

From the Director of Mwangaza, Seelah Kissioki

Greetings to all of you. These past months have been filled with activities here at Mwangaza, all of which are made possible because of your faith and trust in what we are doing. Let me tell you just a bit of all that is happening.

First, our fourth teacher exchange started in March as ten of our dioceses teachers left for the U.S. to be with their companion synod for two months. The challenges in visa-processing had many people involved. Talk about partnership! And, it worked so that everyone was able to participate in this extraordinary opportunity for our ELCT teachers to join your communities. Thank you to everyone who made this possible! Now we are planning the details of our July zonal

seminars led by the Exchange Teams. We look forward to the arrival of our ELCA colleagues on July 5th!

In March, we led our fourth integrated HIV/AIDS seminar. It is hard to describe the energy in the Assembly Hall with students and teachers and later parents as they participate in this training. Information-giving is powerful when there is hope. And it is this that makes providing this particular seminar a real privilege.

On May 17th, we welcomed women from ten dioceses for our Binti/Mama seminar that focused on gender mainstreaming.

In October, we will train women from the remaining ten dioceses, thus con-

cluding five years of seminars for ELCT women.

Thanks to the funding of our Binti/Mama program by the ELCA Hunger Program, the lives of more than 35,000 women have been changed. It has been a humbling process for us at Mwangaza to participate in this outreach.

Lives are changing because this is education that truly matters. To all of you who make our work possible, our heartfelt gratitude. Asanteeni sana.



Mwangaza '96 Volunteer Jean Anderson Receives Human Rights Award

Mwangaza volunteer Jean Anderson not only gave of herself as a participant during the Mwangaza Teacher Exchange in 1996, but also continues to give in her own community as well.

Anderson has been named recipient of the Forest Lake (MN) Human Rights Commission's "Bridging Our Differences" award.

The organization's chairman said that Anderson and her staff of educators in the Adult Basic Education program go above and

beyond the responsibility of their jobs.

Anderson, as coordinator, sees to the needs of nearly 300 students annually. Currently, fifty students representing seventeen countries are learning English through the program.

"I sometimes think half of my

job is counseling to give them the self-esteem they can do it," she said.

"I think I learn more than the students--and it's not just the countries," she continued. "It's the people--people surviving learning disabilities working really hard to meet their goals."

Anderson continues to support the work of Mwangaza. Most recently she coordinated the complex logistics of shipping a container to Mwangaza. Thanks and Congratulations, Jean!



Ten Tanzanian Educators Partnered with U.S. Counterparts during March and April

Fourth Mwangaza Teacher Exchange Reaches Halfway Point; Next to Travel: U.S. Teachers

Since 1996, Mwangaza has been committed to one of its most important programs: an International Teacher Exchange. Tanzanian educators arrive with lesson titles that teachers find difficult to teach, and together with their U.S. counterparts, develop lessons that help to create the kind of interactive classrooms that Mwangaza has promoted since its inception. Tanzanian teachers arrive being much more than "teachers": they are ambassadors for their communities, their church, and their nation! During March and April, they observed classrooms and co-wrote their academic lessons, spoke with congregations, tasted pizza, saw snow, and formed important relationships with thousands of Americans. They are now safely home, eagerly awaiting the July 5th arrival of their U.S. Mwangaza Teacher Exchange partners.

How blessed we are to have had ten Tanzanian teachers partnered with U.S. teachers in their companion synods for the months of March and April.

They have been spread across the United States from Idaho to Long Island where they have experienced schools large and small, settings urban and rural, snow and sunshine.

They have co-written academic lessons, ranging from "Solving Quadratic Equations by Completing the Square Method" to "Volume of Pyramids and Cones" to "Motion in a Straight Line."

New friendships have been formed and new lessons--of many kinds--have been learned in every partnership.

We give thanks to all teachers, dioceses, and synods for their wonderful generosity and support. A joint project like this which reaches halfway around the world would not be possible without congregations, families, and individuals who believe in the importance of education for everyone.

As often happens, there were some last-minute surprises before the arrival of our Tanzanian partners.

Mwangaza Director Seelah Kissioki is always on the front line when there are difficulties with visas. We thank her for her skilled handling of difficult



Pastor Gretchen Ritola of the Nebraska Synod helps Langeni Tumaini from Moshi, Tanzania's Northern Diocese navigate the choices offered on a restaurant menu. Tumaini's U.S. partner is Kathy Albrecht, of Emerson, NE.

situations. Another advocate for Mwangaza was Meredith Murnyak who along with her husband Dennis works in Tanzania for Heifer International.

We owe special thanks to Vice Consul Stephanie Acosta-Mikulasek of the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam. Her prompt replies to e-mail messages and her patient explanations of regulations were invaluable.

In the United States, Sandra Holloway and David Ullrich of the ELCA, Friends of Mwangaza board member Lynda Tidemann Minnick, and Consultant Shoonie Hartwig all made significant contributions to smoothing the way for our guests to arrive.

Mwangaza Education for Partnership and Friends of Mwangaza, working together in the light of God, have now seen the exchange reach the halfway point.

In July, teaching teams will deliver their U.S.-developed lessons at three sites: Arusha, Moshi, and Dar es Salaam. Receiving the benefits of all their hard work will be Tanzanian teachers from all twenty ELCT dioceses and fifty-three secondary schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

by Mary Jo Huelle
President, Friends of Mwangaza

2004 Mwangaza Teacher Exchange (Part One): Tanzanians and Americans in the U.S.

In Their Own Words



Diocese of Arusha's Simon Panga meets up with Friends of Mwangaza Treasurer Linda Milton, a 1996 Exchange teacher herself along with husband, Art. The Miltons, along with Northern Illinois Synod representatives and Ron Henning (Exchange, 1998); Mike and Sharon Wadle (Exchange, 2001); and JoDonna Moss (Exchange, 2004) were on hand at Chicago's O'Hare Airport to welcome Simon upon his arrival.



A map of Tanzania provides an appropriate background as St. Paul Area Synod Bishop Peter Rogness welcomes Couban Leterma, a teacher from Mtera Secondary School in Iringa. Donna Kephart Paige of Golden Valley, Minnesota, is Couban's academic partner.

"I am so grateful for the Metro New York Synod of the ELCA and the North Western diocese of the ELCT partnership and the Mwangaza Teacher Exchange program!" (Julius Mutelani; Bukoba, Tanzania--North Western Diocese)

"This [exchange] really opened my eyes. I had never thought of the difficulties of adapting American textbooks to students in other cultures. Measurements and references to U.S. products make this very difficult. By having Langeni in the building, our students realized that education is valued by people all over the world. Teachers also gained by realizing how hard their counterparts in other countries work, especially with such limited resources." (Kathy Albrecht; Nebraska Synod)

"I am grateful for having the opportunity to participate in the Mwangaza Exchange, for having the opportunity to make new friends, to get new experiences, and to have people who were so much concerned to make my visit successful and enjoyable." (Langeni Tumaini; Moshi, Tanzania--Northern Diocese)

"I think the teaching partnership relationship works very well. I have learned a lot about our schools in the U.S. by seeing them through William Ngullo's eyes." (Ruth Peterson; Eastern Washington/Idaho Synod)

"I have been challenged to put in place in Tanzania the friendly communication I have seen in the U.S. between teachers and students." (William Ngullo; Malinyi, Tanzania--Ulanga Kilombero Diocese)

"I knew going into this experience that it would be a life-changing event. At this early stage, I am finding myself far more grateful for the many blessings I have in my life--not in the form of material goods, but in the people who surround me, the family that embraces me, and the faith that sustains me. I am far less likely to complain about my teaching situation or classroom facilities and find myself humbled by a fellow educator [from Tanzania] who does his craft without the benefit of those things we take for granted." (Valerie Goodmanson; Southeastern Minnesota Synod)

"I am aware of the vast differences between the economies and how I must be prepared for that." (Dianne Strickler, Southeastern Iowa Synod)

"I am aware of how Jesus works." (Hellen Msemu; Ugweno, Tanzania--Pare Diocese)

"Julius has witnessed what technology can do when the system fails. If NYC schools lose power, what happens? If his school in Tanzania loses it, the lesson survives easier. Sometimes we become trapped by our wealth." (Marge Wenger, Metro NY Synod)



Metro New York Synod 2004 U.S. Exchange teacher Marge Wenger of Hicksville, New York, gets into the exchange *literally* as she swaps her U.S. clothing for a traditional Tanzanian kanga wrap, presented to her by her Exchange partner, Julius Mutelani from Bukoba.

"I think that my Tanzanian counterpart, John Kavishe, gave us all a clearer understanding of how education has to change to accommodate all learners. I have grown to know John as a teacher and as a good friend. He has tried to get as much information as he can for the Mwangaza cause. He spoke so eloquently in California that many of the Disney teachers were impressed and asked for more information." (Celeste Ball; Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod)

"Our physics teacher is setting Julius up with resource materials, physics problems, and labs pertaining to what he teaches. We...[will] ship some small lab equipment and manipulatives to his school, hopefully before we break for Easter. Our physics teacher is also collecting equipment that we have extras of--and we plan to send that later. The senior class may send the remains of their treasury (approximately two thousand dollars) to his school. Some of the senior class gift will be used to help ship the equipment--either extras or that which is no longer used since our physics curriculum has changed." (Marge Wenger; Metro New York Synod)

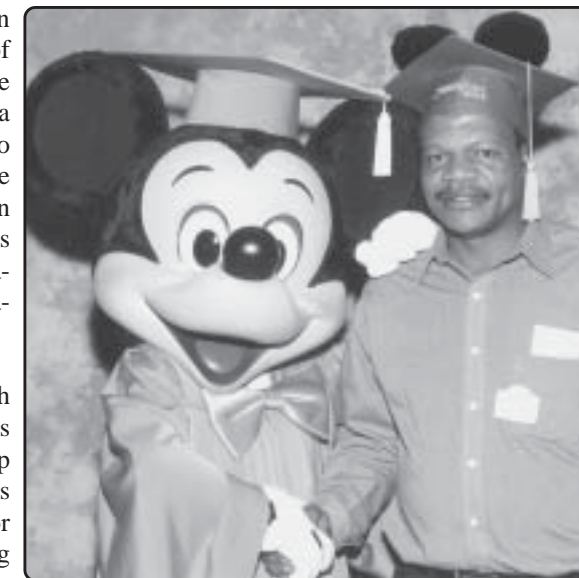
"Through its seminars, Mwangaza gives light to teachers." (Langeni Tumaini; Moshi, Tanzania--Northern Diocese)

"Partnering certainly works. By combining our diverse backgrounds and experiences, we can develop creative lessons from multiple perspectives. The weakness of one may be the strength of the other." (Valerie Goodmanson; Southeastern Minnesota Synod)

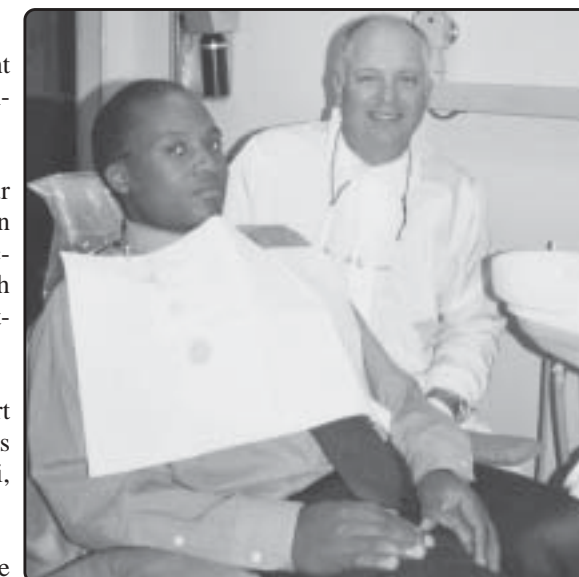
"I am aware that I have to play an essential part in the coordination between the Church and its education system." (William Ngullo; Malinyi, Tanzania--Ulanga Kilombero Diocese)

"I have been challenged to step back and see life a little differently." (Ruth Peterson; Eastern Washington/Idaho Synod)

"When I return to Tanzania I will use more time for preparation for teaching so that students can work and learn easily." (Hellen Msemu; Ugweno, Tanzania--Pare Diocese)



Taken to California's Disneyland by his U.S. Exchange partner (Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod's Celeste Ball of Gilbertsville, PA) John Kavishe is welcomed to California by you-know-who! There, Celeste attended her final training as a Disneyland Outstanding Teacher. The "graduation cap" was presented to John as evidence of his participation in the training. Though he said "yes" to most things in the U.S., he said "no" to rollercoasters!



Though the Exchange is clearly centered around the development of academic lessons, Tanzanian teachers, totally immersed in another culture, found themselves experiencing many new things. Symbolic of the many "surprises" that the Exchange presented, Julius Mutelani prepares for dental care courtesy of Dr. Mark Fili, who volunteered his services.