

April 2008  
Bethesda Lutheran Church  
Ames, Iowa



# Bethesda Shighatini



## A Special Gift for Shighatini— A Rehabilitated Guest House

Shighatini means “in the center of things” more specifically “in the center of the North Pare Mountains.” Because of its strategic location, German Lutheran missionaries built the first regional parish house (church), primary school, health dispensary and “Pastor’s House” at Shighatini in 1900. This complex has served as the center of Lutheran activity in the region ever since.

The Pastor’s House was large enough for the pastor’s family plus the many new pastors who came for Pare and Swahili language training before starting their own Lutheran mission churches in Tanzania. As the informal center of the Shighatini village, this house continues to be the gathering place for women’s activities (sewing and weaving), picking up mail, getting corn ground at the church mill, and hand-cleaning coffee beans.

Now referred to as the Guest House, this building serves several functions in the parish. It houses the parish kitchen and one room is used as an office for the parish secretary and treasurer, and a reception area. Another room stores sewing machines and weaving tools used every week by the women’s group in the outdoor commons.

Three large rooms accommodate overnight guests—two rooms each with five single beds and a smaller room with three single beds. The Guest House also has the only indoor plumbing in the parish running water in the kitchen and a small restroom for overnight guests. The large open veranda on two sides of the Guest House serves as a conference area where many community meetings are held and overnight guests eat all meals. The veranda also is used for many activities such as band and small group music practice and small group Bible studies.

### Youth church band



Shighatini Church

The Guest House was partially modernized in the 1960s with electricity, plumbing for bath, sink and toilet; and septic tank. It became a “Guest House” or “Rest House” in the 1990s and has provided housing for Tanzanian and international visitors including U.S. Peace Corps student teachers, Lutheran church leaders from the Pare Diocese headquarters, visiting student groups from Germany, Finland and other European countries, and most recently, visitors from Bethesda.

Years of use have taken their toll. When the first Bethesda Team visited in 2003, the Diocese and Parish recommended staying at the Mwanga School for the Deaf because the Shighatini Guest House was “unfit.” Team members decided, however, that it was better to stay in Shighatini than to spend 45 minutes each morning and night on rugged road.

As a result the team knows first-hand how badly the rehabilitation is needed. A professional architect/engineer prepared a detailed modernization plan in 2004; the Parish and the Diocese listed it as one of their top three priorities (along with the surgery suite at the dispensary and raising income of subsistence farmers). For 2008, Shighatini Parish has designated the Rehabilitation of the Guest House as its top priority.

We need your gift to help rehabilitate the Shighatini Lutheran Parish Guest House. Please make your donation payable to Bethesda Lutheran Church, and write “Shighatini Guest House” in the memo line. You may bring your donation to one of our church services in April, mail it to the church, or drop by the church office before May 1.

*Thank you for your support!*

*A mountainside view of Shighatini Lutheran shows the sanctuary building, outdoor commons for parish gatherings, Guest House with parish kitchen, office and reception areas; a building for the pastor’s office and choir room; also a primary school (not pictured, behind the sanctuary) and secondary school (not pictured, across the road behind outdoor commons). Out of the camera’s view on the other side of the soccer field are the health facilities, used by the entire village of Shighatini, which include the dispensary and new surgery suite, laundry building and staff housing.*

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Estimated Cost  
for Rehabilitating  
Shighatini Guest House:

Repair roof——\$5,000

Water, shower,  
septic tank ——\$2,500

Electrical ——\$1,500

Kitchen——\$2,000

Floors, doors,  
windows——\$4,000

Walls ——\$3,000  
(interior and exterior)

Veranda, foundation,  
steps ——\$1,000

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Total Cost —— \$19,000

## A Vision—the Shighatini Guest House

*A rehabilitated guest house would provide quality overnight accommodations for instructors and participants who can help with these initiatives:*

### **Agriculture Development:**

extension-type training for dairy production and processing (Land of Lakes and Heifer International trainers); poultry production (veterinarians, nutritionists); corn and other grain production (private sector); and entrepreneurship training (Josiah Mvungi, David Hansen, Davenport, Zion)

**Medical/Health:** HIV/AIDS palliative care training the next three years as part of the SEIA Synod/Pare Diocese U.S., State Department Grant. (Mr. Phil Latessa); Medical, Dental and Eye care teams from the SEIA Synod, including Bethesda representatives. Accommodations for Tanzanian family members who have a patient staying overnight at the Shighatini Dispensary. (Dr. Mark Mvungi)

**Education:** Visiting teachers for Shighatini preprimary, primary, and secondary schools. In-service training for the faculty of the three Pare Diocese Secondary Schools in North Pare (Mr. Mshana, Pare Director, Education).

**Women's Programs:** Expanded Binti Mama Women's Empowerment programs (Rosemary Soloman, Pare Director, Women's Programs)

**Parish Development:** Training for Parish pastors, evangelists, staff and lay leaders. (Shighatini and District Pastor Walter Msangi)

### **Bethesda Tanzania Ministry Teams:**

#### **General Team Chair:**

Gerald Klonglan

#### **Agriculture Team:**

Glen Rippke, chair

#### **Health/Medical Team:**

Mary and Glenn Kappelmann, co-chairs

#### **Education Team:**


Tom Walsh Jr, chair

#### **Water Team:**


Carl Anderson and Richard Smith, co-chairs

#### **Women's Programs:**


Carolyn Ahlstrom, Virginia Anderson and Randi Peters



In 2007, the Guest House veranda is the place where Bethesda members and Shighatini residents discuss issues and needs related to corn storage.




Gerald Klonglan and Bethesda youth participate in educational planning on the veranda in 2004. Meeting with them are Shighatini Pastor Walter Msangi, who leads the school board; Elivehema Mgonja, headmaster for the secondary school; and their vocational agriculture teacher, Helen Msemo.



Shighatini women come to a Binti Mama class at the guest house in 2006.



This is a training session for parish pastors, evangelists, staff and lay leaders in 2004.



Pictured are Bishop Hougén and his wife, Diane, Gerald Klonglan, Bishop Msangi, and Pastor Rebecca Mhando.