

News from ...



SCANDINAVIA house

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Ari Lukkarinen Ordained in Kenya

Ari Lukkarinen of Finland was ordained February 22 and installed as a missionary and teacher at Kenya's **Matongo Lutheran Theological College**. Rev. Lukkarinen was sent to Kenya by the Lutheran Evangelical Association in Finland (LEAF).

Archbishop Walter Obare of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya** presided at the ordination, assisted by pastors from Kenya, Finland, and the United States. Rev. Professor Thomas V. Aadland, former Presiding Pastor of The American Association of Lutheran Churches, and Dr. Wayne Wilke of the LCMS participated.

Rev. Lukkarinen studied theology at the University of Helsinki, with graduate work at the University of Oulu, Finland. He spent Fall Quarter at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, residing at Scandinavia House, before beginning his work in Kenya.

The ELCK's biggest "problem" is that it is growing faster than it can train leaders. With only 127 pastors for 700 congregations, and new congregations being planted at a rapid pace, ELCK is struggling to produce more pastors and also lay evangelists. Foreign professors play a key role by filling in at the seminary, thereby enabling Kenyan pastors to go abroad to earn advanced degrees.

At present, Rev. Aadland is one of two full time foreign professors at MLTC. The other five full time faculty are Kenyans. Rev. Lukkarinen and several others teach part time in addition to their other duties. MLTC also benefits from many visiting professors who supplement the full time staff. In recent weeks, for example, Professors Timothy Quill and Richard Resch of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne offered special courses.

ELCK's plan is to expand its seminary at Matongo and use it as the focal point for Africa's first Lutheran university. In order to make this possible, native Kenyans must earn doctoral degrees, which means studying in other countries. The need for leadership training for this rapidly growing church is so great, however, that Kenyan pastors can go abroad only if the seminary can "borrow" professors from Lutheran churches in other countries to continue the leadership training efforts.

Finland's LEAF has long been active in providing such teachers. Recently the St. Timothy Society was formed in the USA for the same purpose. Rev. Aadland is the first seminary professor sponsored by STS, which is a tax exempt charity headquartered in Minneapolis. Project Timothy - Kenya, which is raising funds to support Rev. Aadland, is its first mission project.

3 Pages of Fotos Attached # #

For further information:

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Information on Project Timothy-Kenya:

<http://www.projecttimothy-kenya.org/>

For higher resolution versions of these fotos, contact cbarnekov@verizon.net



Archbishop Walter Obare ordained and installed Ari Lukkarinen of Finland February 22 as missionary and teacher at Kenya's Matongo Lutheran Theological College. Assisting are (from left) MLTC Principal Dr. Joseph Ochola, Rev. Prof. Hamilton Shihemi and Rev. Prof. Tom Aadland.



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Archbishop Walter Obare ordained and installed Ari Lukkarinen of Finland February 22 as missionary and teacher at Kenya's Matongo Lutheran Theological College. From left are Archbishop Obare, Rev. Lukkarinen, Pastor Joseph Okoth and Rev. Prof. Tom Aadland.



Newly ordained Pastor Ari Lukkarinen serves the Lord's Supper to MLTC Principal Dr. Joseph Ochola and Rev. Professor Tom Aadland.



The congregation gathers for a final blessing after the February 22 ordination service for Rev. Ari Lukkarinen, installed as missionary and teacher at Matongo Lutheran Theological College.



Newly ordained Pastor Ari Lukkarinen serves the Lord's Supper to Archbishop Walter Obare of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya.

For higher resolution versions of any of these fotos, contact Dr. Christopher Barnekov at cbarnekov@verizon.net