

**MAY 2018 MISSION UPDATE    MARK RICH AND CYNTHIA HOLDER RICH**  
**In Tanzania for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
**Serving with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania**

**Greetings in the name of Jesus our Risen Savior, brothers and sisters!**

Our first Easter in Tanzania was wonderful. We were grateful to share in preaching and leading worship on the Day of Resurrection, at a service that included both Baptism and Communion.

We are well into our 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester of teaching now, and both of us are carrying heavier teaching loads. We're each supervising many bachelor's or master's theses, too, and in that these will be submitted late in this semester, we each engage in pastoral care with anxious students on a regular basis. We're grateful with our students when the work is going well, and we seek to comfort when they struggle.



Thesis work sometimes requires visiting research sites. Cynthia visited research sites of two students over the last two months. In Iringa, Pastor Doricus Kimbavala (pictured at left), speaking to staff at

a church-sponsored orphanage housing many children who have experienced sexual abuse) is researching and writing on child sexual abuse in Tanzania and how the church could constructively respond. We look forward to his work on Tanzanian theology regarding the value of children.

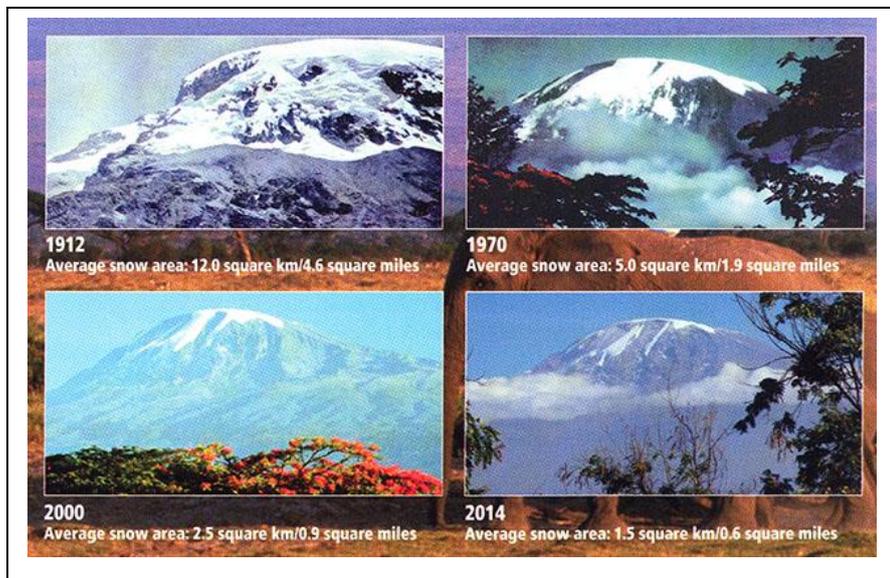
We travelled as a family (with daughter Ella who has taken a semester off her studies to be with us) to visit Pastor Happyness Urrio, who is doing researching potential roles for the church in promoting women's health, particularly in cases of cervical and breast cancer. [Tanzania leads the world in cervical cancer rates](#), with most women dying undiagnosed at home or not approaching a health institution until they are in the disease's late stages—when cancer is less treatable and more likely to be terminal. We're grateful for the potential impact of this important work on a lethal health problem about which too many Tanzanians are unaware.

Pastor Happyness lives in Lushoto, a beautiful town in the Usambara Mountains, and a site of much national history. The mountain location of Lushoto makes the climate temperate and the scenery beautiful. German colonizers were attracted to Lushoto, and some of the oldest colonial buildings in the country still stand in the town. Visiting sites that attracted colonial authorities and their families calls us to

*Scenes from our trip to Lushoto, Tanzania, in the [Usambara Mountains](#)*



reflect on the continuing impact of the colonizers in the post-colonial era. The Germans, who really wanted a colonial foothold in East Africa, valued the area that has become Tanzania highly. They invested in roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, and other infrastructure, many of which are now owned by the Tanzanian government and other institutions in the country. The Lutheran Church in the Lushoto area has capitalized on these “gifts” from the colonizers, using land left in good ways for the creation and expansion of ministries. Schools, orphanages, hospitals, and tourist facilities of the ELCT all sit now on what was once colonizer-held areas. Some of these serve people in need, and others provide needed income to fund church ministries. We see this as one concrete way that all things work together for good (Romans 8:28)—good can even emerge from the ravages of the colonial era. Thanks be to God!



THE ENVIRONMENT has been much in the news in the US – Earth Day was celebrated last month, and Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Scott Pruitt’s work has been the subject of multiple investigations and days testifying in hearings before legislators. Here in Tanzania, global climate change is known by many international travelers mainly by hoping for a glimpse of how much snow is left on Mount Kilimanjaro. The snow on Kili is a marker noted by Tanzanians, too, who enjoy the sight of the mountain – and who think about

what is happening in the rest of the country as the amount of snow, ice and glaciers diminish over time. The idea of global climate change is controversial in some parts of the globe in question – but not here in Tanzania, an agricultural society and economy, where people live close to and rely on the land for life, work and health. As we are learning, global climate change and its effects are subject of much interest in Tanzania. Cynthia composed a blogpost reflecting on what we have learned. You can find it [here](#).

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONNECT?

Are you interested in having us speak at a program at your church? We’re preparing to visit congregations and other groups “virtually”, through Skype, Facebook Messenger, Whatsapp, or other social media tools. We’d love to share with you about what God is doing in Tanzania, particularly through the ELCT and Tumaini University Makumira. LET US KNOW by sending an email to one or both of us (email addresses below).

### OUR THANKS and OUR REQUEST

As always, we thank all of you who pray for us, who send us notes and messages, and who take part in supporting us financially. We appreciate you all!

**AND**, our 2018 fundraising campaign to support ELCA Global Mission is up and running! We have set fundraising goals for this year and you can help us meet them. Visit [our page](#) to find out more.

In this Easter season, you all continue in our prayers, that God may grant you resurrection and new life sightings in your daily life and your faith life.

Peace in Christ,

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