



Writing to you from Nairobi, Kenya

February 2012

Photos in Focus

On Safari with Family



General Medical Clinic

“What would you like us to do?” asks Rev. Paul Short of St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He’s visiting with parish leaders, pastors, evangelists, and partner ministry representatives on the coast of Kenya. Pastor Short’s congregation in the United States is part of the Congregation Connect program that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) encourages for LCMS congregations eager to be involved in short-term mission trips abroad. They key feature of the program is the long-term relationship with the national church under the guidance of deployed missionary staff.

Last year St. Andrew’s made their first team visit to the coastal region with a hugely successful Vacation Bible School (See August 2011 Field Notes). At the end of that trip, Pastor Short asked “What would you like us to do?” The consensus formed—meeting the medical needs of the community will benefit the community, raise awareness of the church, generate goodwill, and provide huge opportunities for outreach.

This month, St. Andrew’s returned to the coastal region with a team of 12, the majority of the team being medical person-

nel—both doctors and nurses. In close collaboration with the District Hospital personnel, the local government dispensary, and a private doctor who works in the village, the team saw well over 1,000 patients in the course of five clinic days. Every American doctor was paired up with a Kenyan doctor or nurse for translation and consultation. As many supplies as possible—and all of the medications—were procured locally to support the local

economy. The team treated everything from malaria to elephantitis to trauma. With rare exception, everyone whose condition was treatable with medication received medicine on the spot. Patients referred to the District Hospital had their transportation and care provided according to the treatability of their condition. This was a stunning partnership and a huge blessing to the community.

But providing for the medical needs of the moment is only part of the story. Every patient heard the Gospel Message. Some patients who could read and write signed up for the Lutheran Hour Ministries’ Bible Correspondence Course. Some pledged to join the church. Some patients heard the Gospel and professed a new faith on the spot! Praise the Lord for healing of the body AND soul!



Doctors Consulting On a Patient



Patients Hear a Gospel Message as They Wait



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LCMS WORLD MISSION

The Global Gospel Outreach of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Prayer Requests

- For ongoing physical and spiritual healing for the patients seen at the General Medical Clinic in Menzamwenye
- For a safe journey to Ghana for a joint retreat with Lutheran Bible Translators

In Praise

- For a healthy and mutually beneficial partnership between St. Andrew's and the ELCK
- For the opportunity to go on safari with our family and see so much of God's amazing creation
- For successfully navigating the Kenyan and American paperwork to procure Elijah's US Birth Certificate, SSN, and Passport

Pastoral Leadership Institute—International

Pastors go through a transformation at seminary, a time of formation. They absorb a huge amount of information, gain considerable skills, and further develop the talents that likely steered them towards the pastoral ministry in the first place. But often, worldwide, pastors find that *doing* parish work is more difficult than learning about parish work. Being the leader of a congregation and the caretaker of souls goes beyond knowledge about leadership and faith and into a realm where the pastor's personal integrity and spiritual life meet.



Year One PLI-I Participants and Lecturers

From this nexus grows the sincerity, humility, and authenticity that characterize great pastors. For such pastors who also see the need or opportunity for growth in their congregants, both the vision and the ability to lead the congregation towards that vision arise from the same core. Pastoral Leadership Institute in both its American and

International operations focus on this aspect of the pastor's life and work through four one-week long courses spaced out over four years.

Last summer Shauen facilitated a conversation between Pastoral Leadership Institute—International (PLII) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK). The results of that conversation led to the first one-week PLII course in Kenya this month. Leaders

and Pastors from each of the ELCK's Dioceses attended the course with their wives. The resounding opinion by the end of the week was the call for the entirety of the ELCK church roster to participate in this program! The ELCK has requested that each Diocese begin passing on the training of this first course to their pastors later this summer. Praise the Lord for the work of PLII amongst the pastors and leadership of the ELCK!

Family Visits—Part II

This month we enjoyed a visit from Krista's sister and brother-in-law. While they particularly enjoyed reconnecting with Josiah and meeting Elijah, we also took them for a whirlwind tour of Kenya from the resort-filled coast to the Maasai Mara National Park to the village where St. Andrew's worked at the Medical Clinic. Praise the Lord for another wonderful visit from family!



Josiah and Aunt Anna at the Elephant Orphanage