

Musings from MATONGO

NEWS FROM REV. DR. WALTER & ROBYN STEELE



March 2021

SteelesInAfrica.com



STEELES IN AFRICA

—The semester is half over, midterms are being graded.

—Walter is busy, as Academic Dean, putting together the seminary teaching schedule for next semester.

—He is also working with the Principal to develop the curriculum for the new Bachelor in Theology program. We are seeking independent accreditation.

—Walter has been asked to participate in a remote PhD Seminar about Lutheran Pastoral Theology and Practice. The seminary sponsoring this seminar is in Dallas. It will be good to share the joys of Lutheranism with other Christians.

—We really need to replace the picture above. Walter's hair is shorter and the handlebar "stash" is gone. Robyn's hair is longer—as attested to by the picture to the right.



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email to walter.steele@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

Enough about Walter! Let's Hear About Robyn!



Robyn helping a Deaconess Student with Her Business Plan for Home Economics

Future deaconesses in the Lutheran churches of East Africa are taught and trained at Matongo. Alongside classes in Bible and Theology, they also take general education courses. One such course is Home Economics—a field close to Robyn's major in college.

When these ladies graduate and are placed in congregations, they must supplement their income with practical skills they learn here. In addition to seamstress classes, they gain skills that will enable them to make a living. This frees them to do the diaconal work they have been called to do.

Robyn has been participating in the Home Economics class, learning from them aspects of culture unique to this part of Africa and helping them think through aspects of owning a home business. For several years, Robyn herself has a dietetics and nutrition business of her own, so she uses that experience to help her reflect on things that may or may not work in this environment.

In the picture above, she is helping one such women on the back veranda of our home on campus. Our home is frequented by students who come by for counsel and for assistance in their various courses. It is a joy to be part of their lives. And since Robyn, unlike Walter, has no "official" position as a teacher at the school, she can be a resource for them without any fear of them getting a "bad grade" from her.

We thank you for supporting the Lord's work here at Matongo as we joyfully get to tell them the Good News about Jesus!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- *We are looking to finally purchase a vehicle, which will enhance our ability to minister to churches in the area.*
- *We still await the official issuance of Robyn's "dependent's pass." Yes, this process has moved very slowly.*
- *For continued good health and for strength from God to do the work.*
- *For wisdom as Walter puts together the new Bachelor in Theology curriculum.*
- *For our team here, as we work together in this land.*
- *Thanksgiving for the gifts of support that enable us to stay on the field, so we can bring the Good News of Jesus to those who do not know him and to strengthen those who do.*

About 12 hours north and east of Matongo, in the central north of Kenya live the Samburu people. They are among the hardest people to reach with the Gospel, due in part to their remote location and their semi-nomadic lifestyle. We had the privilege of accompanying one of our team members as he visited a vicar, who is ministering among his own people north of Wamba, in the Samburu region.

After the Divine Service, Robyn spent some time with the children and the women. The children to the right were fascinated by her cellphone as she captured their faces in photos.

The women pictured below are in the tradition dress of Samburu women. We thank God for our time among them that Sunday.



Robyn brought joy to these Samburu children

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Robyn met several women while we were among the Samburu

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

Our Website: SteelesInAfrica.com

LCMS page: lcms.org/steele

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

Or Facebook: Walter Steele



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. Click on "Service Opportunities."

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

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Steele/Kenya." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/steele.