

Musings from Matongo

Rev. Dr. Walter & Robyn Steele

Theological Educator & Nutrition Educator

Serving the Lord in East Africa



July 2024

SteelesInAfrica.com

Six Weeks in a Tanzanian Village



Latest News

It is likely that many of you have heard the news of the protests that are ongoing in Kenya.

We are safe, both Walter in Tanzania and Robyn in Kenya.

We are grateful that Matongo is a considerable distance from the hot spots. Robyn has good people around her at the seminary who are watching out for her welfare.

Mission work has its risks, which we always try to mitigate. But the joy of bringing Christ to the nations makes it all worthwhile.

Thank you for your prayers.



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A Market Street in Shinyanga

This summer we passed the five-year mark of serving through LCMS International Mission. We constantly thank God for sending us to East Africa to be a part of His mission work.

To be honest, one of the frustrations I have felt is a byproduct of the COVID lockdown, which shortened our Swahili language training in 2020. This summer I have the first real opportunity to do something about it. I am in Shinyanga, Tanzania to refresh and improve my language skills. I have a great teacher, who happens to teach English in the local Secondary School. During the day I engage people in conversation in the markets, and in the afternoon I receive formal language instruction for the six weeks I am here.

In addition to this, being here allows me to advise the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese as they prepare curriculum for the newly planned seminary. I have reported on this from time to time in earlier newsletters. It is a joy to be joined by our newly arrived missionaries, the Payne family as we meet and discuss the future of this new college.

As always, thank you for your continued prayers and support.

In Christ,

Walter

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News from Robyn



A Sunday of Baptisms

During a celebratory service for the opening of a new congregation in Shinyanga, Walter joined our LCMS teammates, Bryan & Leah Payne, with their children, for the six-hour-long service.

The highlight of the service for us was the baptism of both young adults and infants.

This is what mission work is all about, proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, building Lutheran churches, and showing Christ's mercy to all!



Ongoing Chapel Project

While Walter is in Tanzania, I have been busy preparing for next semester's class. While I am basically happy with the way the course went last time, I want to improve it, so I can better prepare the deaconesses as they show Christ's mercy and care to those they will serve.

I now also have the responsibility to coordinate repair work on the four LCMS missionary residences on campus. Since now three of the homes are temporarily vacant, we have the chance to do necessary improvements.

The photo above pictures the new campus chapel. Since I am on campus, I am able to keep our Africa Field Office up to date on the ongoing work. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

In Christ's care,

Robyn

Robyn.Steele@lcms.org

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

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

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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. 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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