you will give and learn during this mission?
3. What are ways you can take time to reflect on your experiences throughout the trip?

Prayer: Lord, walk with us as we experience this journey together to spread your Gospel. Keep us safe in our travels and let us see the beauty of the world and people you have created. May we use this time for fellowship with our fellow Christians, but also as a moment for us to grow in our faith & deepen our connection to you. Thank you for choosing us and leading us down this path of mission. Amen

Allie Schenian

Prayer Concerns:

Able to get a good night's sleep in Dar
 Able to adjust quickly to time change
 All arrangements continue to work well
 God prepares the way for team
 Safe and timely travel
 Enjoy the drive through Mikumi
 Mission Team has flexibility
 Ryan and Astine Bose

People eat and drink wisely throughout
 time in Tanzania
 People stay healthy and safe
 People keep an open heart
 God calms fears and anxieties
 Relationships in team grow strong
 Connect with Ken

Fri., May 27

Orientation meeting at the Iringa Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Meet Bishop Blastone Gaville. Day in Iringa to adjust to time change and get acquainted with Iringa. Overnight at C6 Apartment.

Romans 10:11-15

"For the Scripture says, 'Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!'"

Visiting a Different Culture

Paul reminds us in Romans 10 that there is no distinction between Jew and Greek because Jesus is Lord of all. We are reminded that everyone who calls on Jesus will be saved. We as humans are prone to label, judge, categorize and distinguish each other. Our brain tries to create groupings, patterns, rationalizations and limits on the world and people around us. Single/married, blonde/brunette, American/Tanzanian, righteous/sinner and on and on. However, in doing so, we are creating separation of God's people. We use our limited human minds and hearts to view others and their cultures. Our differences are often highlighted more than our similarities. These verses remind us that our perspective should be broad and inclusive because our God is God of all. As visitors in a place that is not our home we need to ask God to give us eyes to see others as He sees them, ears to hear their experiences with humility and hearts to love others as Jesus does. Experiencing life outside of our personal culture is a gift. Whether this happens in our neighborhood, workplace, or in Tanzania, we need God's help to remind us that He created us all in His image and we are likely more similar than we realize. And the ways in which we are different give us an opportunity to learn, embrace and experience a unique part of His Kingdom. A glimpse of what heaven will look like- all cultures, all tongues, all tribes and all nations will be before Him. These verses also remind us of the call to go and share the Good News of Christ in our home, workplace, neighborhood and in Tanzania. We are instructed to use our words and actions to share the gospel. We are instructed to go to others and tell them of Jesus' life, death and resurrection and the opportunity He gave us to believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord.

1. What are your experiences with other cultures? Do you experience other cultures often? Where have these experiences occurred?
2. Read Luke 10:33-37- In thinking of the Good Samaritan, how do you show compassion and mercy to people with different perspectives than you?
3. How would you share the Gospel differently, considering someone's culture?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for being Lord of all. Thank you for showing us how to be a gracious and loving visitor in an unfamiliar place. May our eyes be opened and our hearts changed by your Holy Spirit to love those around us no matter the circumstance or differences. May our perspective of the world and those around us come from You and not ourselves. Help us to share the Good News of Christ with boldness and confidence because it truly is the best news. Thank you for the beauty and uniqueness of culture. May our hearts be stirred to long for the diversity on Earth as it is in heaven. We love you, Lord. Amen! *Maija (King) Gutekunst*

Prayer Concerns:

God prepares the way for team
People keep an open heart
People rested for mission ahead
Adjust to time change
People kept healthy and safe
Safe Travel

People become familiar with new surroundings
Bishop Gaville and Iringa Diocese
Get a better sense of Tanzania
God calms fears and anxieties
Mission Team has flexibility
Become familiar with Iringa

Sat., May 28

Leave Iringa in the morning to travel to Lukani, St. Stephen's companion congregation. Meet Pastor Stephano Maketa, elders and people of Lukani. Visit Makwema Secondary School, various projects/sites around Lukani (preaching points, well project, tree farm, clinic, Primary School) . Return to Iringa for overnight at Mission C6 Apartment.

Matthew 25:34-35

"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..."

Welcoming a Stranger

Some of us on this trip have been to Tanzania many times but still remember our first visit. On that trip, there was a lot of nervousness about how we would be welcomed, how we should act/react and how to be respectful of local customs in a place we had never been. Our welcome was amazing! The congregation met us waving branches, dancing and ululating. We were pulled into the crowd of smiling Africans and joined in the dance. We discovered that the beds we slept in came from villager's homes. On what, we asked ourselves, were they sleeping? Likewise, when we had the honor of hosting Pastor Comoro, we opened our homes and our community to him. Over the years, many representatives of the ELCT (Evangelical Church of Tanzania) have been welcomed at congregations in the greater St. Paul Area Synod. One of the goals of BKB (Bega Kwa Bega) is to meaningfully engage in the life and work of our relationships, which includes exchanging visits with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

1. How have we been welcomed during our time in Tanzania? How have we received that welcome? What is different from the welcomes we offer in Minnesota?
2. How is welcoming the same in our two cultures? How is it different?
3. Discuss the different welcome peoples from war regions receive. Syria, South and Central America, Ukraine. What do you think underlies these differences?
4. What ideas do you have about welcoming immigrants and refugees on the southern border of the U.S.? How are these strangers integrated into our lives? What is our obligation to them?

Prayer: Gracious God: Remind us that your Son spent his first years on this earth as a stranger in Egypt. Remind us that generations ago, most of our ancestors were strangers in this land. Remind us of Jesus' words in Matthew 25:35 that when we welcome the stranger, we welcome you. Help us to welcome others as if we were welcoming you. Help us to listen first so that we can learn how to best welcome others in ways that are appropriate to their cultural and personal preferences. Let us be your hands and feet during our time on earth. Amen.

Karen Smith

Prayer Concerns:

God prepares the way for team
Safe Travel
People keep an open heart
People kept safe and healthy
People rested for mission ahead
Experience a variety of Mission Projects
Develop common mission between
Lukani and St. Stephen

Mutual exchange of the Gospel
God calms fears and anxieties
Mission Team has flexibility
People eat and drink wisely
Team enjoys time in Lukani
Develop good relationships with Pastor
Maketa, his family, and the people
of Lukani

Sun., May 29

Early morning drive to Lukani. Worship with St. Stephen's Companion Congregation, Lukani Lutheran Church. Four hour worship service! We'll give them our gifts. Meet with Church Elders following worship. Upon completion of visit return to Iringa. Mission C6 Apartment overnight.

Psalm 95: 1-2,6-7

"O come, let us sing to the Lord;
 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
 let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
 O come, let us worship and bow down,
 let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
 For he is our God,
 and we are the people of his pasture,
 and the sheep of his hand."

Worship in Lukani: Renewing and Refreshing Our Faith

The world is a difficult place to be right now. You can't avoid the bad news as we are in constant contact with our smart devices, TV, Facebook, Instagram, and plain old-fashioned conversation hearing about war, climate change, political strife, and misinformation. After a stressful three days of traveling and getting settled, we finally get a chance to meet with our friends from Lukani early in our trip and come together in worship. COVID has been like the devil tearing us apart from being together and worshipping in God's house. Now, as we venture cautiously to a different continent, travel to Lukani, walk into their church, sit in their pews, and hear their voices sing and praise God, there is a renewal of faith in my heart, soul, and mind which happens every time I travel to their side of the world. It is a kind of worship that is nothing like I have experienced before. I may not be able to understand what is fully being said as they speak in Swahili, but that doesn't matter. We desire the same things: peace, warmth, health, love, happiness, and a closeness and understanding with God. Their worship is full, complete, raw, never wavering, never failing. In the end we are all one, we worship the same God, we believe in the same afterlife, we follow the same commandments. There is a peace and stillness in my heart after I leave Lukani, in addition to a complete weariness from the wholeness of it all. I am ready to renew and refresh my faith and carry on until I see my friends again.

- 1) How do our friends in Lukani worship differently than us? How is our way of worship the same (or is it)? Does it matter?
- 2) For someone who may be struggling with faith in God, how can experiencing worship in Lukani help that person grow in faith and experience God?
- 3) How can one demonstrate the intensity and reality of the way our friends in Lukani worship without being seen or questioned as a radical in our place of worship?

Prayer: Lord give us the strength and willingness to understand and emulate the passionate and full belief in You that our friends in Lukani demonstrate every day of their lives. Lead us toward your light so that we may become and remain faithful followers of You. Amen.

Betsy Clark

Prayer Concerns:

Safe travel
 Great worship experience
 Mutual exchange in the Gospel
 Good meeting with Lukani elders
 Mission Team has flexibility
 God calms fears and anxieties

God prepares the way for the team
 Be engaged in worship
 Team keeps an open heart and mind
 People eat and drink wisely
 People stay healthy and safe
 Leave Lukani with joy

Mon., May 30

Ken returns to Dar es Salaam and then on to Amsterdam and Minneapolis/St. Paul. Betsy, Karen, Juli and Jim continue on in Iringa. Day in Iringa. Overnight in Mission C6 Apartment.

Matthew 18:2-6

He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

The Joy of Children

Jesus had an extra special place in his heart for children, you can see it in today's verse. What we learned on our trip to Tanzania in 2010 is that the joy that children bring happens globally, it is universal. Some of the best stories that Marissa and I remember are from children smiling, laughing, and playing with us during bible camp and around the village of Lukani. We were able to have an incredible week with hundreds of children from the village, singing, playing games, making crafts, and praising God together, all with very limited communication. Marissa developed a special relationship with a little boy named Harooni, there is a great picture of her holding him from the trip. Jon had a special relationship with all of the children, at one point making a game of marching around with a walking stick and a hundred children following him. The game was that when he saw a member of our group he would yell "attack!" him and all of the children would surround you and poke you while saying "poke poke poke!" The poking was annoying, but the joy was real and it's a story we still remember fondly more than 10 years later. It was our honor to share the love of God with the children of Lukani. The verse above makes it very clear that it is our obligation to take care of children and share God's love with them. In exchange, you receive the gift of so much joy and long lasting memories. Look for the joy of children this week, and spend time sharing God's love with them.

- 1) Where have you seen the joy of children during this trip?
- 2) How can we "take the lowly position of this child" as Jesus calls us to do in this gospel verse?
- 3) What is causing "these little ones" to stumble today?
- 4) What can we do to help?

Prayer: Dear Lord, we thank you for the joy of children. We are so grateful to experience that joy with our brothers and sisters in Lukani and all of Tanzania. We thank you that their joy transcends language. Help us bring your word to these children, and learn from their joy. Let us hear what could cause them to stumble, and actively help in any way we can. Amen. *Justin and Marissa Woodruff*

Prayer Concerns:

Safe travel for Ken
God prepares the way for team
People eat and drink wisely
God calms fears and anxieties
People stay healthy and safe
Learn from Mission Projects in Iringa

Mission Team has flexibility
People keep an open heart
Time to relax and enjoy
Appreciate Diverse Cultures
Bega Kwa Bega and Iringa Diocese
Staffs

Tues., May 31

Ken arrives in Minneapolis/St. Paul. Day in Iringa. The Mission C6 Apartment overnight.

Genesis 1:1-2 NIV In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

The Gift of Water

Water is an essential element of life. From the beginning of creation God's spirit interacted with water to bring forth life. Without water, life cannot exist.

In Minnesota, "The Land of 10,000 Lakes," it is so easy to take water for granted. Just turn on the faucet and out pours water – clean, fresh, pure water. Hot water. Cold water. Water for drinking or bathing. All the water we want and need, right out of the faucet, with no effort.

In Tanzania, and much of the rest of the world, it's not so easy. Hours are spent each day "fetching water," with girls and young women walking long distances, carrying buckets of water on their heads. Depending on the source of this water, it may bring illness.

Wells make a tremendous difference. Pastor Ken Comoro once said, "You provided the first well in the village. The water was shared with everyone. People no longer have stomach problems because of clean water. Some have joined the church because of this."

1. How are water projects a form of ministry? What blessings come from having clean water more accessible – for the people and for the church?
2. In what other ways has the partnership between congregations in the St. Paul Area Synod and the Iringa Diocese brought blessings to Tanzanians and to Minnesotans?
3. How do you see the Spirit of God hovering over this partnership?
4. How has your life and faith been touched by this shared ministry?

Toumbe - Let us pray: Loving God, from the very beginning your spirit has been hovering over the waters, bringing life out of chaos. You created the world and all that is in it, making us your partners in caring for one another and for your good creation. Thank you for the trust you have placed in us. Open our hearts to be faithful stewards of all you have entrusted to our care. May we see your face in the faces of our brothers and sisters near and far, and may we be inspired to work together, *bega kwa bega*, sharing our gifts in ways that serve your good purposes. Amen.

Pastor Marla Amborn

Prayer Concerns:

Ken arrives home safely
God prepares the way for the team
God calms fears and anxieties
People stay healthy and safe
Learn from mission projects in Iringa
St. Paul Partners (water projects)

Safe travel
People eat and drink wisely
People keep an open heart
Mission Team has flexibility
Mission Team relationships stay
good, with good communication

- Wed., Jun. 1** Day trip to Lutangilo Secondary School. Visit Sebastian Chaula, as well as the Lutangilo students and school. Tour the facilities including the solar powered water system and the new science laboratories. Give gifts. Return to Iringa and the Mission C6 Apartment overnight. *(Sebastian Chaula, a longtime friend of St. Stephen and former scholarship recipient, is the head master (principal) at Lutangilo school. One of the girl's dormitories is named after our St. Stephen Church.)*
- Proverbs 22:6:** Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Our Children are Our Future

We visit Lutangilo school today, one to the Iringa Diocese Secondary schools (like middle and high school combined in the US). Nelson Mandela said "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." These words are put to action by the ongoing work of Lutangilo School. Lutangilo is a residential school about a 2 ½ hour drive from Iringa, situated in beautiful mountains and forests where timber is harvested. The Head Master (Principal) for the school is Sebastian Chaula, who Jim, Karen and Ken first met as a teenager in 2001 at Lukani during the initial St Stephen mission trip. Now a husband and father of two, Sebastian's leadership has turned around Lutangilo school from one of the poorest performing to one of the best in the region. Our visit gives us a chance to reflect on the importance of education and of setting role models for our youth. In our actions we are able to influence others by example, for better or for worse. In this school we see the importance of both knowledge and Christian teachings as examples for students which will "train up a child" in ways that nurture both their minds and their souls.

1. Did you ask about the daily schedule for Lutangilo students? How would students in the USA react to this schedule and why do you think it is so extensive in Lutangilo?
2. What are our impressions of the attitudes of the Lutangilo students towards both learning and living out their faith through action?
3. What are some examples in your opinion where education is needed "to change the world" in a positive way?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help us to remember that we lead and teach by example. Our actions are seen as examples by others and especially by our youth. Grant us the wisdom and self-control to make those examples positive, with a balance of both earthly and spiritual knowledge and perspective. *Ken Smith*

Prayer Concerns:

God prepares the way for team
People keep an open heart
People stay healthy
People kept safe
Team blessed by Lutangilo visit
Appreciate God's creation
Our Global Family

Safe travel
God calms fears and anxieties
Mission team has flexibility
Vehicle functions well
People eat and drink wisely
Students everywhere
Stewardship for the environment

Thurs., Jun. 2 Last day in Iringa. The Mission C6 Apartment overnight.

On Saturday 10/23/21 while traveling with my brother Ken and his wife Karen Smith we visited the Lutheran church at Lukani, the sister church of St. Stephen in White Bear Lake. My wife and I have heard about it for years from Ken and Karen whose church has supported Lukani in their creation of a beautiful new church, trees, agricultural self-sufficiency projects and two water projects. The need we were drawn to reminded us of the parable of the Good Samaritan:

Luke 10:34 "He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him."

Notice and Care for Those Who are Sick

When we arrived in Lukani, we were greeted by the villagers with music and dance. We met with town dignitaries, heard reports, and had lunch. They relayed much progress, much joy, and still much need. Because my wife and I are retired doctors, we asked to visit the small village clinic where we met Dr. Novathus Ngure. The clinic was a clean, well laid out facility with very little equipment. We knew that small changes could make a big difference in a situation like this. After all, the two clean water projects in Lukani had decreased infant death rates from dysentery by more than 90%! Thick Nhat Hahn, a Vietnamese Buddhist Monk and teacher, states "Many people are alive but don't touch the miracle of being alive." What he means by this is that we have trouble paying attention 'in the present' and not having our thoughts wander. Were the priest and the Levite in the Good Samaritan parable bad people for not stopping to help? Probably not. They, like most of us, might have been preoccupied with reservations, regrets, plans, and schemes and simply not noticed the traveler in need, or been too scared to get involved. When we asked Dr. Ngure what equipment he needed most for the clinic, he mentioned a centrifuge and a microscope. These could help him to diagnose parasites or sickle cell crisis, to warn of blood type problems between mother and infant, or even diagnose a urinary tract infection. We were resolved to fill this need. However, we could not do this alone. It took the coordinated efforts of my brother Ken, Bega Kwa Bega, Dr. Randy Hurley, Dr. Kikoti at the Ilula hospital, and Dr. Ngure at the clinic—and four months of effort before we received notification and the beautiful pictures of the delivery of the new equipment to the clinic.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Helen Keller

The Good Samaritan could not have done his good deed without the assistance of his donkey, the innkeeper, and staff at the inn.

1. The pandemic has made the disparities around global access to health care even more apparent.
2. How can we personally address these disparities, even with small steps?
3. Whether around the world or in our communities, how can we personally bring to life the lesson of the Good Samaritan?

Prayer: May we always be awake to the needs of those around us. May we have the courage and generosity to step forward and help, even if it is frightening or takes great resources and effort. May we have the wisdom to rely on the community around us to help us achieve our aspirations. Amen.

Scott Smith

Prayer concerns:

God prepares the way for team
People eat and drink wisely
God calms fears and anxieties
People stay healthy and safe
Learn from Mission projects in Iringa
Health care needs may be met for all
Good nights rest

People keep an open heart
Time to relax and enjoy
Enjoy last day in Iringa
Mission Team has flexibility
Bega Kwa Bega and Iringa Diocese Staffs
Increase our vision for health care for those
who are underserved

Fri., Jun. 3

Leave Iringa in the morning and travel to Ruaha National Park, a 3 ½ hour trip. Arrive around noon at Ruaha National Park. Be met at gate by Mwaguzi staff to transfer to Mwaguzi Safari Camp. Get settled into tented bandas. Lunch, relaxation, and tea before late afternoon- early evening safari around the Park in 4-wheel drive vehicles. Dinner on River bed. Overnight at Mwaguzi.

Psalm 24:1

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it."

Farming – A Reflection of God's Intent

Agriculture - a word derived from Latin "ager" or field and "colo" meaning cultivate which when combined, form the Latin word agricultura: field or land tillage. Perhaps the reference to agricultural, commonly known as farming, is the oldest profession known to man. Genesis 1:11 tells us: Then God said "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed on it, according to their various kinds: And it was so. And who did God create to be the first farmer? Genesis Chapter 2:15 tells us that God placed Adam in the midst of the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. Creation's first farmer! We all know the rest of the story, but thankfully it did not end there. Because of disobedience, Adam and Eve were banished from the garden and Adam was sent out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made (Genesis 3:23). Even Noah became a farmer: After the flood, Noah began to cultivate the ground and he planted a vineyard. God's word repeatedly refers to farming as it speaks to us about our Christian mission. The Bible tells us that the land belongs to God and that we are but caretakers and tillers while we toil here on earth. Though we may not be "farmers" in the truest sense, we are all responsible for caring for God's creation which includes the earth itself and all the plants and animals that inhabit the earth. We all have the responsibility of being good stewards. Growing up in the Red River Valley, being born into a farming family and still living in an area where 100% of the population is either directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture for their livelihood it seems natural that everyone should recognize the value of caring for our land. Yet we see over- consumption of our natural resources, waste, and pollution, including noise pollution, all around us. Each of these things has a negative effect on our land and the world we live in. Unfortunately too many of us support only what is best for us during our lifetime. Humans fail to come to terms with how their actions will affect future generations. Many challenges face mankind today as it relates to agriculture and care of the earth that our God created for us. Jesus said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields." Those prayers are continuously being answered and thus the people of St. Stephens spreading God's message to the people of Tanzania. Thanks be to God for those who are a part of sowing of God's word that the harvest will be plentiful when Christ returns.

- 1) How do we view ourselves and our actions in the preservation of God's creation? How can we be effective "sowers"?
- 2) What about global warming? Are we doing enough?
- 3) Should our government be more or less involved in regulation of the preservation of the environment?

Prayer: God help us to care for all you have given us, nurture it for the benefit of others, and see in the planting of seeds the way you grow your word in our lives. Amen

Carol Walker

Prayer Concerns:

Don't forget anything in Iringa
People kept safe and healthy
Safe travel
God calms fears and anxieties
Good night's rest

Mwaguzi Safari Camp ready for us
Time to relax and enjoy
People eat and drink wisely
Appreciate God's creation and see a variety of
wildlife and landscapes

Sat., Jun. 4

Full day on Safari in Ruaha National Park. Breakfast in the bush. Game drives in the morning and late afternoon. Lunch at Camp, leisure time, tea. 8:00 pm social and Dinner on River bed. Overnight at Mwaguzi Safari Camp in tented bandas.

Revelation 22:1-2

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. ...And on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Caring for Creation – Trees and Us

Trees are so commonplace in Minnesota they are easy to take for granted. As I write this, out my window I see at least a dozen in our backyard. Yet it's a mistake to think the trees are just...there. Almost all of our trees are ash, and we worry about what the Emerald Ash Borer could do to our pleasant, wooded, backyard retreat.

Across the street is a park where we like to walk our dog. Last summer we came across a freshly-planted small tree pulled out of the ground by its root ball, apparently by a truck taking care of the ice rink. We tried a couple times to stick it back in the ground, but found it tipped over on the next visit. "Little Tree" clearly needed more help. So, I brought a shovel to replant it and we began bringing a pail of water when we walked to the park, especially in the dry, hot spells of weather. Slowly, Little Tree began to visibly recover, and then thrive, even though it bore a few scars along with its fresh green growth.

When I visited Tanzania over twenty years ago, I met Frank Mhema, a personable young drummer with an easy smile. Even then Frank observed the devastating effect of deforestation on the hills around Iringa and told me he wanted a career as an "environmental man" to help reverse that. I keep in touch with Frank on Facebook, and I think some of you see him.

Like life, trees are fragile, yet also resilient. I'd contend that the broader environment and faith are also fragile, yet resilient. Just as a bucket of water or a steady rainfall can nourish roots, a kind word or a gospel song can nourish a pilgrim's faith. Intervention, even something small, at the right moment can have a significant and long-term impact to change a trajectory.

1. How is stewardship of God's creation informed by Scripture, Jesus' teaching and personal faith?
2. How can a mission team support positive environmental action, while acknowledging their own impact on the Earth and even locally in a village?
3. To what extent is global cooperation to achieve a sustainable environment realistic, even if the damage knows no sovereign boundaries? How might environmental collaboration between countries, whatever the scale, lead to the healing of the nations?

Prayer: Dear Lord, please inspire us all to care for your creation in both proactive and remedial ways where that is needed. Bless the people caring for the environment, and the trees of life that are being planted and tended. Amen. *Randy Amborn*

Prayer Concerns:

People kept safe and healthy
People keep an open heart
God calms fears and anxieties
Good night's rest

Time to relax and enjoy
People eat and drink wisely
Appreciate God's creation and see a variety of
wildlife and landscapes

Sun., Jun. 5

Early morning safari in the park. Dropped off at the Msembe Airfield, Depart Ruaha at 11:45 am (3:45 am CDT) on Coastal Airways flight 312. Arrive Dar es Salaam at 2:00 pm (6:00 am CDT). Meet Miraji Makupa who will drive us for the day. Afternoon/evening in Dar es Salaam possibly visit Mwenge Carver's Market, Makumbusho Village Museum, and eat at Slipway or Sea Cliff Village, on the Indian Ocean. Depart Dar es Salaam at 10:50 pm (2:50 pm CDT) on KLM flight 515.

Luke 10:25-37

"What is written in the law? What do you read there?"

Psalms 1:1-3

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

Meditating on the Law

The law has two purposes: first, to help us maintain relationship with God and, second, to guide the health and safety of the community. If one believes in God, the first three Commandments involve making God first in life, respecting God, and keeping connected to God. The last Commandments apply to everyone everywhere. In order to create a healthy family, community, and country we must respect and care for elders (and following Jesus' example, for children); not harm others physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually; not be overcome by physical passions; not lie to or about each other; not take/steal what belongs to others; and not be overcome by greed or envy (coveting). As we think of the purpose of the law, it is worth noticing how complete and careful it is. Those who meditate on the law are planted and watered where they can yield fruit and be healthy and growing. And their communities can avoid dishonesty and corruption, be based on respect and mutual caring, and be supported by a sense of self-control. The answer to "What is written in the law?" is Love: love God and love your neighbor. Meditate on this day and night.

1. We often lose sight of the purpose of the law and thus resent the rules or work to find ways to avoid them or deliberately misuse them. How can the law help us understand and guide human relationships?
2. How can we use God's law to analyze the quality and purpose of our human-made laws?
3. How can our meditations help us avoid the natural human focus on our personal "freedom" that can keep us from taking responsibility for helping our communities and neighbors?
4. Power corrupts, how can the church withstand this and avoid misusing the law?

Prayer: Lord, help us to see that your laws can be a pattern for us to prevent dictatorship, threat, violence, and fear. Help us to create laws and rules based on mutual respect, love, caring, and safety. Remind us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Thank you for planting us where we can be well watered and can continue to grow and bear fruit. Amen.

Phyllis Ballata

Prayer Concerns:

Appreciate God's creation and see a variety of wildlife and landscapes
Safe and on-time flights
Safe travel
God calms fears and anxieties
Time to reflect
Great memories of the trip
Good sleep on flight

Don't forget anything at Ruaha
Make connection with Miraji
Good Covid test results
Safety in Dar es Salaam
People eat and drink wisely
People kept safe and healthy
Thankfulness
Take enthusiasm for mission home.

- Mon., Jun 6** Arrive Amsterdam at 6:55 am (11:55 pm CDT). Depart Amsterdam at 10:55 am (3:55 am CDT) on Delta flight 161. Arrive Minneapolis/St. Paul at 12:45 pm
- Galatians 6:2** “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Maintaining Relationships

“[Companion synod] relationships are rooted in “accompaniment,” which promotes the values of mutuality, inclusivity, vulnerability, empowerment, and sustainability. Through the program, companion churches and ELCA synods nurture and strengthen one another for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors, and sharing of resources.” ELCA website

From the very beginning, the church has proclaimed itself as one body, wherever it may gather. And from the very beginning, there have been differences of language, culture, and practice. We have been quite literally at war, but we have always held out this ideal.

After 2000 years of trying, we have learned that one-sided interactions are not effective in the long run, and the global church is working to create relationships of the type described above. The reality is that, as Americans, we have more material wealth than most people. We are called to be generous, and we tend to be, especially in these relationships. What is harder for us is to be vulnerable, to acknowledge our own needs, and to accept help from others. It’s uncomfortable, and we aren’t used to it.

The ELCA companion synod program holds out the ideal of true, mutual relationships. As the world seems more polarized than ever, we can be an example of how things could be. We have to be willing to be uncomfortable, to trust that God is with us, accompanying us. That trust deepens our relationships with God and with one another.

1. Give some examples of ways that the values listed above are reflected in the relationship between St Stephen and Lukani parish.
2. Are there ways in which these values are undermined?
3. How have these values strengthened the ministry of St Stephen in White Bear Lake?
4. What changes, if any, would you make in this program?

Prayer: Dear Jesus, help us to fulfill your law. Support us in being vulnerable. Give us grace as we open ourselves to your church in Iringa. Help us to spread your blessings wherever we are. In all things, lead us closer to you. In your holy name, Amen.

Pastor Juli Thompson

Prayer Concerns:

Safe travel
 God prepares the way for team
 God calms fears and anxieties
 Mission Team has flexibility
 Bishop Gaville and Iringa Diocese
 Ryan and Astine Bose and BKB
 Flights on time
 Rest during return flights

People stay healthy
 People keep an open heart
 Good Covid test results
 Time to reflect on Mission Trip
 Remember Lukani and Iringa experiences
 Pastor Stephano Maketa and people of Lukani
 Adjust to time change
 Thankfulness

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