

# Musings from MATONGO

NEWS FROM REV. DR. WALTER & ROBYN STEELE



February 2021

[SteelesInAfrica.com](http://SteelesInAfrica.com)



## STEELES IN AFRICA

—The new semester is well underway, with even more students than before!

—The response to the Hebrew Bible project has been very encouraging.

—Walter is teaching Hebrew; Old Testament Introduction; Psalms & Wisdom Literature; Principles of Interpretation; Pentateuch (Genesis emphasis); and Greek Readings.

—Robyn is getting to know the deaconesses in the Home Economic class. These ladies are learning entrepreneurial skills so they can support themselves and their families as they do the diaconal work to which they will be called.

—We flew to Nairobi and spent Christmas with our team there.



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## Making a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord



### Members of the Matongo Seminary Choir Gather to Celebrate a Birthday

One of the great joys of being Dean of Chapel is gathering with members of the choir as they practice both Kiswahili and English hymns for services in the chapel. There is no way I can adequately express both the quality of their singing and the beauty of their voices. Yet, there is one thing I can say. These men and women are committed to singing the faith into the ears of those who hear them.

In addition to singing in chapel, one of the goals of the Matongo Seminary Choir is to assist the local Kenyan Lutheran congregations in learning *Ibada Takatifu* (the hymnal of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya). Since Kenya is a land of many peoples and many languages, this hymnal helps to unite the Lutherans here, as they sing and worship in their national language—Kiswahili. So, on selected weekends, they travel to local congregations to sing and to help them appreciate this wonderful resource.

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the message that is proclaimed. As pastors preach the Word of God from the pulpit, so the choir sings words which “preach” in such a way that the words sink deep into the mind and heart. Both pure and impure messages can be sung. And it is such a joy to know that these students want to be faithful to the truth of Holy Scripture.

As Dean of Chapel, I also work closely with the men who lead the services in the chapel and with those students who begin the task of learning how to preach and teach the Faith. Many of these men also have responsibilities in congregations in the villages, so it is extremely important that they learn well how to lead the services and to clearly proclaim both Law and Gospel in their sermons.

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- *Thanksgiving for the support for the Hebrew Bible Project.*
- *Please keep praying for the official issuance of Robyn's "dependent's pass," which she needs in order to stay.*
- *For Walter as he works as Dean of Chapel, Dean of Curriculum Campus Pastor, and Exegetical Department Head.*
- *For strength, as Walter is also teaching six courses each week.*
- *For healthcare workers as they work overtime helping those who are sick.*
- *For peace in the nations torn apart during this season post-election, both in the USA and here in Africa.*

Each new academic year, the students pick leaders from their midst for various offices within the student body. Areas of responsibility include the cafeteria, the four dormitories, fellowship, student health and well-being, etc.

Divine Service (Holy Communion) is held each Wednesday at Matongo. During a service last month, Walter had the privilege, as Campus Chaplain to install these men and women in their new positions. Such responsibilities give them opportunities to develop as leaders, skills they will need as they go out from here to serve in their churches and congregations. These students represent churches in Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo!



Walter Installing New Student Leaders for Matongo

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Walter Being Installed as Dean of Chapel by the former Dean, Rev. Dr. Thomas Aadland.

*For more information on our work and our progress check out:*

Our Website: [SteelesInAfrica.com](https://SteelesInAfrica.com)

LCMS page: [lcms.org/steele](https://lcms.org/steele)

On Twitter: [@WalterRSteele](https://twitter.com/WalterRSteele)

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There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at [lcms.org/service](https://lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

To support the LCMS through the work of Walter and Robyn Steele, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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