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PROJECT TIMOTHY - KENYA**

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Dear Friends in Christ, Partners in Mission,

God answers prayer. We were in the midst of a terrible drought and famine, as I reported to you last month; but the rains have returned and have remained daily nourishing us! *“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease”* (Genesis 8:22).



**Rain returns to Kenya! Storm clouds seen from above “The Dip,” where cows are washed, 2 km SW of MLTC, April 1, 2009. I have never seen such a dramatic change in weather as that between the dry season (December – March) and the rainy season, which arrived unseasonably late, March 30, with a two-hour downpour in the afternoon. We have sometimes since then had four distinct thunderstorms in one 24-hour period. Thank God for His good gifts!**

Just as the rains renew the earth, bringing life where once there was only death, so God's Word renews the life of man, bringing light where once there was only darkness. In this past month, I have been privileged to see where this is happening in Kenya, preaching in such places as Mambo Leo, Nyamerako, Lwanda, and Itierio.



With Rev. Francis Nyamwaro, first bishop of the ELCK, Nyamerako, Easter Sunday, April 12, 2009.



Brothers and sisters in Christ greet you from Nyamerako Lutheran Church, near Itierio, in western Kenya, Easter Sunday, April 12, 2009. Bishop Nyamwaro, pictured at left, is the father of one of my students, Joshua, who begins his internship in this area on July 1, and returns then to MLTC in 2010, when I will complete supervision of his major study paper on the doctrine of the Atonement.



Greetings from all the saints, young and old, at Lwanda, April 26, 2009. MLTC graduating student George Odhiambo is the one in front with the irrepressible smile.



Tree across the road from Lwanda Church. People who once offered animal sacrifice here to bring rain now rejoice to know the Lamb of God who gave Himself for them once and for all. The first baptism in the ELCK among the Luo people was here in Lwanda.

The story of the Evangelical Church in Kenya is warmly told in the book prepared by former MLTC principal Dr. Rune Imberg of Sweden for the 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Anniversary, July of 2008, held at Matongo Lutheran Theological College: *A Door Opened by the Lord*. He writes how on July 25, 1948, "the Swedish missionary Martin Lundström together with his wife Gunborg walked down

the hill from Itierio to Suneka market. Just a few weeks earlier they had moved from Kisii town in South Western Kenya to Itierio. They had been sent from Sweden to build up a mission station there. What happened at Suneka is described in a contemporary report in the following way:

We started preaching on the Sunday of the 25<sup>th</sup> of July. We still have no building in which to gather, but we go down to the local market-place, where every Sunday hundreds of people gather to buy or sell their products. We choose a small place on a somewhat higher altitude or under a shady tree and try from there to teach them about the way of salvation. We do not lack audience. Last Sunday there were probably some two hundreds listening to the Word.

Especially the numerous young people seem quite interested.

On that first Sunday I talked over the words in Rev. 3, 20, and we sang 'Jesus has given his life for the world' and a few verses from the hymn, 'The Lord is standing, knocking at the door of your heart...'

I have succeeded in translating both songs into Swahili. Last Sunday we sang, 'What a friend we have in Jesus', and, 'Nearer My God to thee.' ”

Lutheran World Information Service now reports the ELCK is the fastest growing Lutheran church in Africa, with a current rate of 17.6%.



**Altar at Itierio Lutheran Church still bears the beautiful colors of the Swedish flag, recalling the work of Martin and Gunborg Lundström, who sang the Gospel into the hearts of the Kisii people there.**



**Preaching outdoors in Itierio, as the church interior is remodeled and expanded, Jubilate Sunday, May 3, 2009, from John 16:20-23, "Christ leads us through godly sorrow to endless joy".**



**Itierio church grounds looking toward Suneka market, where the Gospel first came to the Kisii people.**



**Looking toward Lake Victoria in the evening after a thunderstorm from the backyard.**

Martin Lundström had a vision that Matongo would one day become a “school for the prophets”. Matongo Lutheran Theological College is the fruition of that dream. With your help, pastors for East Africa are being trained to proclaim God’s Word in its truth and purity, its depth and power, so that light may shine out of darkness and that those dead might live in Christ. Thank you for your compassion to enable me to teach here and so continue to share the love of Jesus Christ!

*“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10-11).*



**Rose, my housekeeper, demonstrates the proper way to eat sugar cane. Her father was the first in the ELCK to bring the Gospel to the Maasai.**



**Andrew, the MLTC caretaker, on his Suzuki motorcycle. He keeps everything in working order, and is a good friend.**



**Charles, the MLTC groundskeeper, often spontaneously expresses trust in God’s provision for our daily needs. Trimming the hedge in my backyard.**

My plan is to return to the United States May 20, and to begin three months of visitation and fundraising for the next year of Project Timothy – Kenya. Please contact me at [thomas.v.aadland@gmail.com](mailto:thomas.v.aadland@gmail.com) if you would like to arrange a visit with your congregation.

The quote of the month: “There we shall be still and see; we shall see and we shall love; we shall love and we shall praise. Behold what will be in the end, without end! For what is our end but to reach that kingdom which has no end?” (Augustine of Hippo [354-430 AD], writing of heaven in the closing words of *The City of God*)

A second is like unto it: “‘Stillness’ describes the perfect repose in God of those who in earthly time were justified by grace, for Christ’s sake, through faith. ‘Vision’ denotes the fulfillment of human intellect in its beholding the Truth which is God Himself. ‘Love’ as it wells up from God to saturate His people and flow back to him satisfies the heart and will of men and women made for personal communion with their Maker and with each other. ‘Praise’ is both the creaturely response to the divine mercy which gladly gives God His due and also the voice of Christ in us calling out to the Father.” (John R. Stephenson in *Eschatology*, Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics, vol. 13. Ft. Wayne, IN: Luther Academy, 1993 – one of the more lucid texts I have read this year.)

From the Kisii highlands of southwestern Kenya,  
Your friend in Christ,

Rev. Thomas V. Aadland

Post-script: Project Timothy – Kenya is a commitment for a minimum of two years. But the work here will likely need five years to complete. The growing numbers of those who, like you, are contributing to make this mission possible encourage me. If you haven't already, may I implore you by the mercies of Christ to ask your missions committee in your own congregation to join in this effort with its support? God bless you!

A reminder: Please make checks in support of this ministry payable to:

**The Saint Timothy Society**  
18360 Minnetonka Boulevard  
Wayzata, MN 55391

Please note in the memo line **“For Project Timothy – Kenya”**. Thank you!

#### PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Thanksgiving for rain and the end of the dry season, which has lasted since December.
- God's mercy for those who have suffered the loss of pre-mature plantings during the drought.
- Help during the famine in many areas in Kenya.
- God's travel mercies on return home for the summer break.
- Physical health and stamina for students, faculty, and myself.
- Continued civil peace and stability of government in Kenya.
- Openness to the Gospel of Christ and rejection of all false substitutes for it in Kenya.
- Sustained support among donors, other congregations, and foundation grants.
- Spiritual strength to withstand any attacks of the Enemy.
- Resources to expand the facilities at Matongo for a growing student population.
- Effective strategic planning for Neema Lutheran University of Kenya.
- Thanksgiving for all the learning that has happened in the school of the prophets, both for students and for teachers.
- Thanksgiving for those who are being prepared as future pastors and deaconesses in East Africa.
- Thanksgiving for those who are supporting the ministry of teaching at Matongo Lutheran Theological College.
- Thanksgiving for God's blessings on the work this past year of The Saint Timothy Society: Rev. Dr. Armand Boehme, Mr. Tom Watua, Rev. Dr. Michael Albrecht, Mr. Rob Severson.