



Tanzania

Lesson 7: The CLC in Tanzania

The CLC in Tanzania

Just before His ascension into heaven, Jesus met with His disciples and told them: **"you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"** (Acts 1:8). The Good News of salvation from sin and death through Jesus' death and resurrection would be proclaimed throughout the world.

You and I are privileged to be a part of that work of witnessing to the world that Jesus is the Savior of all people. Our small church body is at work pointing people to Jesus in many



different countries across the world. One of the countries which the Lord has given us the opportunity to work in is the East African country of Tanzania.

The CLC has been involved in mission work in Tanzania for 10 years. The churches of the Tanzania Lutheran Church of the Confession (TCLC) are concentrated mainly in northern Tanzania, and are divided into three main districts: Arusha, Moshi, and Tanga.

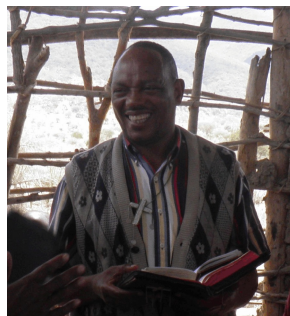
Tanzanian men lead these churches in a way that is very similar to how our churches are run here in the United States. Each district has a leader who is responsible for the pastors

and congregations under his care. These men are pastors of their own congregation or congregations, but also serve as a district leader, much like the President of our church body.

Meet the TCLC District Leaders



Pastor Jeremiah Issangya is the leader of the Arusha District.



Pastor Ebenezer Malyi serves as the leader of the Moshi District.



Pastor Michael Gondwe is the leader of the district in Tanga.

Besides serving as pastors and district leaders, all three of these men have also served as teachers in the seminary that serves our churches in East Africa.

What are the people and churches like in Tanzania?

The people of Tanzania aren't that different from you or me. They are sinful human beings who are in need of the Good News of a Savior. They need pastors and teachers who care for them enough to point out their sin and lead them to a knowledge of forgiveness in Jesus. In this way we are not that different.

But there are some differences. While they have churches where they go to gather with other believers to hear God's Word



Wooden church in
Usa River, Tanzania

and to praise Him in worship, most of these churches are not as nice as ours here in the United States. Compared to us, most Tanzanian families are very poor. Because they do not have much money, their church buildings are also more modest. Generally the churches are made with wood and tree bark or dried mud. Others are made



Mud brick church
in Amani, Tanzania

with clay-baked bricks and very few are made with concrete blocks. Usually metal sheets will cover the roof to keep out the rain, but they are very different from what we are used to!

What kind of work does the CLC do in Tanzania?

The Apostle Paul writes:
"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!'"
(Romans 10:14-15).

The CLC supports the work of these Tanzanian churches in several ways. Of the greatest importance is the work of training men to serve as pastors and teachers. Almost immediately after the CLC became involved in the work in Tanzania, we worked with the TCLC churches to start a seminary not far from Moshi. The St. Peter's seminary graduated its first class in 2008, and sent 8 trained men out into the harvest fields of Tanzania. The seminary program in Tanzania is just as important to the people of East Africa as Immanuel Lutheran College is to the members of the CLC! Without a seminary, where would men be trained to be pastors and teachers?

We continue to support the training of pastors in Tanzania by providing financial support for the seminary. The CLC has also called Pastor Nathanael Mayhew to serve as a part-time missionary to Tanzania. He travels to East Africa and spends several weeks every year working with the churches of the TCLC in training current and future pastors.

May God bless the pastors and congregations of the TCLC and the work of preaching the Good News to the people in Tanzania and throughout East Africa!