



From Seelah Kissoso, Mwangaza Director



It has been an exciting, busy year for Mwangaza! We launched our new "Nurturing Learning Communities" program whereby our outreach has focussed on site visits

of schools, congregations and women.

Mwangaza staff have journeyed to fourteen secondary schools and led five-day on site seminars in each. By presenting seminars directly at the sites, Mwangaza impacts many more teachers and students.

We have developed literacy materials for English Form One, with plans to do the same for other content areas. Teachers are requesting more training. "After this training I feel I can now teach more confidently," said a teacher in his exit survey.

We have held two "Community Health" sessions for forty congregational leaders who will, as a result, lead seminars in their own congregations. For the first time we joined both men and women participants. Mwangaza staffers led sessions on conflict resolution, women's health, environmen-

tal health, HIV/AIDS, and Bible study. Mwangaza-developed mini-books strengthened our literacy efforts. The excitement created by the mini-books made learning more meaningful and hands-on. Participants declared: "This is such an important program... I have learned so much... I hope Mwangaza makes it sustainable!"

In June/July Illinois volunteers helped us for two weeks, especially important since Mwangaza did not host summer teacher seminars. Donna Engel and Alexa Schlosser have volunteered twice before, while Laura Erion and William Goodale were new to the Mwangaza experience. We thank each one for their invaluable help and for new insights that we shared.

We cannot do all of this alone. We need your prayers and support --and we need each other. We thank all who have supported us in one way or another. Through you, Mwangaza nurtures learning in Tanzania, and together our souls are nurtured.



A Friends of Mwangaza Publication

Mwangaza is committed to education and developing leadership through teaching, learning and service in Tanzania and the United States.

Mwangaza Counters Multi-level Tanzanian Scarcity with Programs that Nurture Entire Communities

There is hunger in Tanzania.

Due to insufficient rains, the maize crops are poor, and water sources are drying up. This means less food on the table, greater risk for disease, and higher prices in the market. The economic melt-down worldwide has had an impact throughout the developing world that can only be described as disastrous.

Despite this news of scarcity from Tanzania, Mwangaza continues to counter that with its own brand of abundance by offering nourishment for healthy living and bringing hope through knowledge. As Mwangaza continues to present its Nurturing Learning Community seminars, nourishment and life-giving knowledge are being offered in abundance.

Even as we do our part, our budget constraints reflect the economic challenges facing service organizations world-wide.

Reluctantly, Mwangaza's Director Seelah Kissoso recently called the Heads of Schools at Kisarawe (Eastern Coastal Diocese) and Tumaini Lutheran Junior Seminary (Ulanga-Kilombero) to say that due to the increased costs Mwangaza incurs to send its staff to Tanzania's southern regions, the previously planned week-long Mwangaza teacher-training seminars would have to be postponed.

Within a week, both Heads of schools (independent of each other!) called her to ask whether they could partner with Mwangaza and share the expenses, offering to cover all of the Mwangaza staff's housing and food expenses as well as

per-diems paid to attending teachers. Mwangaza gratefully accepted their kind offer.

Is there any better example of abundance despite scarcity?

But Mwangaza's mission of nurturing learning communities throughout Tanzania is more than working with teachers in Tanzania's Lutheran secondary schools; in fact, it includes nurturing equally important issues facing women, families, and the Church nationwide.



Mwangaza staff member Salome Lally leads representatives from two Dioceses in Mwangaza's pilot seminar for congregational leaders in June at Mwangaza Centre.

For example, if you were invited to attend a Mwangaza seminar on community health, what topics would you want to be included? If these topics required change in your habits and attitudes, who should be trained? These questions have challenged our Mwangaza staff as it develops and implements its programs. As a result of Mwangaza's 2007 Educational Assessment, Mwangaza has developed a new approach

to the content and delivery of the Mwangaza Community Health program.

In early May, 2009, Mwangaza initiated its first Nurturing Learning Communities seminar. Twenty church leaders from Ulanga Kilombero and Eastern Coastal Diocese were trained at Mwangaza Centre for one week on subjects that participants determined to be critical: Conflict and conflict resolution (home, work, church, school); Bible study; HIV/AIDS (Gender violence, abuse, stigma); Water-borne diseases (typhoid, dysentery, cholera); and Women and health.

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The primary objective is to promote a holistic understanding of healthy life styles that encourages all members of a community to advocate for peaceful, knowledgeable behavior.

To support this process, Mwangaza has initiated an approach that highlights both information and literacy. Using an 8.5 x 11-inch piece of paper, folded twice, Mwangaza has created mini-booklets for all participants that contain valuable information on each subject. Participants have been delighted to take these mini-books home to their communities! Using these mini-books, Mwangaza presents information that helps participants' literacy—which includes not only developing the skills to read the new information, but also implementing new behaviors that have been learned.

Participants trained in this pilot seminar were empowered to return to their home churches to teach others what they have been taught. To ensure the seminar's success, Mwangaza staffers chose a Tanzanian folktale as the focus of discussion regarding conflict resolution. In addition, Mwangaza had prepared diagrams as well as problem-posing pictures that fostered even further discussion related to the serious issues of water-borne diseases and women's health.

In an exit survey, participants noted that the seminar provided, thanks to reading, discussion, and role-playing, much more than "new information." Participants noted the benefits of two Dioceses being represented, especially appreciating the varying understandings of the meaning of healthy lifestyles and what has to change. They concluded that both men and women must raise their voices together. Finally, all participants were overwhelmed by Mwangaza's use of mini-books, noting that the emphasis upon being "literate" means living healthily. Not only are Mwangaza's mini-books providing important life-giving information to its participants, but they are also becoming resources for continuing education to others in the community when participants return home to share their new-found understandings.

Volunteer Reflects Upon Summer 09 Mwangaza Work

By Donna Engel, Channahon, Illinois

Humbling, inspiring, collegial, joyful, faith-filled. These words describe the recent two weeks that I spent at Mwangaza along with other volunteers from Minooka (IL) Community High School. Although this was my third visit, I learn more about my faith and my profession each time I land in Tanzania.



Working with Mwangaza staff members John Kavisho and Salome Lally on topics identified as "troublesome" by Tanzanian teachers sharpens my mind and my imagination as we probe our own understanding of our content area and strive to find ways to make it work in a Tanzanian classroom.

Along the way there are those Mwangaza moments when God's plan can be glimpsed. This year, one such moment occurred when John handed me a new syllabus for social studies, which now states that all teachers should use a teaching strategy called Think, Pair, Share. He whispered, "Do you remember showing us how to do this on your first visit?" We both smile and remember our attempts with biology and chemistry teachers in 2007. We share in the laughter of those memories and thank God for his plan that brought both of us to this place.

Our time in Tanzania always moves so swiftly. This year we cataloged the professional books in Mwangaza's library, created lesson plans, visited schools, and enjoyed visiting our friends' homes. We relish these moments, knowing that soon we will be boarding the plane once again. When we leave, we take a part of Tanzania with us. It rests always in our hearts—especially knowing that if God wills it, we will return.

Plans Underway for Summer 2010; Needed: Secondary U.S. Teachers for Three-Week Commitment to Mwangaza Work

Summer of 2009 hasn't really ended, yet Mwangaza is already looking toward 2010! We are seeking secondary school U.S. teachers who can devote three weeks to our work in Tanzania. Volunteers will spend one week presenting teacher-training seminars at the Mwangaza Centre in Arusha. Week two will be spent developing content resources for Tanzanian teachers in a variety of content areas. Week three will consist of presenting seminars with Tanzanian teachers, using resources developed during week two. Details for volunteers are available from Friends of Mwangaza Chair Mary Jo Huelle at mhuelle@actcom.net.

Multiply Mwangaza Gifts Through Matching Thrivent Grant

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans or do you own Thrivent Mutual Funds accounts or Thrivent Life Insurance? If so, you are eligible to participate in the GivingPlus program on behalf of Mwangaza. In late 2008, Friends of Mwangaza applied to Thrivent and became an "eligible, enrolled organization." Therefore, Thrivent will add \$1 for every \$2 you contribute to Mwangaza's programs through Friends of Mwangaza (FOM) up to a maximum of \$300 per year.

Individuals can donate to two different eligible organizations of their choice each year and have their donations supplemented by Thrivent. Donations can be for any amount up to a maximum of \$600 for each organization each year. (Donors can give more, but the amount over \$600 will not be supplemented by Thrivent.) You can donate whenever you like, and each time the supplemental dollars will be provided. In addition, for people who donate 25 hours or more per year to Friends of Mwangaza, Thrivent will add \$25 to their GivingPlus supplement.

The process is simple.

By computer – click on www.thrivent.com/community/outreach/giving and follow the prompts to GivingPlus Gift Form. Download and complete the form; then send it to Friends of Mwangaza board member Lois Rimbo (see address below). Lois will complete the FOM paperwork and send the form to Thrivent.

If you don't have access to a computer, contact

Lois Rimbo to request a form, complete it and return it to her.

Lois Rimbo
62 Park Terrace W, #A35
New York, NY 10034

She may also be reached at rrimbo@gmail.com

If you have already given to Friends of Mwangaza during 2009, simply complete the form and send it as noted above. As long as the gift is in this calendar year, Thrivent will match your donation.

Help us make a difference!

 **MWANGAZA**

Yes! I'd like to join in the work of this partnership.

\$ _____

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