

# Musings from Matongo

## Rev. Dr. Walter & Robyn Steele

### Theological Educator & Nutrition Educator

#### *Serving the Lord in East Africa*



February 2024

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

## Providing Care for Teammates



### The Work Continues to Expand!

This month's prayer letter highlights some of the varied work that we are called to do.

Robyn's position includes teaching deaconess students, assisting with new missionaries arriving on the field, and providing nutrition information.

Walter continues as Academic Dean, teaches Bible and the Lutheran Confessions, and coordinates LCMS work with the new seminary in Tanzania.

East Africa has become our home, and we thank our Lord that we have the opportunity to serve here.....



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### *Robyn giving a health briefing to our newest missionaries*

*Photo Credit: Shara Osiro*

As Robyn begins her official duties as a Nutrition Educator for the Africa Field, she not only teaches future deaconesses for the Lutheran Churches of East Africa. She is also a member of the Shared Ministries Team.

Her work in this group includes providing health information for new missionaries as they go through on-field orientation. In January, since she also is teaching a class at Matongo, she met with Bryan and Leah Payne, via Zoom, as they prepare to depart for Swahili language school and, ultimately, Shinyanga, Tanzania—the new seminary Walter is helping to establish.

When new missionaries come on the field, it is the responsibility of those who have been here a while to help them adjust to their new lives and to pass on the knowledge we have acquired over time.

We thank God that because of your strong support, Robyn is now able to contribute to our Lord's mission in this new and important way.

In Christ's care,

*Walter*

*and*

*Robyn*

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## Robyn begins teaching her first course



### Walter tutors a Bishop

Mission work has many facets. Over the past four months, Walter has been meeting with Bishop Selestine Seburikoko of the Lutheran Mission in Africa—Synod of Thousand Hills, Rwanda, preparing him for his Biblical Greek language exam. Bishop Seburikoko is enrolled in a Master of Sacred Theology program, through Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

It is a privilege to help train solid Lutheran church leaders to lead their churches in the truth of God's Word.



**Robyn with one of our deaconess students.**

*Robyn's course is Home Economics II. But that title does not really tell anything about what she is teaching. The course has two main parts: Nutrition and Ecclesiastical Embroidery. Teaching about food means talking about God as our loving Creator and Provider of all good things. Teaching about ecclesiastical embroidery means talking about symbols we use in the Church, what they mean, and how they visually teach about the faith.*

*By integrating food and faith, we acknowledge the truths taught in the Catechism, both in the First Article of the Creed and in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer. Becoming knowledgeable about symbols in the sanctuary, these ladies can teach the faith even those whose reading skills are minimal. This is a great course, integrating theology and practical daily life skills.*

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

**[www.lcms.org/Steele](http://www.lcms.org/Steele)**

Or at the **world-famous Mission Central**

**MISSION CENTRAL**

**40718 Highway E-16**

**Mapleton IA 51034**



*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](http://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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St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Walter & Robyn Steele." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [lcms.org/Steele](http://lcms.org/Steele).