



SteelesInAfrica.com

Meet Pastor Frank Mdingi of Tanzania



TANZANIA

- Tanzania is a country comprised of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.
- The national language of Tanzania is Swahili.
- Approximately 62% of the population identify as Christian.
- Slightly over a third of the people are Muslims.
- A large percent of the Christians are members of the Lutheran Church
- However: The real challenge to the Gospel is the influence of liberal theology on the church.
- The Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese is faithfully proclaiming God's Word and helping the ELCT become more firmly grounded in the Word of God and the Gospel of Christ.



Walter and Frank sharing a time of fellowship and friendship

Photo credit: Erik Lunsford

Rev. Frank Mdingi is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church Tanzania (ELCT). He served in the "Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese." Frank was baptized at the age of 11 after his brother returned from war as a Christian. Being very close to his brother, he listened to him as he shared the Gospel. Frank then became the second member of his family to become a Christian.

In 2006, he attended the Mission Training Center, in Shinyanga Tanzania, which was funded by the LCMS. He served as an evangelist until 2010, when he was ordained as a deacon. From 2014 to 2015, he studied for a Certificate in Theology and was ordained as a pastor.

He began his studies at Matongo Lutheran Theological College, Kenya, in 2018. And that is how we met. Frank is enrolled in the Bachelor in Theology (BTh) program at Matongo. He is one of the finest students I have ever met. His commitment to the Lord and to the Scriptures, and to his pastoral task is exemplary. It is a joy to call him, not only one of my students, but a friend and coworker in Christ Jesus.

This is what serving here is all about: Teaching faithful men who are able to teach others also (2 Timothy 2:1-2). Our mission is to "make the Word of God" fully known so that more people may be brought to Christ and those who believe may be strengthened in their faith.

We only can do this because of your faithful support: your prayers; your words of encouragement, and your financial support. We thank you. And Frank sends his thanks to you in this letter as well.



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



Frank Looks to The Work Ahead



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Frank as he completes his final semester at Matongo*
- *The Evangelical Lutheran Church Tanzania, that more faithful pastors may be raised up to meet the need.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Continued good health as we serve here in Africa.*
- *Continued faithful support of the work*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *New supporters of the mission*
- *For Christ Jesus our Lord, who has died for us and is risen from the dead, never to die again.*

A most blessed and joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection this Easter!



As is true for many of the churches in East Africa, there is a shortage of pastors to fill the pulpits. Therefore, the churches rely on evangelists to meet the day-to-day pastoral needs and the weekly worship needs of God's people.

The issue Frank and others see is that the training of these evangelists has not always been as rigorous as it should be. Because of this, while the parish pastor may be fully trained in the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions, the evangelists don't always get the message quite right.

Frank is desirous of seeing every evangelist trained more fully in the Word of God and in solid biblical theology. Therefore, he is working to get copies of the Swahili Book of Concord and *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* (published by Concordia Publishing House) into their hands and to see that the training of evangelists becomes an ongoing priority for the ELCT, especially in the diocese in which he serves.

One of the projects Walter supervises is getting copies of the *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* for every pastoral student at Matongo. If you would like to support this project, please email him at Walter.Steele@lcms.org.

Again, this is another way you or your congregation can participate in the mission of God to the people of Africa.

Remember, you can help us continue to teach future church workers here in Africa by your prayers and financial support at:

lcms.org/givenow/steele

Or at the world-famous Mission Central

MISSION CENTRAL

40718 Highway E-16

Mapleton IA 51034

Make the memo line: Steele/ Kenya



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 & Robyn Steele, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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