

Musings from MATONGO

NEWS FROM REV. DR. WALTER & ROBYN STEELE



February 2020

SteelesInAfrica.com



STEELES IN AFRICA

Did you know that:

—Tanzania is a country made up on the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar?

—The word “*Asante*” means “Thank you,” and the response is “*Karibu*”?

—Kiswahili is a language spoken throughout much of East Africa?

—“Kwa maana jinsi hii Mungu aliupenda ulimwengu, hata akamtoa Mwanawe pekee, ili kila mtu amwaminiye asipotee, bali awe na uzima wa milele.”(Yoh 3:16)?

—You are a vital member of the Lord’s mission in East Africa?

—Yes! You are!



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Drop by Drop the Bucket Is Filled



Language School: Masumbo Camp, Iringa Tanzania

Kenya has over 46 “tribal” groups, many of which have their own language. Nevertheless, they are blessed with a common African language, Kiswahili. (The Ki means language.) Although Walter will be teaching his seminary students in English, it is necessary for him to know enough Kiswahili to communicate effectively.

Language is the bearer of culture. And East African culture is quite different than European and American culture. So language learning also allows us to get insights into the culture of the peoples we will be ministering to each day. We say “peoples” because the students at Matongo come from at least six different countries, not to mention many differing “tribal” groups.

Both Robyn and Walter are sharing a great teacher, Dina, who speaks great English and is a very patient and understanding tutor. We meet with her Monday through Friday from 8:30 am till 1:00 pm (which, we have learned, is 2:30 *asubuhi* till 7:00 *mchana* Swahili time!). So far, like newborn babes, we are slowly (*polepole*), drop by drop, learning the basics of this beautiful language. We are also beginning to pick up some of the unique aspects of this culture, which is far more communal than our own.

The staff at the camp also acts as our after-hours tutors. They are native Tanzanians, are all Christians, and are supportive of our learning.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- That we remain in good health throughout our stay at language school.
- That our Kenya work permits are issued in a timely manner.
- That the Lord continue to raise up more financial partners so that we can serve long-term in East Africa.
- That thanksgiving be given to our Lord for safely bringing us to Kenya and Tanzania.
- That the Lord open up opportunities for us to share the Gospel, even as we study Kiswahili in school.
- That you know the fullness of joy of being part of the Lord's mission in Africa!

Thank you so much for our on-going prayers.

We don't have internet at this camp, but must go into town each week and use cellular data. So, if we are slow in responding to you, please understand that we are well and will get back with you as soon as we can.

We wish you a salutary and blessed Epiphany Season!

We continue to rejoice in new partners, who join with us each month. We also thank individuals and congregations (and schools) who are planning to partner with us as recurring donors and T.I.M. congregations. We trust in the Lord that many will be able to fulfill their promises.

Remember:

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Our Website: SteelesInAfrica.com

Walters' Devotional Blog: steelesinafrica.com/walters-blog

Our LCMS page: lcms.org/steele

On Twitter: @WalterRSteele

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

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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