

CHRIST LUTHERAN MARINE AND UGESA LUTHERAN TANZANIA PARTNERSHP UPDATE – OCTOBER 2021

The students we help support are back in school—and doing well

During the past school year, our contributions from CLC Marine helped support 8 students from Ugesa at schools operated by the Iringa Diocese of the Tanzanian Lutheran Church (DIRA). School there has been operating normally again since June, and visits in July revealed no cases of Covid-19 in any of the DIRA schools.



In the Tanzanian school system, advancement is by 'form' (instead of grade). After Form IV (roughly 8th grade here), all students have to take a very difficult nationwide test---and only those who pass get to go on to secondary school and move into the more advanced levels of Form V and VI. At the end of form VI they take another set of exams, the results of which shape future learning opportunities (like college).

This year, across the Diocese, there were 58 students in Form VI who were sponsored under the BKB Scholarship Fund (some attending one of the three secondary schools owned by the Iringa Diocese, and others government schools). Pastor Lwila, the BKB-DIRA coordinator, reports that all of the Form VI students who attended the Diocese's schools passed their exams and qualified for college-level studies. Our support helps provide access to high-quality education for students and families who otherwise couldn't afford it.

This year, our sponsored students from Ugesa attended four different schools. Here are some photos taken in July of this year:



Adjimu Mdesa, Anzitye Chaula, Jueni Kaguho and Twilumba Lutumo attend Mtera School. The girls are all from Ugesa.



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Jeremia Lunyungo and Norbert Mgeyekwa are students from Ugesa who attend Pommern School.

Students will be heading back to school again in January 2022, and CLC will once again help with scholarships for kids from Ugesa. If you can help, or have questions, contact Matt Smith at matthew.smith4425@gmail.com or (651) 230-4425.

Our partners in the Iringa Diocese have a radio station too

The station is called Radio Furaha (“joy” in Swahili) and primarily broadcasts the good news of the gospel with music and the spoken word. It is also the most effective means of spreading accurate health, financial, agricultural, and other news. The station just celebrated 10 years on the air.

Radio is a particularly powerful and efficient way to reach large audiences.

The population of Tanzania is almost 60 million, with about 80 percent living in rural areas. Although only 7 percent of the population have electrical service, over 75 percent of households overall, and 50 percent of the poorest households own a radio.

Some programming, such as daily market updates, has been revolutionary. Historically, farmers in isolated regions did not know what prices their crops could bring, and often sold their produce to middlemen at rock bottom prices. Knowledge of prices elsewhere helps save them from such exploitation.



Do you want to learn more about Bega kwa Bega and the Marine-Ugesa partnership—and how you can be part of it? Contact Suzanne Pollack, at sznn_pollack@yahoo.com or (651) 433-3207.

