



Bethesda Shighatini



October 2008
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Ames, Iowa

Bethesda Gifts Lead to Shighatini Health Center and Better Health Care

Lives and health improve for the people in Shighatini, Tanzania, Africa, as people of Bethesda give funds and equipment for the Shighatini Health Center.



Dr. Mark Mvungi

Enthusiastic thanks come from two groups: here it is the Bethesda Tanzania Health Team co-chaired by Glenn and Mary Kappelmann, and from Shighatini it is Dr. Mark Mvungi, director, physician and surgeon at the Shighatini Health Center, which is owned and operated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT), Pare Diocese.

Kappelmanns said, "We extend our gratitude for your generous support of these projects. Be assured your gifts are changing lives for our brothers and sisters in Tanzania." Indeed. Dr. Mvungi credits Bethesdians with helping two dreams to come true. The first was a dream of the Diocese and the Shighatini Parish to have a health center. The second dream was Dr. Mvungi's personal dream—to be able to do surgery and practice full time at Shighatini. He said, "Finally the dreams have come true. What a joy! We all thank God for this."

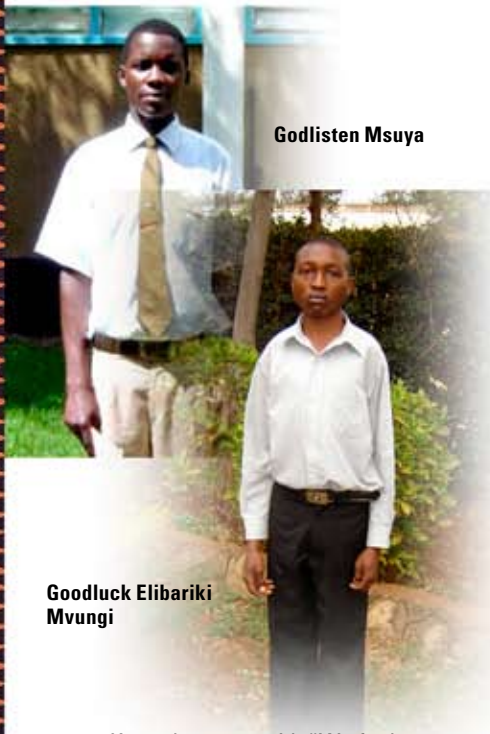


The Bethesda Tanzania Health Team hosted a special Tanzanian delegation August 18: Tumaini Chambua, General Secretary, Pare Diocese, ELCT; Dr. AminiMshighwa, Medical Secretary, Pare Diocese, ELCT; Pastor Joas Mpinda who has completed graduate study in Pastoral Care for HIV/AIDS Patients, PareDiocese, ELCT; Todd Byerly, ELCA Missionary, Pare Diocese; and Phil Latessa, Executive Director, Iowa Sister States. They visited Mary Greeley MedicalCenter, Ames, and Bethany Manor, Story City.



New surgical suite interior at Shighatini Health Center

The Tanzania Ministry officially upgraded the Shighatini Dispensary to a Health Center in March 2008, a preliminary step before Dr. Mvungi could begin doing surgery and practicing medicine at Shighatini full time on August 1. Bethesda's long and reliable relationship with Shighatini Parish was noted by government officials. In addition, Bethesda funds allowed improvements that are required for a Health Center: buildings, a water system, equipment, supplies and staff.



Godlisten Msuya

Goodluck Elibariki Mvungi

Two men have signed five-year contracts to work at Shighatini Health Center after they complete their medical training through the first two Bethesda scholarships. Dr. Mvungi and a selection committee in Tanzania identified these local citizens as the most qualified applicants.

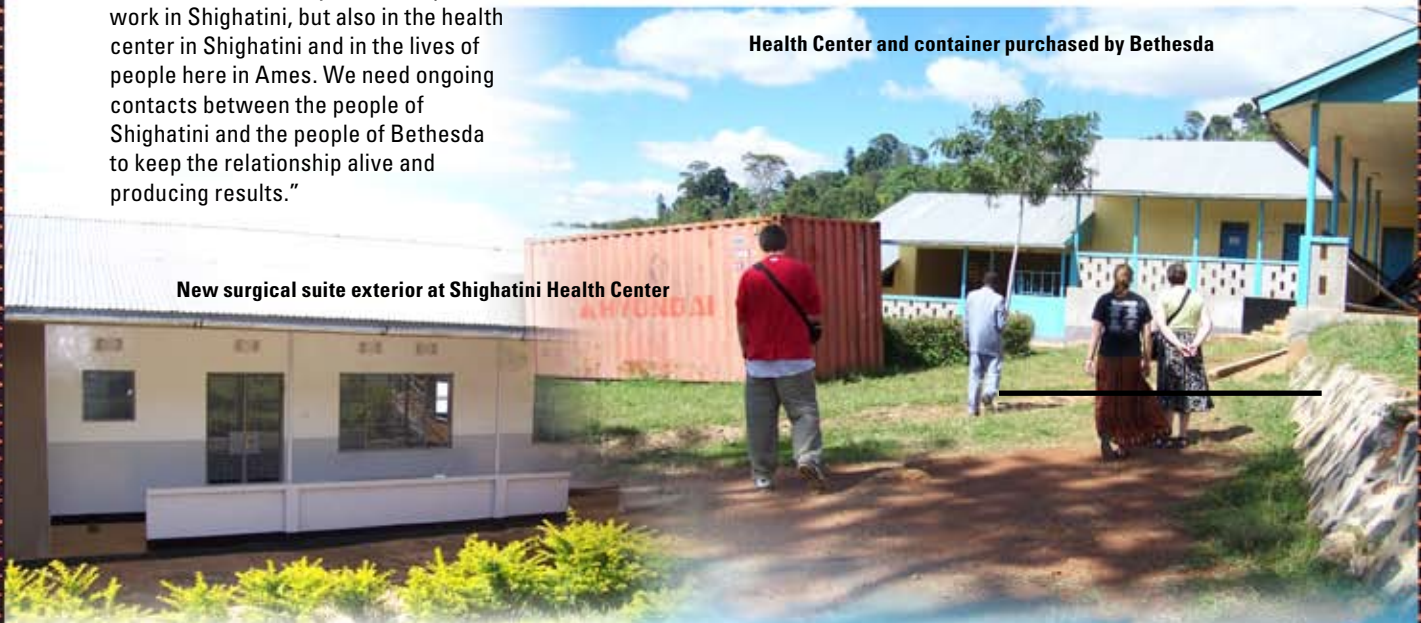
Kappelmann's said, "We feel passionate about this project because we have such wonderful health care here in Ames and we feel compelled to help our friends in Shighatini improve their health care situation. We who live in Iowa have so much and we need to share our resources.

"Jesus is at work not just in the spiritual work in Shighatini, but also in the health center in Shighatini and in the lives of people here in Ames. We need ongoing contacts between the people of Shighatini and the people of Bethesda to keep the relationship alive and producing results."

Scholarships Educate Staff

Godlisten Msuya, our first scholarship recipient, continues to do well and is in his third and final year of study to become a Clinical Officer (physician assistant). Sept. 15 Goodluck Elibariki Mvungi (common family name in Tanzania) began a two-year course to become a lab technician. He is our second scholarship recipient, 25 years old, single, a devoted Christian and a native of Shighatini. Both men will join Dr. Mvungi's staff when they finish school.

Dr. Mvungi wrote of the need for more trained staff. The entire Bethesda Tanzania Ministry Team unanimously agreed to encourage Dr. Mvungi to select a third scholarship recipient for whichever position is his next priority. Kappelmann's said, "The team feels offering health scholarships is one of the best ways we can help our Tanzanian friends improve their overall health care. We hope this fund will continue to grow so we can make more scholarships available. It costs us only \$800 per year to offer a full scholarship for Clinical Officer training. This is a good investment in the development of their health care system. The majority of the funds contributed from Bethesda to health care have been for development purposes (building the surgery suite and scholarships) rather than charity."



New surgical suite exterior at Shighatini Health Center

Health Center and container purchased by Bethesda

A Look to the Future

The health teams here and in Shighatini are inspired by Romans 1:12, "...so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine." If you are inspired to accept the challenge to work with the Bethesda Tanzania Health Team to raise funds that improve the health care of our brothers and sisters in Shighatini, contact co-chairs Glenn and Mary Kappelmann at 515-232-6305 or glennmary68@hotmail.com.



New staff housing