

Musings from MATONGO

NEWS FROM REV. DR. WALTER & ROBYN STEELE



December 2020

SteelesInAfrica.com



STEELES IN AFRICA

—Classes for the semester are now complete.

—New duties are assigned. See the newsletter articles for details.

—The hunger for the Word of God continues to encourage us in our work.

—Robyn looks to repairs and improvements in our home, the 42-year-old, world-famous Karibuni House.

—Learning to spell using British English and use British terms: Saviour; Boot and Bonnet; etc.

—I now know my weight in Kgs and Stones. Stones? Yup, stones.



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.

We Send Out Our Vicars & Interns



Rev. Dr. Walter R Steele preaching at the Divine Service of Sending.

What a joy to preach the Word of God! What a joy to preach the Divine Service at which we sent out our pastoral vicars and deaconess interns to various churches to put into practice what they have learned!

By God's grace, we were able to complete the interrupted semester without any "Covid" incidences. Final exams for the seamster are over and graded exams are turned in. Now it is time to prepare for January, when we start the delayed new academic year. We have said "Kwaheri" (Farewell and blessings) to our departing students and soon we will say "Karibu! (Welcome) to a new class. It will be good to meet them and begin the process of forming them into pastors, deaconesses and evangelists for the growing churches of East Africa.

You know, we would not be able to be here were it not for your faithful, ongoing support. And, as I ponder, pray about, and consider the needs here, I have come to believe that pastors here need **at the very least**, the same level of quality instruction and pastoral formation our Concordia Seminaries give our US students. Not only are these men faced with the challenges of Islam and the tribal religions and practices, but also the materialism, post-modernism, and vices that are infecting them from the secular West. These men need deep training in the Word, in both of the original languages of the Bible. If you would like to know more about some ideas of how to help with this, **please be sure to read the next page** of this newsletter.

Finally, may you find joy, comfort and strength in Christ this Advent and Christmas season, as we worship the Word of God made flesh for our salvation.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- That our students can all return in January without incident.
- For the official issuance of Robyn's "dependent's pass," which she needs in order to stay.
- Walter as he takes on new responsibilities as Dean of Chapel, Campus Pastor, and Exegetical Department Head.
- For a successful and safe vaccine against Covid-19.
- Give thanks to the Lord that, we remain safe and healthy.
- For each other, as you continue to support the mission of our Lord and master Jesus Christ here in East Africa.

Academic Year 2021 finds Walter with some new responsibilities. He has been selected to be the Dean of Chapel and Campus Pastor. In this capacity, he will be overseeing the worship life of the Seminary and the spiritual care of the students, faculty, and staff.

In addition, Walter is now the Chair of the Department of Exegetical Theology. This means that he will coordinate and oversee all the classes that teach the books of the Bible and also the Greek and Hebrew language courses. And this brings us to some needs.

Our pastoral students learn Biblical Greek so that they can teach and preach well from the Bible, knowing what the apostles and evangelists wrote, without needing to wholly rely on translations. When they pass their Greek course, they receive a Greek New Testament.

In the same way, they learn Biblical Hebrew, a course I teach, so they can do likewise. However, up to this time, they have not been given a Hebrew Bible. They need one! And there is a wonderful resource called "*Hebrew Bible: Reader's Edition*" that I desperately want to provide them. Robyn and I have been setting aside what we can to build a fund to purchase these for the students, but, especially given the cost of shipping, we need partners who understand and have the same passion for getting the Scriptures in the original languages into their hands. If you are interested in partnering with us in this, in addition to your current support, please email me at walter.steele@lcms.org so we can discuss how this might come together should the Lord so will. Thank you in advance for praying about this.

Remember:

You can support us at lcms.org/givenow/steele

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Make the memo line: Steele/ Kenya

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

Our Website:

SteelesInAfrica.com

LCMS page: lcms.org/steele

On Twitter: @WalterRSteele

Or Facebook: Walter Steele



Processional with the Archbishop in attendance.



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
P.O. Box 66861
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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.