

## The History of Zion's Relationship with Lambo

### Time line

- 2000 Zion was twinned with Lambo Lutheran Church through the SEIA Synod and the Pare Diocese.
- 2002 Pastor Dwight Dubois and Charlie Bursch travel to Lambo to establish our relationship
- 2002 Both congregations sign a covenant with each other, committing to being present to each other in our churches' daily lives.
- 2004 Books are Basic Campaign: Zion collects \$6,500 for Lambo's public school, to buy school books. This donation is matched by the Tanzanian government and makes it possible for many students to have their own text books.
- 2005 Pastor Tim Malek, Charlie and Heide Bursch travel to Lambo for more relationship building. They learn that due to the additional government funding as described above, left-over money could be used to purchase property for a the construction of a second primary school. Zion gladly agrees to this use of funds. We deliver a microscope to the local dispensary, establishing a relationship with the local healthcare community. Paschalina Eliana becomes a licensed lab. technician, able to diagnose bacterial and parasitic infections on site, shortening time to treatment by more than 3 days for all people in the area.
- 2006 Zion raises \$600 for the delivery of a birthing bed for the Lambo dispensary to replace the metal gurney currently in use.
- 2007 Zion-Campaign raises \$11,000 to build 2 school rooms at the new Lambo primary school.
- 2008 February: Heide travels to Tanzania on behalf of *Empower Tanzania, inc.* (ETI) and visits Lambo for 2 days. She brings gifts from the congregation: reading glasses, first aid supplies, and various educational materials for the schools. Zion VBS collects \$900 for the Lambo Lutheran Church Kindergarten. Kindergarten teacher Emma Leverri becomes trained in Montessori-type teaching methods. \$500 are donated to the local soccer team in Same for soccer shoes!
- We learn that the primary schools now have electricity. Teachers are being trained in innovative teaching and caring methods for disabled students.
- The birthing bed and microscope are in use.
- 2008 March: We learn that Emma the Kindergarten teacher has attended continuing education workshops and will serve as teacher to other K-teachers in the Pare Diocese through the Binti Mama Project.
- Local craft articles purchased from Lambo craftsmen for \$100 are auctioned off at Zion for \$1,035 to be used for a water purification system for Lambo Church.
- 2008 July: Pastor Jan Rippentrop, Charlie, Heide and Karin Bursch, Steve Noack, Carlye Hileman and 2 non-members travel to Lambo for more interaction and collaboration.
- The congregation has begun construction of a home for the pastor. This takes many years, because materials have to be purchased as money becomes available (cash-only society). We

see 2 class rooms at the new Mombea school, as well as a house for teachers at Lambo primary school, all built with Zion support.

Steve teaches use of the water purification system, and how to make chlorine for purification.

We learn how HIV/AIDS is impacting the community. Heide teaches principles of hospice and palliative care, using teaching materials created by ETI and translated into Swahili. By the end of our visit, Lambo men and women have created the Huruma (Grace) volunteers to decrease stigma and provide care for HIV/AIDS orphans, and persons living with, and dying from AIDS.

We bring many toys for the Kindergarten, and soccer balls for the teens.

We wander through the beautiful country side every day and visit many, many homes. We meet with the village administrators, both Muslims and Christians and begin to understand how important our presence is in their lives. On our last evening, we serve a meal to the entire congregation (about 250 people!): 2 goats, 5 chickens, rice, pasta with tomato sauce and potato salad. There are no left-overs.

2010 Heide visits for a couple of days, after her work with ETI. A Zion member has donated \$\$\$ toward the Huruma group, which was used to build a shelter for nursing consultation and a gathering space for public education. Members of the group under the leadership of Santieli Goodluck sustain their work by selling seedlings.

Unfortunately, Lambo ran out of test strips for their chlorine production. They would like to revitalize this operation because it was a business opportunity (selling clean water, 6 cents/bottle) for the church. The microscope and birthing bed still work! Paschalina was able to find a replacement light bulb after the 2 originals were burnt out.

Heide is able to place an order for choir stoles prior to her visit, this provides some income for several women in the congregation, who did the sewing. Our business transaction is quite formal and celebrative!

2011 -2016 Zion has included Lambo in the annual budget to support Lambo church annually. Alternative Christmas \$\$\$ go toward 12 scholarships for secondary students. There have been exchanges of letters, cards and e-mails. We pray for them, and they pray for us.

In January 2015 we received this exciting message from Pastor Muze: *This two month I was very busy preparing the ceremonial of opened Pastor House, in inaugurating the Parish official and opening the find rising of building new church at Lambo on 28/12/2014.*

*I have to inform you that the day was very good to people of Lambo ever seen. More than 419 people attended and celebrated with us. Bishop Mjema Charles was conducting the services assisted by Rev. Timothy Msangi assistant to the Bishop with more than 10 Pastors. We reached about 15million [\$6,870] on find rising. Minister of water was quest of honor.*

It is time to renew and revitalize this life-giving relationship with our brothers and sisters in Lambo! Pastor Pries and Lesley, Charlie and Heide Bursch, Michelle and Anna Wikner, Karen Casavant and Anne Schularick will embark on another journey to Lambo in June. Please engage with these travelers and ask them your questions, support them in their projects and pray for them!