

## About Our July Trip to Tanzania Part 2 by Gloria Goodrich



As part of my preparation for the upcoming mission trip to Tanzania, I bought a brand-new digital camera. I wanted a model with a powerful zoom lens to capture shots of the animals we hope to see while on safari, and I was willing to pay a pretty penny. This morning, while I was eating my breakfast, my eyes fell onto my new expensive camera on the table in front of me. I started to think about a statistic I heard at our last meeting with St. Matthew's Church in Wauwatosa: **Tanzania is the fifth poorest country in the world, and the average annual income is only about \$250 a**



Official Tanzania Arms

**year.** It then occurred to me that it would take an average Tanzanian almost 4 years to earn enough money to buy that camera sitting on my table. I couldn't help but feel a little guilty. I had to remind myself that I should not feel bad about being blessed. I am fortunate to live in a prosperous country, but I admit I do take for granted the fact that I have enough money to buy all that I need (and often what I simply want).

**This trip will be an incredible learning experience for all five of us.** Some of us have discussed how hard it is to prepare for a trip when we do not know what to expect. Really, all we can expect is that many things will be very different and that we will experience culture shock. Seeing photos from St. Matthew's previous trip to Tanzania has helped, as we can now start to visualize the people, their homes and churches, Mount Meru and the landscape, African animals in the wild, etc. I still think, however, that the reality of their subsistence-level economy will not truly impact me until I see it firsthand.



A Family Bicycle Ride

**One of our goals for this trip is to financially help our sister congregation, Kikatiti Parish, and the Meru Diocese.** We plan to do this in several ways. First, we will donate cash for medicines and supplies. Tanzania's government is too poor to have an established health care system, and there simply is not enough money for hospitals and private citizens to buy all the necessary supplies and drugs. When someone lives to an old age, they say it is only because of the grace of God.



Mount Meru

A more fun way to help raise money will be participating in the church offerings and auctions. Instead of bringing offering envelopes, the people of Tanzania bring items such as food, animals and household goods. These items are then auctioned off after the worship service, and the monetary proceeds go to the church. We plan to buy items in Tanzania to contribute during the offering, and we will also buy items in the auction and give them to the people that seem most in need. We've joked that we might actually buy an item, donate it during the offering, then buy it a second time in the auction and give it away again to someone! Our largest goal is to donate a \$1000 gift to Kikatiti Parish. We will be visiting some of their projects, as well as some which we have financially supported in the past through the Meru Diocese, such as the Ngarenanyuki Dispensary, and the Nkoaranga Hospital, Secondary School and Orphanage (which takes in children who have lost their parents due to AIDS or lack of health care).



We ask you, members of Our Savior's, to help us achieve these goals for our trip. First of all, we extend **many thanks for your donations** to our special collection on May 5-6; you generously donated \$967! If you did not have a chance to donate, or if you'd like to contribute more, please put your gift in an envelope marked "Tanzania" into the offering plate or give to Pastor Karen. You can also help by donating medical supplies such as bandages, gauze, syringes, latex gloves, etc. into the appropriate box in the church narthex. **Please help the people of Tanzania in any way that you can; they sorely need any help we can give. Thank you again for your support!**



**The Tanzania Gang**

**Pastor Karen, Jim Day, Joyce Block, Gloria Goodrich, Ruthann Rohde**

