

The Story of Lufu

On a mountaintop (7000 feet elevation) in the Dodoma Region of Tanzania lives the people of Lufu. In this remote village the people live with the hardship of unsafe water, malnutrition, and disease. The nearest nurse is down the mountain and 11 kilometers away. Travel is by foot and people are carried in their beds down that mountain. Most do not survive the trip, especially pregnant women.

The Tanzanian government built a medical clinic in 2004, but it sat empty since construction. Last year the government finally sent a medical assistant who was trained only to sterilize instruments and sanitize the rooms. Since her arrival, she has been asked to perform surgery, deliver babies, diagnose disease and prescribe medicine in which there is very little. This "medical assistant" is serving Lufu and three other villages down the side of the mountain. The total population of this area is approximately 10,000 people.



HOW CAN WE HELP?

February, 2012



Dear Pastor and Church Council President,

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The people of Lufu have desperately asked Pastor David Bliss, who has visited the village 11 times, for help. Mr. Ron Hiatt, a member of Grace, Toledo (which has a companion congregation in the Dodoma Diocese) has visited Tanzania twice. He received a similar request from a doctor in their companion congregation about bringing medical personnel to Tanzania. Together, they approached the Northwestern Ohio Synod Global Mission Board about forming a mission trip of medical personnel to go to these villages and provide medical treatment to as many men, women and children as possible.

The Northwestern Ohio Synod and Global Mission Board is in agreement that this mission trip is needed. *The vision of this medical mission trip is to bring hope* (translated in Ki-swahili, the official language of Tanzania, is Tumaini).

Our goals for ***“The Tumaini (Hope) Medical Mission 2012”*** in working with the Northwestern Ohio Synod and with the Dodoma Diocese in Tanzania in support of the Tumaini Medical Mission are:

- To give hope to people who live in these two villages where adequate health care is not available,
- Provide health assessments, treatments, and health care training and education, and to address the care and treatment of diseases, ailments, and conditions affecting pregnant women, mothers and their infants, and small children, with the long term goal of reducing the unacceptably high mortality rates among this “at risk” population.
- To make the love of Christ known through the work of two mission teams.

“The Tumaini (Hope) Medical Mission 2012” is scheduled to take place between October 13 and October 25, 2012.

We need your help!

Please forward this letter to those in your congregation that are medical personnel and have a passion for Global Mission (Mission Outreach Ministry, WELCA, and Endowment Committee). Those interested may contact Pastor Bliss at Good Hope Lutheran Church, Bucyrus, OH at 419-562-0286 or email dabliss50@gmail.com.

Your financial assistance is also needed to offset the expense for those giving of their time and talent to meet the medical needs of our brothers and sisters in the Dodoma Diocese. Donations may be sent to Good Hope Lutheran Church, Bucyrus with Medical Mission noted.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and support.

Tumaini Medical Mission Planning Task Force

