



Newsletter

2020. August. 5. "Lord, You are Way Maker & Light in the Darkness."

Grace & peace to you. I hope you are well and have peace in Christ. It seems that a lot of changes have been happening, since COVID-19 broke out. However, whatever changes go on, God who dwells among us remains the same. Whatever challenges we face, God is with us in life and death. I pray that everyone knows we have choices. We can choose to let uncertainty, fear, sadness, worries drive our lives, or we can choose God and His promises to lead us hope and a future. A friend of mine introduced to me a song called "Way Maker" right after Easter. It became a song of blessing to my heart. It goes like this: "You are Way maker, Miracle worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the darkness, My God, that's who You are. I worship You." Simple and powerful song empowers my faith every time I sing it. I encourage you to invite this song to your life for such a time as this☺

Recent News about COVID-19 in Tanzania:

There was no testing and no official government announcement about COVID-19. In early March, all schools, airways, and borders were closed. Everyone was encouraged to stay at home. What we did was: Praying to God, washing hands, wearing a mask, and social distancing to protect ourselves and prevent the spread of the pandemic. President Magufuli prayed and fasted, while encouraging people to continually pray to Almighty God. In May he announced a 3-day nationwide prayer period. In a given situation, his leadership was quite different from that of other presidents, but powerful and effective to lead people in Tanzania.

When the government was partially reopening airways in April, a lot of foreigners started leaving for their home countries. 119 Korean people left Tanzania. Some missionaries who were sick or having visa problems went back to Korea. My family wanted me to come back. Also, I was so concerned about my 82-year old mom. However, I didn't return home, because the Holy Spirit put a desire in me to stay. The pandemic made me literally stopped working and stayed closer to God. Death was so real and so near to me. I spent a lot of time with God in prayer, looking back on my faith journey. God was faithful in every valley and wilderness. God will be faithful this season of life. I begin my day by praising God who is at work, even though I don't see it.

Nobody expected to prolong this pandemic. As Easter was approaching, people started calling me to ask for help. Most people in Tanzania live from day to day. They struggled with hunger, saying that they would die of hunger, not of COVID-19. I sent an urgent request to mission partners (individuals and churches). **Today I would like to send A BIG THANK-YOU to those who responded to urgent needs.** 89 UMC pastors and his families received food for 2 weeks. Countless masks were made and distributed in Dar es Salaam. Widows and orphans of 10 UM churches got food for 2 weeks. Chambewa, a fishing Muslim community received clothes for children, food for 25 widows, and very basic supplies and medicines.

In early June, high schools and colleges were reopened. By the end of June all schools were reopened. In July, it seemed like COVID-19 was over. Still, everybody is cautious about it, but by God's grace, life goes on☺

Newsletter

Nifuate Mission Center was Born during COVID-19 pandemic:

A Korean senior missionary (76 years old) decided to return to Korea in early May, because his wife was very sick. He served the United Africa University of Tanzania (UAUT) as a president. He offered a 4-acre land with a big house in Chambewa community for my mission work. It was free of charge. WOW!!! On May 6, when I was coming home after getting all keys and saying good-bye to them, I understood better why the Holy Spirit guided me to stay in Tanzania. I thank God for choosing me to have this new mission opportunity.

I usually itinerate 11 different districts to train the next generation (ages 13-35) for disciple-making and leadership development. So I dreamed of having a mission center for training and activities. The senior missionary agreed with me to turn his property to Nifuate Mission Center before he was leaving for Korea. Chambewa is a 90% Muslim dominant community that has 155 households. Their major concerns are education for young people and getting fresh water. I organized a team with young adults whom I had trained. We set up daily after-school programs for young people during the week. We also have worship services on Sundays. That means Chambewa UMC was born within Nifuate Mission Center. On the first Sunday when I was preaching, I saw a boy next door listening to my preaching on the tree. I invited him to be with us. **His name is Saidi (Picture) I called him Tanzanian "Zacchaeus."** I pray that God will raise him to be His instrument to reach out to many Muslims. Chambewa is located 55KM away from my home. Round trips on unpaved roads are challenging, but I have an unspeakable joy to share God's love and Word with Muslim young people☺

Updated News about Global Mission Secondary School Project:

In the pictures below, you can see buildings in Stage One that have a roofing. Also, the foundation works in Stage Two were partially done. COVID-19 caused difficulties to raise funds for school construction in the USA and Korea. We are facing two challenges: One is about a lack of funds (\$232,000) for Stage Two. The other is about additional costs that the contractor unfairly asked. We have been working on this matter. Ilala district council told us that 75% of construction has to be done by August to start a school registration process. It seems it will take God's miracle to open GMSS in Jan. 2021. Every day I sing the song "Way Maker" and take these challenges to God. Through QT God's message was: **"I am your God. Go as Grace flows."** What I know is: **COVID-19 can stop me, but not God. He is at work.** It's time to wait & expect God's justice and solution.



Newsletter

2020 NIC Bishop's Appeal & Touching Offerings by Korean United Methodist Women:

Bishop Sally announced that Nov. 14 will be a new day for Virtual Northern Illinois Annual Conference (NIC). My itineration to USA was canceled, but **I am so grateful that the 2020 Bishop's Appeal is still valid**, and Global Mission Secondary School project will be a recipient of this Appeal. I know that churches are having multiple challenges and changes, but I still have hopes up, because "God will work within us to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine..." (Ephesians 3:20). So I pray that each church in the NIC can offer above \$500 for girls' & boys' dorms which are so needed for quality education in Tanzania. I also pray that all churches will overcome fear and darkness and go deeper in faith and grace.

Recently, I received two touching news from Korean UMW in the Northern Illinois Annual Conference. **KUMW have been selling acorn noodles and honey to support the 2020 Bishop's Appeal. In addition, 9 KUMW gave their \$1,200 pandemic relief checks to Global Mission Secondary School construction. WOW!!!** This is the work of the Holy Spirit. I was deeply moved and empowered by their love, generosity, and dedication. KUMW and I have a long relationship since my seminary years at Garrett-ETS. They supported me wherever I served in the NIC, even in Tanzania. In Oct. 2017 KUMW greatly supported a music program to raise mission money for Stage one. How blessed and grateful I am!!! May God bless them abundantly!!!

Nifuate Discipleship Training (NDT) in 10 Districts:

In July 2020, NDT for youth and young adults in the UMC Tanzania finally resumed after the COVID-19 pandemic. 40 Nifuate teachers (trainers) went around churches in their districts and trained others with the Word. Usually, training takes place 2-3 times a month in most districts. Tanzania is a big country. One district is quite big. Next Generation Ministries support them to reach young people in remote churches by supporting their bus fees. In July, a total of 265 young people participated in Nifuate Discipleship Training in 10 districts.

At the beginning of my work, I saw God's vision and hope for the UMC Tanzania in Ezekiel 37. Also, God gave me Psalm 119:105 for Nifuate discipleship training: "Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path." So I printed this Word in the front part of Nifuate teachers' T-shirts. I have been praying to see the UMC Tanzania becoming healthy, vital, growing, prayerful, and missional. It has been slow, but it has been happening. **It will be speedy in the next 5 years because growing young disciples are serving in every church and every district.** Please keep on praying for the UMC Tanzania until they will get involved in God's global mission.

God's blessings to you. In love and power, Young Seon (Christina)

*How to Give: The Advance is an official program of the United Methodist Church. 100% of all Advance giving goes to the chosen mission project or ministry. **You can choose my salary support (#3021957) or the Next Generation Ministries/School Project (#3022281).** Please send a check to "Advance GCFA" at P.O.Box 9068 New York, NY 10087-9068 with the Advance number on the memo line. Thanks a million!