

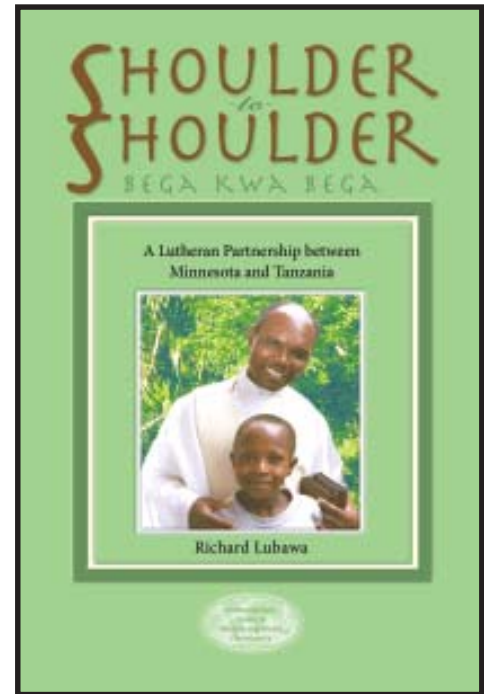
Shoulder to Shoulder

BEGA KWA BEGA

A Companion Synod Partnership Between Minnesota and Tanzania

by
Richard Lubawa

The Saint Paul Area Synod (SPAS) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Iringa Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) have been partners in ministry since 1987. From its beginnings as a meeting between bishops, the partnership has mushroomed into involving people at the grassroots level—reaching sixty congregations, over a thousand travelers, over 900 scholarship recipients, establishing the country's first private university, sponsoring construction, drilling wells for safe drinking water, and undertaking the expansion of health care facilities. This relationship of prayer, friendship, and partnership continues to grow stronger and stronger as God's grace spans the distance and cultural differences from Minnesota to Tanzania.



In the diversified world, partnership is a common theme in international relations where it holds a promise of equality and mutual involvement for mutual goals. In secular as well as in religious fields, people have worked toward systems and structures, which could best facilitate the goals of both partners.

RICHARD LUBAWA

Richard Lubawa is a Lecturer at Tumaini University-Iringa University College and is also serving as acting Deputy Provost for Administration.

Lubawa attended the Ardhi Institute in Tanzania, Lutheran Theological College in Tanzania, and Luther Seminary, in St. Paul, MN, USA. Throughout the years, he has been a pastor, teacher, and principal. Most recently, Lubawa served as Assistant to the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT), Iringa Diocese.

In 2005, Lubawa was the first recipient of the Schioltz International Fellowship/Professorship at Luther Seminary. This program provides an opportunity for a scholar to spend time at Luther Seminary for research, writing, teaching, and interacting with the Luther Seminary faculty and students. This Fellowship/Professorship is one means by which the witness of the global church may be heard and engaged at the largest of the theological institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

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