



RISING UP WITH EDUCATION: TANZANIA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

By Jane Rinehart
Chair, Global Mission/Companion
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"Shake off your dust, rise up." (Isaiah 52:2)

These stirring words were chosen by Bishop Sima, Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, to set the theme for the work of our Companion Synod in Tanzania. He is not referring to the dust of the dirt roads, but to the dust of poverty and lack of opportunity. And with it he presents a challenge both to his churches and to ours as we partner with them, a challenge to work with them to bring their people out of poverty into the world of knowledge and possibility. As Mr. Richard Ngowi, Chairperson of the Central Diocese Partnership Committee stated, "If we educate our children, then they will be able to build the churches in the Central

Diocese. If we do not educate our children, they will always depend on our partners to provide for us. This is not the kind of partnership we want."

The need for education is great. Tanzania is a country of about 37 million people. Only 12 percent complete high school, and only one percent go on to a university. Why? Education is not free beyond primary school, and the people are extremely poor. The per capita income is only \$300 per year. The number of public schools is increasing, but a shortage remains, and even these have fees.

Our synod has created the Tanzania Scholarship Fund. The scholarship money is sent to the Central Diocese, and their committee awards scholarships to students from their churches who apply. Our synod also supports two secondary schools (Iambi and Ihanja), a girls' vocational school (Vivian Guleen), and a Lutheran Seminary (Kiomboi Lutheran Institute).

These are residential schools, and tuition is \$360 a year for the secondary schools, and \$480 a year for the theology students. This means that about \$1.00 a day would support a secondary student for one year of school, and \$1.30 per day would support a theology student. All the students at these schools need scholarships.

The Global Mission/Companion Synod Committee challenges every congregation in the Southeast Minnesota Synod to consider how many students they are willing and able to educate. "Shake off the dust, arise." To each of us, the opportunity is waiting. How will we meet the challenge?

All scholarship donations should be sent to the Southeastern Minnesota Synod office (see address below), with "TZ Scholarship Fund" noted on the memo line.

FEATURED RESOURCE

- More on the Southeastern Minnesota Synod's relationship with the Central Diocese - www.semnsynod.org/globalmission/tanzania.html

MONTHLY BIBLE VERSE

This Bible verse was selected by Harold Usgaard, bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, for everyone in the synod to study.

"Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray." PROVERBS 22:6



ABOUT OUR SYNOD

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is a faith community of 132,000 baptized people in 184 congregations as well as related institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Its geographic area includes 15 counties in the southeastern corner of Minnesota.

The Bridge is a monthly publication of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. For more information, contact the synod office:

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