

# Musings from MATONGO

NEWS FROM REV. DR. WALTER & ROBYN STEELE



May 2020

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



## STEELES IN AFRICA

### Fun Facts:

- Kenya has over 70 ethnic communities.
- Kenya has over 80 unique dialects.
- Kenyans love children.
- Our partner church body is the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya.
- Matongo Seminary is the premier confessional Lutheran seminary in East Africa.
- The Lutherans in Kenya want well-trained pastors, who know the Word of God and who can teach it well.
- We are in East Africa to support their desire to grow in their knowledge of that Word and to partner with them in God's Mission.



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## What is This?



### **We are always learning new ways to accomplish our daily tasks!**

There is a phrase Walter learned while serving as a Navy and Marine Corps chaplain. That saying was: *Semper Gumby* (Always Flexible). Flexibility, the ability to adapt, to improvise and to overcome obstacles is essential to missionary life as well.

Sometimes we need to find new ways of doing things. Other times, we find that the older way is actually the better way. This is especially important when the electrical power goes out, which is an almost-every day occurrence in East Africa. Other times, it's the water. We might just wake up to find that it isn't running, or it is a funny tan color. Oh well! Adapt. Improvise. Overcome. And laugh at yourself and the situation.

We must remain flexible in our daily tasks. We must find ways to get the work done, even if we are isolated because of a pesky virus. Yet we never compromise on the truth of God's Word, of his saving truth in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The situations are different. The cultures are different and require flexible thinking in how we communicate and share God's saving message. But the core of that message—our Faith—never changes.

We deeply appreciate your solid, uncompromising support, even as you find new ways to adapt, improvise, and overcome daily challenges.

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for and encourage your pastors as they find new ways to bring the saving Gospel to you in these difficult days.
- Pray for healthcare workers, researchers, and support staff as they try to find a cure and a vaccine for COVID-19.
- Pray for our East Africa team as we all find unique ways to continue the work to which we have been called.
- Pray for the physical harvest and crops here. In addition to the virus concerns, Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan are dealing with terrible flooding and a locust plague.
- Pray for us that doors will be opened to continue to share the Good News (Habari Njema) that Christ is Risen and brings eternal life to all who trust in Him.

*Some of you have likely figured out what that tool is on the front page. And, yes, we actually use it just about every day. Maybe you have even used one like it! If you know what it is, it would be fun to hear from you. Your guesses or your solid conclusions are both solicited. And we promise to reveal it to you in the next newsletter. And, for those of you on Facebook, you might even see a video of one of us using it. So, check our FB page now and then!*



When you need to cross the river, but there isn't a bridge in sight...

**ADAPT!  
IMPROVISE!  
OVERCOME!**

Remember:

You can support us at [lcms.org/givenow/steele](https://lcms.org/givenow/steele)

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

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40718 Highway E-16

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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](https://SteelesInAfrica.com)

**Our LCMS page:** [lcms.org/steele](https://lcms.org/steele)

**On Twitter:** @WalterRSteele

**Or Facebook:** Walter Steele



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](https://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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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](https://lcms.org/steele).