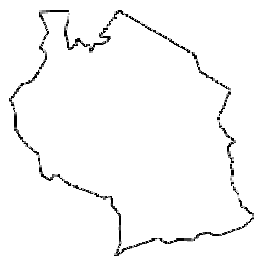


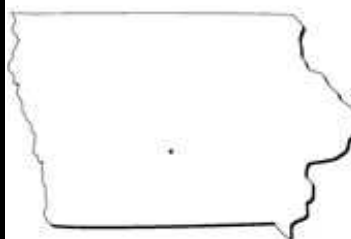
FEBRUARY 2009



TANZANIA

### MONTHLY CONNECTIONS:

A monthly electronic newsletter, published through the auspices of the Companion Synod Ministry Team of the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, featuring news about activities and events between Lutherans in Southeastern Iowa and Pare Diocese, Tanzania



IOWA

Please feel free to share this information with others in your congregations who are interested in our companions in Tanzania especially your Global Mission Ministry Team and your Companion Congregation Ministry Team.

*Additional contributions of information are always welcome. Send them to these email addresses:*

*Karen Kording, editor, [karenk@machlink.com](mailto:karenk@machlink.com)*

*Janet Heinicke, Chair., SEIA Companion Synod Ministry Team, [janetheinicke@earthlink.net](mailto:janetheinicke@earthlink.net)*

### **DEADLINE FOR 2009 VISION TRIP FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup> ... GOING! GOING! GOING! ALMOST GONE!**

February is the month to sign up for the 2009 Synod-sponsored Vision Trip, June 4 to June 19, to Pare Diocese. As a Synod document prepared recently states, *"The Companion Synod Ministry Team exists to build relationships with the people of Pare Diocese through which we will be mutually strengthened for life and mission in the body of Christ. One strategy we have found to be essential is to foster the opportunity to visit our companions in Christ. The way we "see" is transformed by such Vision Trips. We hope that the mutual, healthy, and life-giving Companion Congregational relationships will be nurtured through these Vision Trips."*

"You are invited to register several months before the journey you hope to join by completing a form (available from the Synod office; contact Lorraine Jordan [jordan@seiasynod.org](mailto:jordan@seiasynod.org)) or Janet Heinicke ([janetheinicke@earthlink.net](mailto:janetheinicke@earthlink.net).) You are asked to send \$200 to the synod office, payable to the Southeastern Iowa Synod-Companion Synod Fund in the memo line. This aids in advance planning. (Later registrations may be possible if the maximum number of participants has not been reached.) The \$200 deposit is refundable up to 60 days prior to departure, i.e., April 4. Since airline tickets must be purchased 60 days in advance, checks for the amount of the reserved ticket are due sixty days prior to departure (i.e., April 4). Completed visa applications and passports are also due to the Travel coordinator at the same time. If it is necessary to cancel your trip during this time, we will work with you to seek a refund from the airline. Sixty days prior departure projected in country costs are calculated and the remainder of this full amount is due thirty days prior to your departure (full refunds of this amount are possible up to the time of departure)."



### **"CROSSING BORDERS" PLANS ARE DEVELOPING RAPIDLY**

Three Tanzanian pastors are to serve as missionaries among us. Pr. Dwight DuBois, who is heading this project, sent the following article for the newsletter;

For over three years, several of the Synod's ministry teams and the Center for Renewal at Grand View University has been cooperating on a project called "Crossing Borders." Those who have been to Tanzania return with a great appreciation for the African spirituality that expresses itself through a strong sense of community, in the passion for evangelism, and in the joy of being a Christian. These are God-given gifts, more of which we all long to have. We hope that Crossing Borders will be a way for our companions in Pare to share these gifts with us.

We are glad to report that Pastors Enea Mshana, Elineema Mndeme, and Grayson Mhale will be in our synod from mid-September through mid-November of this year. While they are here, they will preach, teach and lead events across the synod. Each pastor will be hosted by one congregation for each of the two months, allowing them to interact with congregations in six parts of the synod. A leadership team will be matched to each of the three pastors. These leadership teams will develop a variety of ways to use the pastors, plan and promote events, and coordinate schedules and arrange transportation for the pastors who will serve in their areas. Watch for more information in the next few months. Congregations are invited to start considering ways to interact with the pastors in your setting.



Pastor DuBois provided us with a "for instance list" to start our "wheels moving". Things the Tanzanian guest pastors can do in your congregation:

- preach on weekends
- visit and lead conference meetings
- conduct adult forums; teach a two or four week Book of Faith series
- attend or speak at congregational events
- meet with church councils and committees
- attend or create education forums
- interact with colleges or seminaries
- Talk about African social activities, i.e., music , dancing, food, games, stories

*Get Involved...*



**CONGREGATIONS TOGETHER IN MISSION**  
**PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR**  
**FACE-TO-FACE CONVERSATION**  
**ABOUT PARE DIOCESE AND**  
**SEIA COMPANION SYNOD MINISTRY.**

Register by **February 28** for the March 14<sup>th</sup> event.

Mail registration to SEIA Synod, PO Box 3167, Iowa City, IA 52244. Fee is \$20.

*Three workshops at CTIM focus on Tanzania:*

- *Session One. 10:35 to 11:45. Workshop #37. Starting a Companion Relationship with a Parish in Pare, TZ. Dr. Dick Whitaker, Leader*
- *Session Two. 12:30-1:40. Workshop #34. A Powerpoint View of Companionship. Bev Meyers & Jan Heinicke, Leaders*
- *Session Three. 1:50-3 p.m. Workshop # 9. Empower Tanzania Inc. Carlene Embree, Leader*

## **RECENT NEWS FROM PARE**



***These events and activities were sent to us recently by Todd Byerly, volunteer Missionary in Pare Diocese, to share with you.***

### **News about "comings and goings"**

**Thirteen visitors arrived in Pare on January 22 from Zion Lutheran in Des Moines, and St. Peter Lutheran in Grimes. The group was led by Pastor Robert Solberg (Zion) and Pastor Mark Holmes (Grimes).**

**In December 2008 Rosemary Solomon, Women and Children Director in Pare, conducted a Binti Mama seminar.**

**A short-term missionary from Germany, Ulrike Steinmann, arrived in Pare in November. She will work with Rosemary Solomon until July 2009 in kindergarten teacher trainings.**

**The Global Fund Most Vulnerable Children project (MVC) distributed various need items to over 5000 most vulnerable children in the 2008 program (July through December). This project operates in Same district.**

**The PEPFAR palliative care program trained 67 persons in home based palliative care in its second year (April 2008 through March 2009). As a result 200 patients with HIV/AIDS, cancers, strokes, diabetes etc., are receiving community support, counseling and medications as of December 2008.**

### **News about gifts of goats, donkeys, cows, a new calf, bicycles and some cash!**

- **An individual donor in Des Moines made possible the purchase of twelve bicycles for Palliative care sustainable trainers.**



- **Donkey and goat support was completed at Kirangare Parish in December 2008, supported by Zion Lutheran in Davenport**
- **St. Paul Lutheran in Davenport enabled support for dairy goats as well as para-vet training. The support has allowed this work to continue into 2009 at the Bombo Lutheran Parish, St. Paul's will give bicycles to two newly trained para-vet goat farmers.**



- **The dairy cow, given by the Julie and Mark Baird family to Assistant to the Bishop Eliraha Mmwiri, has borne a calf, a female!**
- **Bethany of West Branch is supporting the Mbakweni Parish with a corn milling building and has hopes of sending funds for a corn hulling and milling operation this year!**

## **REFUNDS FOR EXPEDITED PASSPORTS**



Ministry Travel has asked us to pass along the word that the U.S. Department of State's refund program for expedited passport service is **still available**.

Applicants who paid an extra sixty dollars for an expedited passport application that took more than 14 days to receive may be eligible for a refund according to the State Department. Many applicants who paid the fee for speedy service on top of the regular \$97 application fee had to wait longer because of a backlog caused by the new rules implemented **in early 2007** by the Department of Homeland Security. Travelers who paid the \$60 fee for expedited service and have reason to believe that they did not receive the expedited service should contact the Department of State to request that the Department consider a refund of the expedite fee. Send your request to

Service Refund

Department of State 2999

Passport Place, Washington DC 20522-2999

Email requests to [refunds@passportservices@state.gov](mailto:refunds@passportservices.state.gov)



### **PASTOR MARY JO MAASS BEGINS HER WORK AT USANGI**

Recently we received this photograph of Pastor Mary Jo as she stands in front of her residence at Usangi Leadership Training School. We share it with you. Her email remains the same, [maryjomaass@gmail.com](mailto:maryjomaass@gmail.com)

## **SWEDESBURG BECOMES THE LATEST COMPANION CHURCH CONGREGATION IN IOWA**

Pr. Steven Zittergruen, pastor of the Swedesburg Lutheran Church in Swedesburg, has received official word from Pare Diocese that the establishment of a companion relationship with the Ngaeni Parish be undertaken. Pr. Steve will go to Pare in February where he will have an opportunity to meet with members from Swedesburg's new companion congregation. He will be joined by his wife, Lisa, who will be completing her service at Gonja Hospital as part of her studies at the University of Iowa Medical School.



*We have available to you maps of the pare diocese with the location of various parishes and the congregations in Iowa which are partnered with them. The maps are in Adobe pdf format and if you are interested in receiving them simply click on "Reply" to this email and they will be sent to you.*

*Also, soon to be available is an updated Question and Answer Sheet of Frequently asked Questions. Again, simply click on reply to this message and the forms will be sent to you when they become available. These would be of special interest if you, or someone you know, is thinking of or planning to sign up for this year's Vision Trip.*

*Because of the size of the files of both the maps (over 1300 KB) and the FAQ's sheet, the documents will be sent in separate emails.*