

December 2023

To our dearest friends

Advent greetings in the Might name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who lives and reigns for ever and ever! I hope and trust this email finds you rejoicing in the LORD.

“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed” (Mathew 2:10). The journey of the Magi from the East ends when they see the savior of the world, the king of peace and from their experience of seeing and encountering the baby born their hearts were filled with great joy!

As we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world our prayer is that we will all experience the extraordinary joy and peace in our hearts! This experience only comes when we see and encounter Jesus in our lives! It is a more and more experience as we face a lot of challenges in our daily life.

Since you left we have been busy as usual! I finished my confirmation and pastoral visits for this year with a big service at the Cathedral where 27 candidates were confirmed! It was great to see one Muslim girl being confirmed! One of the exciting news is that on 19 December I went to lead a service of a new planted church at Kinando East South of the Diocese. I was able to baptize 57 adults and 61 children. It was very interesting when we were leaving. They gave me and Lilian two sacks of maize and four chickens! It was something new to us because several times we go to plant a new church, they ask a lot of things; they beg! but the new congregations they gave, they did not ask! they did not beg!

Because of this church giving gift I decided to help my two pastors who are currently suffering from hunger: Pastor Keneth and Pastor Kanyamala. They have left their family and congregations to go find a job in Arusha so that they can get food for their family. Up to now they are not back yet and in Arusha there is a lot of flood and 67 people have died because of the flood! Please kindly pray for Pastor Kanyamala and Keneth to come back to their family and congregations. The service was held under the tree shed! I requested them to build a church and they promise they will start. We hope to go and see their progress in early January. It will be a good congregation. I hope to send a pastor soon! At the moment they have a lay leader who is a

Catechist/evangelist.

The work in Chemba goes well this week they will finish the underground septic tank for sewerage system. We have paid for electricity. We are waiting for the company (Tanesco) to bring power pillars. They have promised to bring them. We hope before Christmas we will have power at the borehole, the class rooms and the dinning hall.

St Peter and St Paul School goes well and the school will close today. Today the parents are having a meeting with staff to discuss the children's progress. The most exciting news is that in the national examination all our students passed! I am told we may be one of the top ten schools out of more than two hundred schools in the region. We will know the exact arrangement at the end of this month, when the national Board of Education will release the arrangement. We will start building the kitchen on Monday as the children will be leaving space for the work of building. The desks have already come!

On behalf of the Diocese, I would like to take this opportunity to give my heartfelt highest appreciation for the sacrificial giving to this God's work in Kondoa. You have given generously for the work of God in Kondoa. I am sure without your support we would not receive what we have received! You give hope to the future of this Diocese.

On family matters: Lilian and I have been invited to visit the parish of St John the Divine in Houston Texas USA from April 17 to 24. We hope to use the trip to visit some of our old friends. For eight years we have not visited the USA. So after Huston will go to Pinehast North Corolina for one week, and then will go to Knoxville to visit three parishes so that we can encourage a relationship with Kondoa. It will be a four weeks trip.

Ihewa is preparing to do a big exam to qualify her to get a scholarship to oxford. The exams are scheduled on 15 February 2024. She is still committed to be a Specialist doctor rather than a general doctor where employment is sometimes a big challenge. Please kindly pray for her dream to become a reality.

Ilumbo needs to go Law School in Dar eS salaam to study for one year in order to get her license to practice law in Tanzania. The study is very

expensive and most children have not been able to attend. I know living in Dar eS salaam is very expensive. The course starts in January. I spoke with Prof John Kabudi and he assured me that Ilumbo should go on that date and he will make sure she gets the admission, once the funds are in hand.

Amani: Amani is doing well in Canada and yesterday he had a very tough examination. One of the final examinations before he finishes. We hope to call him at the end of this week. We wanted him to concentrate on his examination.

Prayer request items:

Pray for our pastors of Kikore, Tanguzero, Kisiwa, Kwadero, Mlongi, Itolwa, Changamka, Songambele, Mrijo, Songolo and Wisuzaje these are the areas whose famine is very strong. Children are not able to attend schools.

Pray for Chemba work, I am looking to appoint a senior retired teacher with experience to come to establish Chemba School pray that we will find the right person who loves Jesus and his church.

Pray for the work of St Peter and St Paul's school

Pray for the work of evangelism and church planting in order to grow the church.

Pray for our Bible College to move well with all students from those who are studying to become clergy, evangelists and church planters and women empowerment through sewing programs for our girls.

Pray for Ihewa, Ilumbo and Amani. As parents, our prayer and desire is to see them moving well into their own lives.

Kindly know that we pray for you every single day and in a special way every Friday.

Thanks

Bishop Dr Given Mzanje Gaula

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