



Vision

Two Ways to Help Our Tanzanian Brothers and Sisters

Used Laptops

Give your old laptop new life! Do you have a used laptop computer in a closet collecting dust? Consider donating that laptop for use in our companion synod, the Southern Diocese of Tanzania (uses could include the girls school, nursing schools, or parish offices).

Used laptops will be collected at the 2010 Synod Festival Assembly, May 1-2, at the Sioux City Convention Center. You can drop them off at the Companion Synod display booth there or send them along with your congregation's voting members.

Katia Frock, companion synod committee member, will erase and reprogram the laptops before they are sent to Tanzania. Please include the power cord, any recovery CDs that came with the laptop, and a laptop bag, if possible.

Ten Dollar Textbooks

In addition, the Western Iowa Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) will be collecting money for textbooks to be used at the Igumbilo Lutheran Girls Secondary School, a partner project of the Western Iowa Synod ELCA and the Southern Diocese.

Many classrooms and students in Tanzania have no textbooks, making learning very tedious and ineffective as students struggle to learn from memory or by taking notes. For approximately \$10 each, textbooks can be purchased in Tanzania. These purchases support local economies, meet the government's standards and benchmarks for curriculum, and build learning capacity for schools as textbooks are used over and over.

The youth will be collecting money for textbooks at synod assembly and encouraging 2010 vacation Bible schools and Sunday schools to join this important cause. Donations of any amount, at any time, may be made through the Western Iowa Synod, P.O. Box 577, Storm Lake, IA 50588; indicate on the check or by a note that the funds are designated for Ten Dollar Textbooks for Tanzania. Please pray for this project and consider giving a donation to help improve the education of young women in Tanzania.

Questions about either of these projects may be addressed to Cindy Wells, Western Iowa Synod Global Programs Coordinator, at 712-732-4968, ext. 441, or wiscw@wisynod.org. Asante Sana (Thank you)!

Showcasing Rural Ministry

Several ELCA seminary students spent ten busy days in January visiting Western Iowa Synod congregations as a part of the Rural Immersion program. They not only experienced the traditional rural flavor of our synod, but also the diversity which makes our life together so rich.

As these students, often from urban areas, experience the breadth and richness of rural ministry, it is hoped that they will consider such a call upon graduation. Thank you to the Western Iowa Synod congregations that hosted these students!



Left: Cold weather, but warm hospitality for seminary students at Zion Lutheran, Rake.

Haiti Facing Rains

People in Haiti are anxiously watching the weather — it is almost time for their rainy season to begin and many are still without adequate shelter because of the massive earthquake in January.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) has produced a moving video showing the many ways our help is making a difference in Haiti, but also emphasizing the long-term aid that is needed. The video is available at www.lwr.org/haiti and can be downloaded for use in congregations.

Please continue to pray for those affected by the earthquake and consider additional gifts to support this vital work. Visit www.elca.org/disaster for more information or to make an online donation. Many thanks!



Right: Students received prayer shawls at Immanuel Lutheran, Forest City.

The **Vision** is a quarterly publication for congregations of the Western Iowa Synod ELCA. For more information, contact the Western Iowa Synod, 318 East Fifth St, PO Box 577, Storm Lake, IA 50588-0577, 712-732-4968, wis@wisynod.org. Visit us on the Web at www.wisynod.org.

