

The Internal Revenue Service recognizes Friends of Mwangaza, Inc. as a charitable organization. Contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law.

## From the Director of Mwangaza, Seelah Kisoso



Greetings from Mwangaza!

June, July, and August have been busy and successful.

Forty-eight Tanzanian secondary teachers from Lutheran church-managed schools attended this summer's seminars. Various requirements were in place that participants had to meet, one of which was

the signing of a commitment form to hold similar seminars at their schools to pass on the new teaching methods and strategies to others on the staff. Headmasters of these schools likewise signed a commitment form, noting their agreement to support these seminars.

Various factors contributed to the success of the seminars: teacher-groupings worked well; electrical outages were rare (but the generator was ready to take over); teamwork between U.S. and Tanzanian teachers and co-facilitators was evident week after week; seminar leaders attended an orientation session which set forth guidelines and expectations; communications guidelines were clear.

The result: labor-intensive three weeks of working and learning. As always, our work is really a "family" affair: it all happens, thanks to the Mwangaza professional and support staff: our Tanzanian lead teachers, our U.S. volunteers, our driver, our cooks, our guards, our electrician, our bursuar....Shall I continue?

We give a special thanks to those who brought or sent books from the U.S. to enhance the science section of our Mwangaza professional library.

Following the annual seminars, we quickly changed gears and prepared for the July Mwangaza Board of Directors meeting. Members of the Board represent the partnership concept on which Mwangaza is based, with members representing both the ELCT and ELCA.

Our tile roof gave out this year, and when the heavy rains arrived, we found our Centre in distress. We mopped floors and protected our valuable furniture and computers! We are so grateful for the quick response to our dilemma by the Board of Directors of Friends of Mwangaza, the U.S. organization with whom we are in partnership.

This issue of the "Reflections" newsletter details the work of the Educational Summit. But I must add one more note: This was a big day for all of us at Mwangaza because we were able to prove that we have become an organization that systematically collects data and provides information which is critical for all in the national Lutheran Church of Tanzania regarding education.

This month we are making our school visits, collecting data and presenting teacher-training sessions, focusing especially on developing materials to enhance the literacy skills of students just entering our secondary schools. So we are hard at work writing lesson plans for our presentations.

We are looking forward to presenting our Binti/Mama Program offering at the Mara Diocese; a big women's gathering will be held at the end of this month. Topics covered include Mediation and conflict resolution; Women's health; and HIV/AIDS.

We couldn't do it without YOU!  
Asantenii!

### Mwangaza Speakers Bureau

Arrangements can be made for Mwangaza volunteers to speak to your group or organization. Such opportunities are synonymous with Mwangaza's international mission of education, both in Tanzania as well as in the United States.

Organizations are responsible for a speaker's expenses. Costs vary depending upon the location of the event and the home base of the Mwangaza volunteer. For more information, inquiries may be made by contacting Dr. Shoonie Hartwig at [ShoonieH@AOL.com](mailto:ShoonieH@AOL.com).

Friends of Mwangaza, Inc. strives to keep its constituents abreast of its programs and outreach. Should you wish to be removed from further communications, please inform Treasurer Linda Milton by mail at the address above, or via e-mail at [artmilton2926@sbcglobal.net](mailto:artmilton2926@sbcglobal.net)

# Reflections

There's a first for everything! This past summer, Mwangaza not only presented its annual seminars to teachers representing schools throughout the nation, but also followed that with a first-ever Educational Summit attended by leaders in the field of education from both Tanzania as well as the United States. The Summit honored the memory of Dr. Anza A. Lema, a former member of the Mwangaza Board of Directors, by calling together the leaders of Lutheran Secondary and Post-Secondary Education in Tanzania. This high-powered event challenged all participants to study the results of Mwangaza's nationwide Education Audit and to respond to its importance.

## Mwangaza Hosts Seminars and Summit; Both Guide Programs to New Directions

Was your summer the same as Mwangaza's?

If so, it would have to be challenging, eye-opening, spiritual, educational, reflective, meaningful, and joyful.

Once again, Mwangaza hosted U.S. volunteers, expert Tanzanian co-facilitators, and teachers from throughout the nation at its annual summer seminars, and upon the completion of them, a first-ever Tanzanian Educational Summit.

Regarding the seminars, Mwangaza gives thanks for its loyal U.S. and Tanzanian teachers who work hard to deliver dynamic summer seminars.

Mwangaza thanks Illinois teachers Donna Engel, Alexa Schlosser, and Tanzanian teachers Juliana Malamsha and Joseph Mwanisawa for their leadership during the first week of Science Seminars.

Mwangaza thanks retired Illinois teacher Mike Wadle and Tanzanian teachers William Mollé and William Mweta for their leadership of Math and Physics seminars.

Mwangaza thanks Illinois teacher Phil Wilder and retired Illinois teacher Jim Talarico and Tanzanian teachers Daniel Mlambo and Selina Leyan for their leadership of History and English seminars.

Mwangaza thanks Tanzanian teacher Salome Lally for her expertise in Chemistry; likewise, she oversaw the workings of the Mwangaza Computer Lab for all three seminar weeks.

Mwangaza is grateful for the leadership provided by Friends of Mwangaza Chair and Nebraska teacher Mary Jo Huelle for her five-week commitment. Likewise, Mwangaza thanks new Mwangaza employee John Kavishe; both he and Mary Jo served as co-facilitators who together created three weeks of smoothly-flowing teacher-training seminars.



Mwangaza Director Seelah Kisoso fields questions from reporters representing various media outlets, including BBC Television, at Mwangaza's first-ever Educational Summit held in July, following the annual seminars.

Do you see a pattern of U.S.-Tanzanian partnership? We know you do!

Once again, summer seminars were led by Tanzanian and U.S. educators who planned activities days before seminars began.

As usual, seminars began with sala (prayers), followed by a full day of learning for one and all. At the end of each day, seminar leaders and Tanzanian teachers met to celebrate new learnings which were documented on paper and hung on the Assembly Hall walls for one and all to see!

Day's end provided time for reflection beyond academic learning, too; time and time again, Tanzanian educators acknowledged those nameless U.S. supporters who help to make Mwangaza a reality, providing Tanzanian Lutheran secondary school teachers with research-based teaching methods that will improve the performance of students in Tanzanian Lutheran secondary schools.

As if the annual Mwangaza seminars weren't enough, the summer of 2008 also catapulted Mwangaza into another

stratosphere, thanks to a first-ever Mwangaza-sponsored Tanzanian Educational Summit, a two-pronged affair which honored Tanzania's late educator Dr. Anza A. Lema as well as challenged participants to help chart the course for the future of Lutheran secondary education throughout Tanzania.

Held at Ilboru Safari Lodge, just a few minutes' walk from the Mwangaza Centre, the Mwangaza Educational Summit was attended by representatives from both the ELCA as well as ELCT.

Dignitaries honored the memory of Dr. Anza A. Lema, the late Board Member of Mwangaza Education for Partnership in Tanzania.

Among them were Bishop Thomas Laiser of the Diocese of Arusha Region who welcomed all guests to the event. His Diocese is partnered with the Northern Illinois Synod.

Likewise honoring Dr. Lema was Martin Shao, Tanzania's Northern Diocese Bishop, a partner with the Nebraska Synod.

## New Directions Emerge from '08 Summer Seminars and First-Ever Summit

(Continued from Page One)

Alex Malasusa, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania as well as Bishop of Tanzania's Eastern Coastal Diocese, delivered the keynote address. His companions in Upper Peninsula Michigan would have been proud to hear his speech!

Others honoring Dr. Lema included Rev. Paolo Akyoo of the Meru Diocese, a companion with the Milwaukee Synod; also, Dr. John Shao, Head of KCMC (Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre).

Also, Dr. Geoffrey Mmari, Vice Provost of all Tumaini Universities/Dar es Salaam.

In addition, a member of the Mwangaza Board, Dr. Ismael Mbise, the head of Humanities for Makumira College/Tumaini participated in the Summit.

Besides those listed above, educators representing Lutheran Secondary Education were present: ELCA teachers, ELCT headmasters, ELCT teachers, and ELCT Education Secretaries.

Leading the drive to analyze the state of education, Mwangaza ELCT educators (Kisoso, Kivuyo, and Kavishe) along with ELCA educators (Hartwig, Huelle, and Talarico) planned the day's events and were critical to its success.

All in attendance received copies of the Educational Audits that Mwangaza conducts as it travels to schools throughout the nation. Summit participants were charged to look at these audits in relation to school performance on the country's National Examinations; then, they were asked to freely and honestly brainstorm ideas to improve student performance and school facilities.

Ultimately, Mwangaza will create an Action Plan based on the participants' responses and use that to further upgrade schools, teachers, and student performance.

For many reasons, this summer's activities have propelled Mwangaza ever further into its role as a nationwide, multilevel educational presence!

*Mwangaza's Educational Summit Received Well-Earned Media Coverage; An example, below:*

## A Tribute to Dr. Anza Amen Lema

### A Distinguished, Selfless Educator and Role Model

By Elizabeth Lobulu, ELCT

Recently Mwangaza Education Resource Center in Arusha, Tanzania held an Educational Summit to commemorate Dr. Anza Amen Lema, almost four years after the death of the distinguished educator who became the first African Headmaster at Ilboru Lutheran Secondary School in 1962.

He is remembered as a scholar whose core values that he preached and practiced "will stand the test of time." Born on 28 October 1929 in Moshi, Lema died in Tanzania, a few days prior to his seventy-fifth birthday.

He undertook his teacher's training education at Marangu Teacher's Training College (1946-1950) and taught at several local schools including Ilboru in Arusha.

From 1956 to 1959 he pursued undergraduate studies in history and education at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, USA, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree. After postgraduate studies from 1959 to 1960 he earned a Master of Arts in history and political science from the University of Wisconsin, in Madison. In March 1970, he was awarded a Doctor of Law degree by Bethany College, Kansas, USA.

In 1962 Lema was appointed headmaster of Ilboru Secondary School, becoming the institution's first Tanzanian headmaster. Under his leadership, Ilboru became one of the most successful secondary schools in the country, especially in its efforts to implement a national policy of education for self-reliance.

In 1970, he joined the Institute of Education at the University of Dar es Salaam, where he worked for three years. From 1973 to 1980, Lema worked as Secretary for Christian Education in the LWF Department for Studies. From 1980 until 1992, he was LWF Associate General Secretary, and was also responsible for personnel matters at the Geneva secretariat.

Lema returned home in 1994 to head the Dar es Salaam-based Christian Social Service Commission (CSSC), a joint educational venture of the Christian Council of Tanzania and the Tanzania Episcopal Conference, committed to improving secondary schools' facilities in the country. After four years with the CSSC, Lema worked for the ELCT's Tumaini University as a planning officer and program coordinator until his death.

(Continued on Page Three)

## Summer '08 Participants Reflect Upon Mwangaza Programs, New Experiences



**Donna Engel, Channahon, IL:** "We faced lost luggage, delayed flights, and customs officials looking warily at two women with eight pieces of luggage. Through it all, God took care of our needs and brought us once again into His Mwangaza light. Our lives were once again enriched and blessed by our experience. As we left, our friends sang 'Mugu Awe Nanyi Daimia' (God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again). May God continue to be with all of us as we work together in His name!"



**Mike Wadle, DeKalb, IL:** "When does one coordinator plus four teachers plus fifteen emails plus four lesson plans plus one eighteen-hour flight equal one excellent, two-hour "methods in Mathematics" presentation for twenty-five secondary teachers in Tanzania? In case you could not guess, it's happening several times each year within the Mwangaza Education for Partnership family. For four consecutive years, I have been privileged to participate in these email exchanges between U.S. and Tanzanian teachers who spend months discussing ideas and methods for teaching difficult math topics."



**Alexa Schlosser, Morris, IL:** "It was great to be back to see everyone and work alongside some great Tanzanian colleagues; when we work together, we can really create lessons that are applicable to the lives of teachers in Tanzania. We really had to think 'outside the box' again this year, better understanding the natural resources that teachers must use to make lessons more hands-on and active for their students; we used flour, for example, but even flour can be too expensive for some schools to purchase. I cannot forget the gifts of friendship from the Tanzanians or the gifts from God for my safe travels and this opportunity."



**John Kavishe, Arusha, Tanzania:** "This summer, I noted among the facilitators, co-facilitators, and participants what I would call 'rare traits: a sense of volunteerism, commitment, devotion, and the culture of sharing, just to name a few. Those traits were abundant at Mwangaza this year. The facilitators even devoted their evening time to work with participants on their topics and lesson-writing. Mwangaza thanks all who sacrificed to much to make our summer program such a success!"



**Jim Talarico, Shorewood, IL:** "I have come to realize that no matter how many times I journey to Tanzania, each time creates new opportunities for learning and partnership. Once again, it was delightful to work with Tanzanian teachers of English who joined me two days before the seminars began to fine-tune our lessons and the activities of the coming week. We all learned a lot! Two events "brought down the house": the incorporation and telling of the 'Cinderella' tale (few had ever heard it) and a 'performance' of a piece of poetry in the style of a choral reading. Based on their enthusiastic response, I am sure that choral readings are happening in some Tanzanian classroom at this very moment!"

## Lema Tribute: Distinguished, Selfless Educator, Role Model

(Continued from Page Two)

Professor John Shao, the Vice Chancellor of Tumaini University, described Lema as patriotic, hard-working and a good example that all should emulate.

Professor Geoffrey Mmari, the Provost of Tumaini University Dar es Salaam College, views the late Lema as a man who gave his very best in the cause he believed in. "He lived through the past days of Tanganyika, transition into Tanzania, and the future characterized by globalization, liberalization and the subtle as well as open challenge to the value system he and we have inherited."

"Events around the world demand that we learn from role models such as Anza Amen Lema. It will not be easy, but the possibilities are there. He believed and trusted in God his Creator. We are best advised to do the same," he said.

Upon receiving news of Lema's death in 2004, Dr. Ishmael Noko, General Secretary of LWF, sent a condolence letter to the ELCT in which he said the former associate general secretary would be remembered by the Lutheran family and ecumenical community as a person of compassion, one who was always seeking solutions that would strengthen human bonds.

The General Secretary praised Lema's involvement in the educational and academic world, pointing out that his outstanding contribution culminated in the formation of a Lutheran university in Tanzania. "He will be missed," Noko said. "We are grateful to God for Anza's selfless life that touched many churches worldwide," he added.

Delivering a welcome during the Mwangaza Summit held at Ilboru Safari Lodge, Bishop Thomas Laiser of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) Diocese of Arusha Region described the late Dr. Lema as someone who was patient, selfless and humble.

He urged members of the Lutheran Church to fight for justice and to ensure that they were faithful in performing their duties to emulate and honor Dr. Lema who proved to be hard-working and of distinguished lifelong service.

He suggested that the Church should set a date every year or so to remember the life and work of Dr. Lema by holding a similar event at Mwangaza Centre located adjacent to Ilboru Secondary School which is still one of the best schools in Tanzania.

ELCT's Presiding Bishop Hon. Alex Malasusa commended the work done by Mwangaza and for dedicating the Summit event in remembrance of Dr. Lema. ELCT, in collaboration with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), formed the Mwangaza Resource Centre in 1996 to support and improve secondary school education in ELCT church-managed schools throughout the country.

The Summit was attended by ELCT Bishops, Pastors, Headmasters, Teachers, and Education Secretaries, as well as representatives from Mwangaza Centre, the Mwangaza Board of Directors, the ELCA, and Tumaini University.

As part of their charge, all participants reviewed the Centre's education audit in relation to the challenges of education in Tanzania.

At the opening of the Summit, Bishop Malasusa described the gathering as another opportunity to assess, affirm and appropriate the contribution of Mwangaza in spreading the Gospel through a partnership between ELCT and ELCA in the area of education.

Bishop Malasusa urged ELCT Diocese to support Mwangaza, to encourage its staff; to meet their obligations to the Mwangaza Centre, and to make effective use of the Centre's many exemplary programs.



**Mary Jo Huelle, Mitchell, NE:** "As a co-facilitator with Tanzania's John Kavishe, I noted many things: though the weather was mostly cold, hearts were warm and hands were ready to help. Work flowed smoothly all summer long, characterized by a wonderful blend of young, new teachers and older, veteran teachers. After nine rounds of volunteer work for Mwangaza, I felt that the seminars were particularly good, especially noting that there were no last-minute surprises. The July Mwangaza Summit was a wonderful dialog among stakeholders in Lutheran secondary school education throughout Tanzania. I returned renewed and energized for my own teaching assignment this fall. The best news: the summer was really a "partnership" for one and all!"



**Phil Wilder, Champaign, IL:** (edited from his blog: [TanzaniaInTranslation.blogspot.com](http://TanzaniaInTranslation.blogspot.com)) "At Mwangaza Centre I have an opportunity to share some of the instructional and literacy knowledge I've gained over the past decade. But my prior sharing with Tanzanian teachers taught me much more--about the relativity of struggle, the randomness or privilege and the power of relationships built upon a common foundation in Christ. These do not get lost in translation, regardless of wide linguistic or cultural gaps but are moments (sharing chai, walking down Ilboru Road, laughing in a seminar) of peering through reflective cultural and relational windows that allow me to see myself, my values, and the commonality of people in sharper clarity."