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# Konde Partnership Newsletter

A publication of the Konde Diocese Committee of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA



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## LSS MEMBERS RETURN FROM KONDE VISIT

(Article by Susan Uhler,  
Advent)

Three members of Advent Lutheran Church were blessed with the opportunity to visit the Konde Diocese this past July. Carol Oldenburg and John and Susan Uhler were part of a group of eleven from LSS who travelled to Tanzania.



**John, Susan and Carol with their new friends at Ipinda Congregation**

A large part of our trip was devoted to visiting the many projects supported by Konde, including Itete and Matema hospitals, Manow School, and Lusongo and Kifunda farms. The breadth and variety of these endeavors was truly impressive, as well as the ongoing need for resources to support and continue this

important work. We relished the opportunity to become acquainted with **Bishop** Dr. Israel-Peter Mwakyolile and members of the Konde staff and were humbled by their hospitality, warmth and devotion.

Our driver, translator, and “spiritual guide” throughout the 15 days of our trip was an unforgettable young man aptly named Emmanuel. Calling themselves “born-again Lutherans”, he and his friend and colleague Prosper sacrificed two weeks away from their jobs, families, and busy lives in order to shepherd our group around the lower highlands of Tanzania. Their devotion to our safety and security was monumental, as was their sensitivity to and support of our Christian mission.



**The Bishop welcomes us to Kifunda Farm**

Each day’s journey was begun with a group prayer, and Prosper and Emmanuel were among the most eloquent in their offerings of praise and thanksgiving. Emmanuel’s reliably calm and patient demeanor amidst challenging circumstances, including two flat tires within a few hours on our return trip to Dar es Salaam, continue to be an inspirational example to us! The faithful, loving devotion of both men was truly a blessing which will remain with us for a lifetime.

By far the highlight of the trip for John, Carol, and Susan was our three-day sojourn at the Ipinda congregation with which Advent is partnered. Ours was the first in-person visit to Ipinda by members of their sister church. We were greeted exuberantly by the Ipinda congregants, regaled by various choirs, and welcomed with a feast of locally grown greens, rice, bananas, peanuts, avocados, and fish. A lengthy walking tour of Ipinda village was led by Jeremiah, a 74-year-old church member, and included stops at various homes and preaching points

within the Ipinda congregation.

The afternoon found us meeting with the Companion Committee members, who reported to us the manner in which our support has helped them, and told us about future goals they have for sustaining their congregation and growing their outreach activities. One of the more significant projects they hope to develop is a hostel for widows and orphans of the congregation. The widowed women have formed a strong bond and have already taken the initiative to purchase a tract of land in Ipinda village, where they hope to eventually build the hostel. Until sufficient funds are raised to support the building, the land is being utilized to grow rice, bananas, and other crops. In addition, bricks are being made from the red clay which is readily available in the area, and will serve as the building foundation. Another goal for the congregation is to purchase a milling machine for grinding corn. There is only one such machine in the village, and they feel there is a strong market for such a commodity, which would provide income for the church.

One of our major goals in making personal contact with Ipinda was to establish a member of the congregation with whom we could correspond regularly, and a means by which to

communicate easily. We have identified that correspondent in the person of Lusajo Mwakitalima, the chairman of the Companion Committee and headmaster of the local public secondary school. Lusajo's English skills are such that a reasonable communication can be maintained.

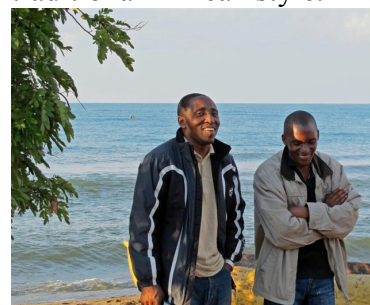
To that end, and with the expert assistance of our friend Emmanuel, we have purchased a Dell laptop computer for use by the Ipinda congregation. It is equipped with all of the recommended software, including a webcam for sharing personal images and possibly even worship services! Emmanuel's "real" job as an IT professional at the University of Dar es Salaam enabled him to assist us in identifying a reliable computer sales company in Tanzania from whom we made the purchase and who will set up and service the machine. We thank God for this further blessing of our relationship!



**Susan and Carol present the commemorative banner created by women of Advent Lutheran**

Our visit to Ipinda culminated with Sunday worship: two services

highlighted by music, dancing, and celebration, including a number of baptisms. We presented the Ipinda congregation with a banner created by women from Advent and commemorating the Advent/Ipinda relationship. The Ipinda congregation presented John, Carol, Susan, and Emmanuel with exquisite custom-made clothing in the traditional African style.



**Prosper and Emmanuel, our drivers/interpreters/spiritual guides**

Our hearts were full, and heavy, as we departed from Ipinda late on Sunday evening. In a brief few days, we had our hearts and minds opened to a culture in many ways different from our own, yet bound by a common faith. We witnessed the powerful presence of God's spirit in the lives of our Tanzanian brothers and sisters, and their impressive commitment to care for one another. The bonds of our companionship have been strengthened, and we have a resolve to continue to nurture this relationship.



## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK

(Article by Martina  
Uffelman)

St. Paul's of York first Christmas Cookie Walk took place on Saturday, December 11, 2010 from 9 AM to Noon. For a \$10 donation, participants received a take-home plastic container provided by the church. They filled their container to the brim as they walked around tables filled with delicious homemade Christmas cookies.

A few weeks prior to the Cookie Walk, committee members and volunteers made calls to the congregation requesting that members bake two batches of their best and favorite Christmas cookies. Over 73 families and individuals responded. The result was over 450 dozen cookies were donated for the Christmas Cookie Walk. Members brought their cookies to the church throughout the day on Friday.

Many volunteers assisted with receiving the cookies, preparing the tables, setting up the cookie displays and working at the Cookie Walk on Saturday

Over \$1700 was raised from the Cookie Walk which will be used to purchase a motorbike for use by St.

Paul's sister congregation in Tanzania, Mpuguso Lutheran Church. The motorbike will assist Pastor David Ngogo in his evangelistic efforts to reach those who live in the outlying regions of Tkuyu who are too far removed to attend worship services and participate in activities of Mpuguso Lutheran Church.

### MALARIA

Every 45 seconds a child dies of Malaria in the world. Malaria is caused by a parasite called Plasmodium, which is transmitted via the bites of infected mosquitoes. In the human body, the parasites multiply in the liver, and then infect red blood cells.



Tanzanian child looking through protective mosquito netting

Symptoms of malaria include fever, headache, and vomiting, and usually appear between 10 and 15 days after the mosquito bite. If not treated, malaria can quickly become life-threatening by disrupting the blood supply to vital organs. In many parts of the world, the parasites have developed resistance to a number of malaria medicines. Key interventions to control malaria include: prompt and effective treatment with

artemisinin-based combination therapies; use of insecticidal nets by people at risk; and indoor residual spraying with insecticide to control the vector mosquitoes.

Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda released the results from a recent survey carried out by National Bureau of Statistics with assistance from USAID. With regard to Malaria, 56% of the households covered in the study owned some type of mosquito net (increased from 46% observed in the 2004-05 survey). 37% of children under age five years and 36% of pregnant women slept under a mosquito net. Children and pregnant women in urban areas were found to be twice as likely to use mosquito nets than their rural counterparts.

The overall prevalence of malaria in young children in Tanzania was 18%. In rural areas, 20% of children carried the malaria parasite compared to 7% in urban areas. Kagera had the highest prevalence of malaria among young children (42%) while Arusha had the lowest with less than 1%.

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) took action Oct. 8 to "focus the commitment of the ELCA to address malaria through a rebranded and prioritized" ELCA Malaria Campaign. It also called on church members to learn about malaria and other diseases intensified by poverty, and asked members to

"prayerfully support" the church's commitment to contain and prevent malaria in Africa.

The council acted on the malaria proposal during a special conference call meeting October 2010.

The council's malaria action followed a Sept. 30 announcement by the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, ELCA presiding bishop, that the ELCA churchwide organization withdrew a grant proposal to the United Nations Foundation (UNF), ending the ELCA's involvement in the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI) partnership. Hanson said the ELCA withdrew from the LMI partnership because of a decline in churchwide financial resources. The ELCA will instead work directly with companion churches in Africa through an ELCA Malaria Campaign.

The council asked staff to bring a report and recommendations for a churchwide campaign to address malaria to its April 2011 meeting for referral to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

Hanson told the council the campaign fundraising proposal would likely be for \$15 million over a five-year period.

The Rev. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, coordinator for the ELCA Malaria Campaign, said that the ELCA will continue to raise awareness and funds for

prevention and treatment of malaria. Four key emphases of the ELCA Malaria Campaign are "prayer, advocacy, education and fundraising," she said. The goal is to contain the number of deaths in Africa related to malaria, she said.

*(The preceding article was found on in a variety of sources, including the ELCA website, PMI website, and an African news website.)*

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## HIATUS OF THE NEWSLETTER IS OVER

The editor of this newsletter is formally issuing an apology for the extended absence of this newsletter. A very bad MALWARE virus infected the computer used to create this newsletter, preventing the use of files and the internet. Also, there was a fear that emailing from the computer might spread the infection.

Christmas season visited, and the editor was blessed with a brand new machine, better than the first.

Unfortunately, all the email contacts were inaccessible once the transfer of information between computers was made. In a stroke of brilliance, the editor had managed to send copies of the previous newsletter forwarding emails to an online account. Although the emails themselves have been saved,

the name of the church or person who they belong to was not.

The editor is requesting each addressee to 1) verify that you have received this newsletter, 2) renew your willingness to receive it, and (most important) tell me who you are and what church you belong to. Send responses by email. For example: I got your stinking newsletter again, I never want to see it again, and I'm Pastor Justin Time from Holy Lutheran Church of the Lost in Lancaster, PA. Although, probably saying it a little more gently might be nicer)

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## SAVE THE DATE

The next Konde gathering will be held on Saturday, May 21 at Camp Kirchenwald during the morning. This event is open to everyone, and would be great for a Sunday School class field trip.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Benevolence or general questions: Pastor Cliff Eshbach, Assistant to the Bishop, LSS. Email: [ceshbach@lss-elca.org](mailto:ceshbach@lss-elca.org)

Companion Congregation program: Pastor Judy McKee, Union Lutheran Church, York, email: [jmckee408@unionlutheran.org](mailto:jmckee408@unionlutheran.org)