



Celebrate the Mara Region Diocese in Tanzania

A Companion Synod of the Delaware-Maryland Synod

Purpose of Companion Synod Relationships

- ~ To get to know each other
- ~ To pray for each other
- ~ Cross-cultural fertilization of ideas
- ~ Exposure that opens the “6th sense” (our spiritual being) and “7th sense” (no language to explain what I see and experience)
- ~ Share gifts and support each other’s endeavors (gifts include material and spiritual)

Accomplishments of the Mara Region Diocese

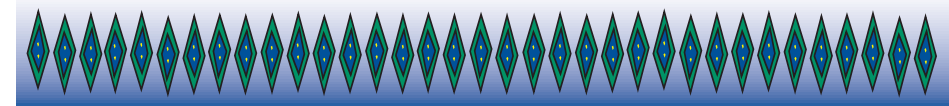
- ~ Number of Lutherans has more than doubled in a ten year period
- ~ Number of pastors has nearly tripled in ten years
- ~ Run a district hospital in Bunda in cooperation with the government, and the services are the best in the Mara region
- ~ Now have the best bible school in the Lake Victoria zone, where they even receive students from Kenya
- ~ Run a savings and credit project that is one of its kind in East Africa.

Experience Tanzania for Yourself

The next delegation to visit the Mara Region Diocese in Tanzania is scheduled for fall 2007. Join our brothers and sisters in Christ in song, worship, prayer, learning and teaching as we seek to build our relationship. For more information or to express interest, contact Africa Task Force member, Brenda Meier at bloumeier@hotmail.com. Space is limited to 10-12.

You Can Help

Along with prayers, and learning about the Companion Synod Relationship, financial gifts may be sent to: The Africa Task Force, Delaware-Maryland Synod, 700 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21230.



Tools for Companion Synod Sunday

The Lord’s Prayer in Swahili

Baba yetu uliye mbinguni, jina lako litukuzwe.

Ufalme wako uje, mapenzi yako yatimizwe
hapa duniani kama huko mbinguni.

Utupe leo riziki yetu, utusamehe makosa yetu,
kama sisi tunavyowasamehe waliotukosea.

Usitutie majaribuni, lakini utuokoe na yule mwovu.

Kwa kuwa ufalme ni wako,

na nguvu, na utukufu, sasa na milele. Amini.

(Swahili, a Bantu language influenced by Arabic, unites the people of Tanzania as an official national language. English is the other national language.)



Prayer Petitions for the Mara Region Diocese

Good and Gracious God, in love for the whole world you gave your Son that we all might live in the light of your love and let love shape our relationship with others, we ask your steadfast blessing to draw us ever closer to our sisters and brothers in Christ in the Mara Diocese in Tanzania. Lord in your mercy,

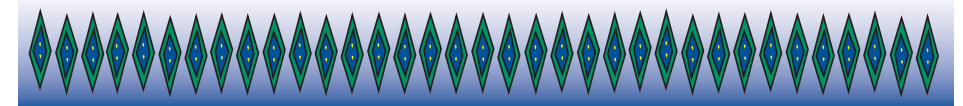
Hear our prayer.

On separate sides of the earth we know we also live in separate worlds, here struggling to live lives of faith through easy comforts and oppressive affluence, and they struggling to live faithfully in the midst of deprivation and uneven development. Be generous to them and to us, as they, and we alike, seek mercy for our sin, long for peace and hunger for love. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the congregations of the diocese and all their members, for their bishop and pastors, and for their common ministries, especially remembering the healing work of the Bunda Hospital and the evangelist training of the Kiabakarie School. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.



Last June, the Delaware-Maryland Synod was privileged to host Sarah Ringo, a representative of the Mara Region Diocese. Sarah is currently the Director of Nursing at Bunda Hospital. During her stay in the United States, Sarah visited several churches, attended and spoke at the Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly, visited the Johns Hopkins Hospital Burn Unit, attended an Orioles game at Camden Yards and shared meals with many people throughout the Synod, including the bishop.

Sarah reported on the situation at Bunda Hospital and the challenging conditions. Often there is no running water and/or no electricity and the hospital becomes so full that patients share hospital beds. It is common for the staff to work around the clock and to go for weeks without a day off. Needs of the Bunda Hospital are among the ongoing projects being explored by the Africa Task Force.

The next delegation from the Mara Region Diocese is expected to visit our synod in 2008. Congregations interested are welcomed and encouraged to host the delegation. It's a joyous experience!



Sarah Ringo at The Lutheran Center in downtown Baltimore, after enjoying dinner with the Africa Task Force.

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A Litany for the Mara Region Diocese

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