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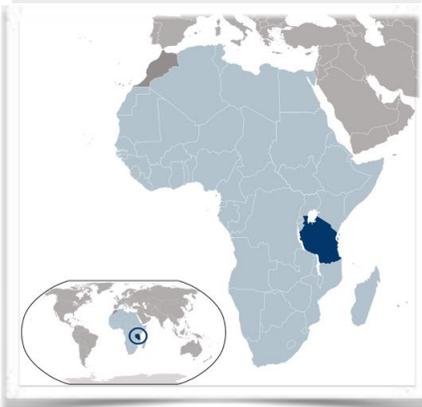
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Bishop Lyimo baptizes and welcomes new members at the Karatu Parish during my visit this summer.

Looking at the Year Ahead

Instead of being overconfident in our plans, James teaches us to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” (4:15) This is apt counsel for me as I look to the year ahead, because once again things are turning out differently than I had planned.

I’ll start with the good news. Both Jonathan Elitaja and Emmanuel Semng’indo, who have been studying with me since February and whom I introduced in my May and June newsletters, have received scholarships to study at Matongo in Kenya. It’s hard to overstate what a blessing this is to these young men and the congregations they may one day serve. I hope that by God’s grace I laid a good foundation for them during our time together, but their opportunities for growth have undoubtedly multiplied since they began studying last week with Matongo’s specialized faculty and wonderful library.



Our Family

Anita and I were married on August 16, 1997 and have been blessed with nine children.

Back Row, Left to Right:

- Ernest (7.16.04)
- Eleanor (1.10.02)
- Emil (10.29.99), currently studying at Concordia University, Chicago
- Jonathan (8.20.75)
- Anita (12.9.74)

Front Row, Left to Right

- Eunice (6.1.06)
- Ethan (5.8.08)
- Eric (12.16.09)
- Eileen (8.21.11)
- Elijah (7.3.13)
- Emmanuel (3.6.15)

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There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at www.lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

The downside is that Jonathan and Emmanuel made up 50% of my former student body at Himo. Additionally, due to unrelated difficulties, my other two students have also been unable to return for further study, and there are no new seminarian recruits. As I mentioned back in my March newsletter, the seminary at Himo had already mostly collapsed prior to my arrival, but now it's simply undeniable that the resources are not present for the church to operate a seminary in the normal sense of the word. This is discouraging, to say the least.

Nevertheless, I and my family are here and there are needs within the church. I've received approval from our bishop to offer a series of continuing education workshops for already-ordained clergy over the coming year, and we pray that this new format for training will better meet the needs of the church in its current capacity. At the moment we're still in the planning stages so I don't have more to say, but please hold this new endeavor in prayer. If the Lord wills, we will do this. (James 4:15)



On a lighter note, here's proof that Tanzanian culture is not monolithic. This made me smile.