



(SHOW-AND-TELL ISSUE)

Hi friends! In this issue, let me just show some photos from our ministries and lives in recent weeks, and tell some background about what's in the picture.

**"I THANK GOD
THAT I AM
HEALED AND
THIS THING
WILL NEVER
COME BACK."**

Fistula Camp



Nyazude was in primary school in Uganda, living as a refugee with her aunt, when the government closed all schools for almost two years citing Covid. She is one of the thousands of school girls in Uganda who got pregnant during this time. While pregnant, she traveled to her parents in a camp for internally displaced people in South Sudan, where she joined her parents and 10 younger siblings. She went into labor and two days later gave birth. In delivery she developed perineal

tear. It was improperly stitched and opened three days later, causing her to leak.

She says that after she got her problem, she was worried and crying every day. "People treated me with good words, telling me, 'You are not the only one,' and, 'It happens to people everywhere,'" she said. "But I didn't believe. I told them, 'You are lying!'" She learnt to take care of her baby and she was washing her clothes constantly.

She was referred to the fistula camp by our partner MSF, which flew her to the

capital. She was operated on and kept at the center for two weeks of post-op care.

"I went to the toilet and when it all came out the right way, I thanked the Lord that he healed me." Since then she has been all smiles. She keeps her hopes for the future and plans to go back to school as soon as she can.

Nyazude is one of 29 who received fistula surgery at the ELCAMSS Lutheran clinic in Juba, South Sudan, free of charge through an ELCA program in March.



Joyful worship

One of my favorite parts of living in East Africa is the weekly celebration of worship that happens in so many churches, across denominations - singing, dancing, expressing joy. This worship is at Ilboru Lutheran Church in Arusha. DM

Stirring Chai?

The title of this newsletter is a reference to one of the most calming sounds I know. Much of our work of building relationship happens over cups of chai, which is something that unites East Africans of hundreds of languages, cultures, and faiths.

Girls march for their rights



Empowered Girls members took part in a demonstration on the Day of the African Child (June 16), marching through Arusha to raise awareness of child protection and violence against children. Among the hundreds who marched, many shouted a call-and-response in Swahili, “Give us... our rights”. In a society where children are so often voiceless, it was a powerful statement of reclaiming voice. DM

LWF VISIT

A delegation from the Lutheran World Federation visited recently. Leading the group was Rev. Anne Burghardt (sixth from left) from Estonia, who was recently elected as the global body’s general secretary. DM



MISSING MARK

Dr. Mark Jacobson died in February after a brief illness. He and his wife Linda served the ELCA and ELCT for 38 years. As his burial took place in Minnesota, we had a vigil for him (at right) at his longtime home in Arusha. He was an example of mission to me, and a mentor to many. It’s hard to believe he’s gone. DM





Floods & Drought

Much of East Africa has been caught in a climate pattern of years of drought followed by harrowing floods. You can see the line where water had reached the night before on the brick wall of Mr. Jimen's home in Kyela, Tanzania, in May. Meanwhile, parts of Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia are entering their dryest drought in a decade. ELCA is responding with drought relief support in those areas. DM



CUTE SPIKY PET

Our children caught a hedgehog and named it Max. This was very exciting for the kids (and me!). DM



CELEBRATIONS

Weddings, birthdays, baptisms - these are parts of being in community we cherish. My wife and I dressed up for a send-off June 16. DM

Pace of change

In my travels in the region I am amazed by how fast infrastructure improves. I used smooth new expressways in Nairobi and Kampala, and the new Waiyaki Way in Nairobi (above) last month. But my favorite was seeing the road in front of my in-laws home in western Uganda (at right) paved and dust-free. DM



Peace Clubs

Students learn about peace for themselves, between people, and in the world in Peace Clubs. Then they take what they have learnt on the road. Here, students from the Peace Club at Kipok Secondary School visited students at Ole Sokoine Secondary School in Monduli District to share lessons about peace through poems, songs, and skits, like the one pictured at right about conflict resolution. Peace Clubs are run by Mwangaza Partnership for Education as part of its Safe Initiatives. They facilitate seminars for school staff to help build a safer culture, and work with adults in Lutheran congregations to address causes of gender-based violence. DM



GREETINGS FROM 'HEAVEN'

The town where the ELCA has sent me has many problems and many people don't experience peace. But for those of us who have it, this place can seem like heaven. People harmonize hymns after church (at left). You can see laughter just walking down the street. Any street. The views and the weather are lovely. To be part of the church's effort to show people the peace that surpasses all understanding blesses me. DM

HOW TO SUPPORT US

PRAYER: Pray for us! Also pray for the lives and ministries of our dear companions in East Africa and beyond.

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