

Kidugala, Tanzania



Pastor Wallace Lupenza and Pastor Nuru Kahwili from Kidugala, Tanzania spoke at the Optimist Club on May 28. They are pastors over a group of twelve churches in their area. They were visiting St. Paul Lutheran church for two weeks as part of their sister congregation.

Pastor Kahwili is a widow with two children. Pastor Lupenza is married with four children.

Children in Tanzania have free schooling for seven years. After that they can continue in a secondary school, but they must pay for their schooling. The cost is about one million shillings, or about \$1,000 US per year. Therefore, parents often have to decide which of their children, if any, can attend secondary school. Elementary school is taught in Swaheli, but secondary school is in English.

The Lutheran church contributes towards student schooling. They also had a well drilling project to provide clean water to residents. A challenge in any project is to provide support to the people with things they can maintain. Therefore, the Church is developing local councils to maintain the wells.

The children at St. Paul Lutheran contribute their pennies each week. Those contributions are all sent to help the children in Tanzania.

The United States Government also provides support for people in Tanzania. One of their main projects is providing nets to reduce the incidence of malaria.

The rainy season is just ending in Tanzania. Now begins the harvest season. In Kidugala the ground is rocky and there is not a lot of good land. The main crops are maize (corn) and beans. Some people raise vegetables.

In Tanzania, about a third of the people are Christian, a third are Muslim, and a third are tribal religions. In Kidugala, most are Lutheran. Their congregation consists of about 3000 members, with around 80% attending.

The greatest challenges they have are keeping those baptized coming to church, education, and communication with members.

Pastor Lupenza and Pastor Kahwili just arrived Thursday, so they are still adjusting from the airplane trip. Their observations from what they have seen is that it is very green here, the town and school look very nice, the roads are good and the farms look large, there are many cars, and there are many good people.

