

# MISSION TEAM NEWSLETTER

## Letter Received from Tanzanian Companion Parish

In July 2008, Bethany Cottingham visited our own companion Mdori Parish and met some of the members. She traveled with a Companion Parish delegation from the Northern Illinois Synod. After her visit, the parish was without a pastor for some time. We have been trying to reestablish communication and have received a letter from the new pastor, Re. Johannes Melita, Mdori Parish, Babati, Tanzania. Our last letter and this response were carried each way by Seth Sululu, a student of the Stubbs from Makumira studying at NIU. Highlights from the letter follow:

“Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I thanks so much David Msseemmaa .....phoned me....lets us connected again.... my country is proceeding well and now we have dry season despite that we didn't get enough rain on last year, so please pray for us God we will gave us enough rain to the coming year so that the hungry situation in our country to solved.

Now in parish .... 9 congregations.....because of its vulnerability of the environment sometimes leaved without Pastor in charge ....other congregations use to disappear....one of most reason for poor development.....so please pray for us so that God will do something to our parish.

Also we do have ongoing construction of pastor house in the parish center....another challenge...because we don't have parish house where he will carry on his services.....fail to provide services to other congregations due to poor communication because we do have only one motorbike in whole parish. Please pray for us....where by we can be able to provide his people the required services according to his willing. We love all of you and we pray for you.”

They also enclosed photos of each congregation building, construction materials, and those worshipping under trees or using a school building. A copy of the complete letter and the photos can be found in a notebook in the St. James Library. We will try to also add them to the St. James website. The Missions Team is responding to this letter and hope they will suggest a specific project that we can support with some saved Companion Parish designated gifts.

### Companion Visit to Tanzania

A delegation from the Northern Illinois Synod will visit the North Central Diocese in Tanzania 7/26/12-8/8/12. The group will visit and learn from some of the educational institutions within the diocese and will also visit companion parishes. Cost: \$4119.

For more information, find out more at: [nisynod.org/Tanzania2012](http://nisynod.org/Tanzania2012), see brochures on Information Table or contact Ruth Anne Hartman at 787-3351.



### ELCA Good gifts for Christmas

What is the best gift you ever received? It was probably given out of love. Love comes to us as a gift from God, and we are called to share it with others. The best gifts are those that deepen our relationships with one another. They are unexpected. They are filled with love. And, they are impossible to wrap.

**ELCA Good Gifts** make great gifts for your loved ones and carry that love on to others, making a difference in their lives and the world. Take a few moments to explore the catalog, and discover the life-changing ministry we do together as a response to Christ's love in our lives.

Catalogs are available in the St. James library or can be found online at: <https://community.elca.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=607>



## Letter Received from Tom Fox

Greetings from Tuscaloosa, Alabama,

I am currently doing volunteer work with Project Team Up doing home repairs for victims of the April 27<sup>th</sup> tornado that struck this area. I first came to Tuscaloosa on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and at that time I was overwhelmed by the amount of destruction I saw. In June and July Judy and I returned to Tuscaloosa to help with the continuing clean-up effort. It amazes me that after almost 6 months how much clean-up is still left to be done before any rebuilding can begin. To learn more about Project Team Up I would suggest that you look at their web site: [www.projectteamup.com](http://www.projectteamup.com). This site can explain things far better than I can. Also, I would suggest that you look at some of the photos that are on it.

Currently, I am working on Charles and Felicia Taylor's home. The Taylors are a family of six whose home was destroyed by the tornado. They have a 20-year-old daughter with cerebral palsy who is confined to a wheel chair and who is unable to speak. The home has never been handicapped accessible. The damage to the home has pretty much been repaired; however, since there was so much damage the Taylors took out a loan to make their home handicapped accessible for their daughter. So far we have raised the floor on their back porch and converted it into a bedroom. We have also converted an old storage room that shared a wall with the porch into a handicapped bathroom. In order to do this we cut a hole in a brick wall for the door and raised the floor about 10 inches. As of this writing the electrical has passed inspection, but there are some issues with the plumbing that need to be taken care of. The Taylors have been out of their home since April 27 and it is our hope to get them back in their home by Thanksgiving.

Over the years I have had the privilege of working for some pretty nice people; however, I believe that the Taylors are the nicest family I have ever worked for.

Charles, despite his home being damaged beyond belief, was one of the first responders doing search and rescue. In fact he is credited for saving his neighbor's life.

Please keep Charles, Felicia, and their family in your prayers.

Tom Fox

### Equal Exchange/ Fair Trade for Christmas

Available in the library are Fair Trade catalogs. There is a wonderful selection of items from all over the world for your Christmas giving. The Missions Team is not offering a group sale this year, but any individual may order from the catalog.

### Congo Coffee Project

Congo Project Coffee has arrived! This inspirational blend of East African coffee is smooth and balanced, with hints of rich chocolate, sweet vanilla, brown spices and fresh berry. The Congo Coffee Project was created by Equal Exchange in partnership with the Panzi Hospital in the D.R. Congo. For every bag of coffee sold, Equal Exchange will donate \$1 to the Panzi Foundation. This is whole bean coffee, but we can now grind it for you. \$8 for the one pound package. Check the cabinet in the narthex. All tea is now on sale for \$2 per box. Cans of cocoa mix are available now too.



### NEW! Organic Extra Virgin Olive Oil For Christmas gifting or holiday cooking is now available for \$11.50/ bottle

This extra virgin organic oil is robust and peppery with a strong fruit finish. It comes from two farmer co-ops which are part of the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC), a non-profit, non-governmental organization in the West Bank which is a member of the World Fair Trade Organization. The rich green oil is made from Nabali olives, an indigenous Palestinian variety that grows in the western region and is considered by experts to produce one of the highest quality olive oils in the world. Extra virgin signifies that the olives are cold pressed without any refining.



*~submitted by Missions Team, Ruth Anne Hartman and Peggy Shovar Co-chairs*