

# Messiah Lutheran Church of Camrose

## WORLD MISSION MONTH 2021

*"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

*"But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed?*

*And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard?*

*And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?*

***And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent?"***

Romans 10:13-15

Each week in January, 2021, a different person or family will be featured.



The second person to be featured is

Connie Landstrom

and the ministry to which she has been called within the

Lutheran Church in Tanzania, East Africa

Connie served as a Pastor in the Lutheran Church in Yellowknife, 1990-2005.

Her first annual trip to Tanzania was in 2006.

She could not go there in 2019 for medical reasons, nor in 2020 because of Covid.

She intends to travel there, Lord willing, later in this year.

This ministry to which Connie is called is self-sponsored but inquiries concerning donations in support of the actual ministry may be directed to the Chairperson of the World Mission Group.

World Mission Month is organized by the World Mission Group which reports to the Witnessing Committee.

World Mission Group acknowledges with appreciation the full support of Messiah's Office Staff, Music leader, and Technical broadcast personnel.

Questions or Comments may be directed to

Ray Blacklock, Chairperson, World Mission Group or to its members:

Nora Gilbertson, Vincent and Mary Ellen Eriksson,

Connie Landstrom, Erhard Pinno, Cece Watts, Staff Advisor: Pastor Bev Swanson

***To God be the Glory !***

January, 2021



## A WORD FROM TANZANIA

The ministry I have enjoyed in Lutheran congregations in Tanzania, East Africa, continues to challenge me and to call me. My connection with two areas of TZ where I do ministry began in the congregation in Yellowknife when two men from Tanzania came to work as diamond cutters and polishers. They were Lutherans and their families were home in TZ. I received letters of welcome from their pastors to come as a Bible teacher. When I retired, the congregation gave me the gift of a trip to TZ. Naturally, I went ... and got hooked!

I don't have to wonder why the African Church is the fastest growing Christian Church in the world. Suffering, drought, hunger, poverty have created a vibrant faith and a keen awareness of the presence of Jesus in their midst ... the One who suffers with them. And because they have hope ... they can sing!! They sing with such joy because daily, these Christians deal with life and death issues ... real survival issues ... that demand a faith that is alive in God's people. And the church is alive and prospering in effective ministry – among the poor, the desperate, widows, orphans, those who cannot help themselves. I see neighbors helping neighbors, older children helping the young and the able helping orphans. These are the issues that count ... that make the African church a living church! The stories of God's love really grip people in Komakundi and in the Arusha parishes where I serve along side local leaders.

Just out from the town of Arusha, I work and also stay with Pastor Philemon Mollel and his wife Magreth. Philemon is a fine Pastor with a compassionate heart and a strong sense of ministry. As District Pastor he is a well-respected man of integrity. I have been working with him for 14 years ... teaching Pastors, Evangelists and church workers, leading Bible Studies with women's groups, youth, and Sunday School teachers. Magreth is the director of the District Women's programs and the Sunday School ministry.

Visiting homes, I am reminded every day of children living without parents, being looked after by their aging grandmothers. The situation of Aids orphans is pitiful. They are the poor ... the ones who are hungry. That's one reason we began a Porridge Program in the Kindergarten in Komakundi. The young ones at least have a cup of something nourishing each morning (which may have to last them the whole day). I know these Grandmothers want something better for their children's children but they have so few resources, yet they are shaping the future of this country! I give thanks to God for these women of much courage, strength and faith whose last task in life is to care for these innocent children. I ask with a heavy heart: *"where have all the parents gone?"* Aids has claimed much of a generation of parents. What a heart-breaking reality!

How do I say *"thank you"* to those who support the Tanzania Project? Gifts have purchased over 5000 Bible Story Books, many motorbikes for church workers, School fees for Evangelists ... and so much more. The Masai expression of thanks: **"Ejo Enkai ashe."** When the ordinary "thanks" seems insufficient, the Masai use this expression which means ... *God says thank you* ... only God can say thank you in the proper way!!! It is an expression that contains deep feeling and it includes a blessing and a prayer. So, I close expressing my thanks to you with this blessing from the Lord.

***"Ejo Enkai ashe"*** ... *may God thank you in the way only He can do!* ...

for what you do for our Christian friends in Tanzania. Please pray for them.

Hopefully Covid-19 will get under control soon so it will be safe to travel again. My bags are almost packed, and God-willing, ready to go this year. Join me in prayer!

Gratefully serving,  
Connie Landstrom



Women gathered for Bible Study



Family having devotions with the Bible Story Book



Masai village hospitality ...  
sour milk from a gourd