



MARK AND LINDA JACOBSON SERVING TOGETHER WITH YOU IN TANZANIA

October 2009

Dear Congregations in Shared Ministry,

Greetings from Tanzania.

As we begin to update you on our ministry together in Arusha, we are painfully aware of the struggles and turmoil which embroil our church since the Assembly in August. Our prayers are with the church and with each of our sponsoring congregations. As our church works through the implications of these momentous times, we simply want you to know, that for us, the day to day ministry surely continues.

We are grateful that we were able to meet some of you during our home assignment in July and August. It is always wonderful to meet face to face and to make new friends and renew old acquaintances. Some of you were able to visit us here in Tanzania and experience for yourselves both the wonder and the incredible needs of our community. For those we have yet to meet or whom we haven't visited in a while, we pray for your patience with us and thank you as you remain so very faithful in your prayerful and generous support of this work.



The focus of our ministries continues to look to the needs and the marginalized. The new Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre has allowed us to expand our work in areas that began in Selian and are now even more possible. The work with rehabilitative surgery continues to expand. We now are concentrating on finding the disabled and disadvantaged children of our rural communities. Our work continues in Orthopedic Surgery, Plastic Surgery, and now we are adding to these a level of Neurosurgery which will allow us to treat children with hydrocephalus and with spinal cord defects called *spina bifida*.

Our greatest needs are for your support in this area. We subsidize some 200 operations on children with crippled legs, bad burns, and cleft lips or palates every year. Despite this great effort there are hundreds waiting for a chance. It is only through your generous support that this is possible.

Of course, as we have moved into the new hospital, we still have need of construction support. We continue with outstanding debts as well as ongoing installations. Our CT Scan will be installed in November! So the demands for help remain high in terms of finishing our new hospital.

The challenges remain incredible. The down turn in the world economy together with the worst drought in generations has hurt the people badly. And so it has added to the difficulties of a hospital to remain financially stable. We know that you too are challenged by these harsh economic times. And so it is that we are particularly grateful for your faithfulness in sharing together with us in the ministries of "*these, the least of my brethren.*"

Blessings,
Mark and Linda

