

The Anglican Church in Tanzania

LWERU DIOCESE

Report on the Diocese of Lweru, 17 April 2010

I thank God for what he has done in Lweru Diocese in three years! I thank the Rev. Father Jason, Sara and David Paterson for inviting me to come, but also for enabling me to come. These are longtime friends and I am really thankful for our friendship; and especially for sharing the same faith.

I bring you greetings from my dear wife Josephine, my children and the whole Lweru Diocese. My Pastors remember and cherish the time they spent with the Rev. Father Jason and the Rev. Father Edward Rix in August 2009.

Lweru Diocese is the 23rd Anglican Diocese in the Church of the Province of Tanzania. It was established on 20 August 2006. It borders Uganda in the north and lake Victoria in the east. It lies between longitudes 1° and 2.5° S and latitudes 31° and 33° E. The Diocese has 21 islands of which 15 are inhabitable. The land is well-watered, ever-green and beautiful; with a comfortable temperature range of 17° C – 29° C. The average rainfall is between 800 – 1,500 mm per year. The name Lweru is an indigenous name for Lake Victoria. It means an expansive mass of water spread out over a very large area. The name upholds the eminence and immaculacy of the world's third largest lake. The Lweru Diocese has a population of 1,034,000 people. The Anglican population is 12,000, representing the third largest denomination after Catholics and Lutherans.

Mission: To lower poverty indicators and improve church services and ministries.

Vision: To improve the standard of living among the community and building a church of self-reliant spirit.

Diocesan Motto: “Attempting great things for God and expecting great things from Him.”

Church Growth

When the Diocese was launched we had 12 parishes (only 10 had priests). Now we have 18 parishes. We started out with 13 priests and now have 26; the number of evangelists has grown from 27 to 77; and we have expanded from 38 churches to 65.

Under *Lweru Diocese Comprehensive Plan*, we have been involved in planting new churches and purchasing and owning church grounds throughout our Diocese. In the past three years, we have been able to purchase 25 building lots for churches; currently 5 more lots are waiting to be paid for.

Holistic Ministry

1. Tumaini Ministry - Tumaini means hope. It's a social supporting program funded by Dr. Susan Douglas Willson of Guernsey, UK. It pays for school fees and other overhead costs for 1,750 orphans and runs a monthly sponsorship to over 200 widows and widowers. In addition, the Tumaini Ministry runs a sewing class for school drop-outs to enable them to develop a skill and earn a living. All its funds are used solely for the project's goals only
2. Katoke Reduction of Malaria Project (KROMP) is an Australian-funded project aimed at improving the health of the community through reducing incidents of malaria. KROMP distributes treated nets and education about fighting malaria. This project pays a small stipend amount to the Diocese for administrative purposes only.
3. Katoke-Lweru Secondary School is being built by a retired Australian missionary, Professor Alan Watson and Katoke Trust Fund based in Sydney Australia. The headmaster Mr. Sidney and his wife Marilyn Moir came from Australia. Their 16 year old son Jeremy is with them but is attending an international secondary school under the Anglican church in Mwanza, Tanzania. The Katoke-Lweru Secondary School, started in 2009, is strictly Christian but open to all children. It will be starting building stages 3 and 4 in June 2010 to add dormitories, a dining room, a kitchen and additional classrooms.
4. The Savings and Loan Project - This project is operating in 7 parishes. The first three months members contributed without taking loans in order to build up capital. These people do not have much but wanted to start this project to be able to have a place they could borrow money with dignity. It has 11 branches with 327 members and capital of Tshs. 20,881,320 (\$15,481). Each branch should have 35 members. The repayment of loans is 98%, but I am not happy with the way the project operates. If someone has a need he/she borrows money and repays it back in 3 months, with a 2 % interest. What I want done is for each member to have an income generating project like keeping chickens or milking goats; having a fruit or vegetable garden; or a fish pond. The money borrowed would then be invested into the project and the income from the project used for the personal need or for repaying the loan.
5. The Solar Lights Project – The providers come from USA but we have a connection through Nairobi. It operates in one Parish but will extend to other areas later. The project has been given 50 solar panels. One panel can light 3 lamps and run a 3 batteries radio. The project purchases a panel at Tshs.35,000 (\$26) and installs it at the cost of Tshs 50,000 (\$37). Already 29 panels have been installed. It is still a new project. After paying back the money, the interest we will make from the panels they sent to us will be used to build up a fund for further development.
6. The Kindergarten Project – The Kindergarten has 30 children and a teacher. It has a classroom and the teacher's office. Currently it does not generate any income. The plan is to build two other classrooms, a kitchen and a sick bay. Then we will introduce English as the main subject. This will make it attractive to many parents. The project also requires additional administrative and operational oversight.
7. The Soap Making Project – This project will be 100% money-generating. Plans are already in place. We need \$800 to get the project running.
8. The Visitation and Counseling project – This project is under the Mother's Union. It is run by Josephine. It is not an income generating project. Women identify

- families in need. These might be poor, suffering from HIV/AIDS or older folks in the community. The group collect several items and distribute them according to the needs. These items might be sugar, kerosene, cooking oil, a bar of soap etc.
9. The taking over of Katoke Teacher's Training College – The College was built by CMS New Zealand but was taken over by the government in 1968. We are allowed to take it back on condition that we explain how we will run it. Our plan is to take it back and make it a University College affiliated with St. John's University of Tanzania. This is an Anglican University based in Dodoma, Tanzania. We are preparing a write-up for this project. We also need someone with a PhD or Doctorate degree to lead the institution. Students will pay fees but the College will need funds to run it for the first six months and for rehabilitation purposes. We see this as a big step toward the goal of the Diocese being able to support itself.
 10. Missionaries – We need three missionaries.
 - i. Someone with knowledge in development and in banking. We expect him to:
 - a. Help the Diocese set up a viable Development Office.
 - b. Help organize these projects well, to become income-generating
 - c. Train the future Diocesan Development Officer to take over the Office after he/she leaves.
 - ii. The future head of Katoke-Lweru University College as mentioned in item 9 – someone who will make a curriculum, find tutors/lecturers, make plans for its development and look for funds for rehabilitation! We expect him/her to stay on until its time for retiring.
 - iii. Youth Pastor/Youth Leader – We want someone to help the Diocese set up the Youth Ministry. This will include Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry for youths both in school and those out of school.

REQUESTING SUPPORT

1. Support 6 new Parishes starting 06-01-2010
 - a. 6 Pastors salaries: 6 @ \$15 x 12 months = \$1,080
 - b. 18 Evangelists salaries: 18 @ \$8 x 12 months = \$1,728

Salaries Total: \$2,808
2. Purchasing 100 bicycles for Pastors and Evangelists.

100 Bicycles @ \$ 87.5 **Total: \$8,750**
4. Roofing 30 new churches @ 100 pieces @ \$10

Total: 30,000

Overall Total: 41,558