

Iringa Partnership Timeline

- 1988 Formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Companion Congregation Program. The Saint Paul Area Synod is partnered with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania – Iringa Diocese. Pastor Alex Mhanga stays with Tom & Sandy Hendrickson while studying. Pastor Mhange later becomes the Assistant to the Bishop at the Diocese.
- 1993 Tumaini College founded by missionaries Arnie and Mary Blomquist
- 1997 In honor of Christiania’s 140th Anniversary, Christiania purchases 140 acres of farmland near Tumaini University (approximately \$5600)
- 1998 Pastor Bonito Mdembo visits the Saint Paul Area Synod and at Christiania in April and May. He has several home visits and teaches the congregation “Asante Sana Jesu” in worship. In October Bishop Mdgella visits with members over dinner.
- 1999 The companion congregation program, Bega Kwa Bega (Shoulder to Shoulder) is established by SPAS. Christiania is paired with Ihemi, where Pastor Mdembo serves.
- 2000 Annual gifts for student scholarships, buildings and Common Basket is begun. A banner made by Ihemi is brought to Christiania.
- 2001 Christiania donates gifts to bring to Ihemi. Tote bags are made and sold. December 2000 – January 2001 Christiania members travel to Iringa: Bo and Juli Skillman, Ashley and Jordan, Tom and Sandy Hendrickson, Youth Director Jane Martin (Fenton), and Pastor Nancy Brown. Eleven bicycles are given to the pastor and evangelists on behalf of the congregation.
- 2002 More gifts are given to Ihemi by the visitors: logging equipment for the diocese, a motorcycle for the district pastor, coffee plants and pesticides, a laptop, flour mill, etc. Bo & Julie Skillman and Tom & Sandy Hendrickson make a five year pledge to provide education for Ihemi Evangelists. Funding was pledged for 5 new preaching points. Individual sponsors send students to secondary school. Lenten worship theme is Iringa partnership, at Maundy Thursday we wash hands over dishpans as at Ihemi, at Easter we sing the Lord’s Prayer in Swahili, and decorate the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall with kangas. In March Rev Richard Lubawa, Associate to the Bishop, visits SPAS and Christiania. In May Dennis Ngede, Bega Kwa Bega coordinator, visits SPAS and Christiania. Iringa Task Force begins.

- 2003 Mark Jensen travels to Iringa to work with the Saint Paul Partners, a lay-led well and clean water project. He is asked to become the first director of the newly forming Agriculture Institute at Tumaini University. Christiania sends gifts to build a classroom at Tumaini (\$25,000). A garden tour supports all projects. Annual gifts for Ihemi church buildings, student sponsorships, and common basket continue, as well as individual gifts.
- 2004 The Skillman family works in Iringa to support the growing student scholarship program through Bega Kwa Bega, well project, and hygiene. Two accounting professors from Tumaini visit SPAS and Christiania. The Jensens are commissioned as lay missionaries of the ELCA. A second garden tour to benefit Iringa projects is held.
- 2005 An appreciation brunch for all Iringa supporters is held in January. The Hendricksons teach for a semester at Tumaini, Tom in math and Sandy in English. A second group of Christiania members visit Ihemi and Iringa: Kirsten and Gordie Storlie, Karen and Don Fehr, Bertie and Dave Mohling and Pastor Nancy Brown. Individual student sponsorship jumps to 30. Bo Skillman travels with the Saint Paul Partners to work on well projects, and specifically for Ihemi. Bo also is elected to the Iringa Task Force of the SPAS. Richard Lubawa preaches at Christiania. Mark Jensen travels to work with the Agriculture Institute, developing demonstration plots. In the fall, a Basics of Life campaign to raise money for these projects is launched, as well as regular annual giving, individual gifts and student sponsorship.
- 2006 Two Diploma of Theology students are added to benevolence, in addition to ongoing Ihemi building support, student scholarships, Common Basket, and other individual gifts. Skillmans travel and the well at Ihemi finally is operational. Bo joined the Board of Saint Paul Partners – the water development non profit group. Jensens hire first full time employee, Ibrahim Wikedzi, who visits Christiania several times, and Jensens travel for Agriculture Institute.
- 2007 A local Tanzanian choir sings in worship. Easter continues to highlight our partnership. Jensens travel, 3 demonstration plots are complete and congregation demonstration plots begin. Storlies travel for the Ag Institute. Skillmans become BegaKwaBega coordinators, hosting SPAS visitors in Iringa and facilitating the relationship with 10 congregations within SPAS as cluster leaders. SPAS Crossing Bridges Campaign addresses the Agriculture Institute. Christiania 150th Anniversary gifts are made to the Agriculture Institute. This year annual gifts to Ihemi are used for floor and altar of a preaching point. In general annual gifts are used for maintenance of church buildings (11 total)

- 2008 Hendricksons travel to develop SACCOS at Ithemi and the diocese. Christiania begins campaign for SACCO, microloan program at Ithemi for \$15,000, and for Ag Institute (\$2,000 x 3 years). Youth travel to Iringa in August (Jessica & Sue Boerner, Theo Hofrenning & Pastor Nancy Brown, Jenna Redding, Alexandra Krenz, Nikki & Terry Ratzlaff, Senja & Brian Smith, Abbie & Cathleen Reichmuth, Savanna Anderson, Youth Director Elizabeth Larson). Bo Skillman serves as BegaKwaBega coordinator for 3 months. Bo also took over as Chairman of Saint Paul Partners water group.
- 2009 Surplus from the secondary student account supports a theology student for three years (the previous 2 graduated).
- 2010 Tom and Sandy Hendrickson establish Iringa Hope, an independent non-profit but working alongside Bega Kwa Bega, for SACCOS in Iringa. They also found the Institute of Micro Finance (MFI) at the University and hire the first personnel, Itiwani Luhwago.
- 2011 Mark Jensen dies in June. Six Christiania members travel to Iringa in November – Sharon Buckley, Anne Romstad, Karla Schrader, Linda Storlie, Pastor Dave and Brenda Mesaros. Bo Skillman continues to serve as Bega Kwa Bega coordinator for 3 months every year. Benevolence for Ithemi remains steady at \$1000, Common Basket at \$1500, and three secondary students. Individuals sponsoring students is at 29 (including the 3 from the church, and one from Sunday School.) Past Iringa travelers visit each Sunday School class to share items and enthusiasm; 10 minute presentations evolve into 60 minutes! The Hendricksons recruit a Tanzanian Director for Iringa Hope.
- 2012 Normal gifts for student sponsorships and construction were added to with a gift for school books for students at the Huruma orphanage. Christiania supported a theology student studying at Tumaini University. The Hendrickson's continued their work with Iringa Hope and Skillman's work with the Saint Paul Area Synod and Saint Paul Partners water continued in Tanzania. The Hendricksons develop math and science curriculum for the University and ship them over 300 textbooks.
- 2013 Christiania supported a theology student studying at Tumaini University along with secondary school students. The Hendrickson's continued their work with Iringa Hope and Skillman's work with the Saint Paul Area Synod and Saint Paul Partners water continued in Tanzania. General construction funds were provided to assist with improvements on preaching points. Pastor Nixon and his wife visited and preached.

2014

Christiania supported secondary school students. The Hendrickson's continued their work with Iringa Hope and Skillman's work with the Saint Paul Area Synod and Saint Paul Partners water continued in Tanzania. The Hendricksons obtain grant money to build a building on the University campus for Iringa Hope. They begin the development of village based farmer's coops (called AMCOS) and fund the formation of one at Ihemi. The Ihemi SACCOS passes 100 members accounting for 50% of the parish donations and sending over 90 children to secondary school. General construction funds were provided to assist with improvements on preaching points and a special offering was taken at Christiania to assist a widowed evangelist build a house. Ihemi expresses hope for Bega Kwa Bega visitors again soon. Dr. Saga from Ilula Hospital visited and spoke in services.

2015

Christiania supported secondary school students. The Hendrickson's continued their work with Iringa Hope and Skillman's work with the Saint Paul Partners water also continued in Tanzania. General construction funds were provided to assist with improvements on preaching points. Adam and Rachel Fausch traveled with Skillman's to work with Saint Paul Partners and spend time with our brothers & sisters at Ihemi. Hendrickson's hosted Iteweni from Iringa Hope as she visited the USA and visited with partnered congregations.