

Glad Tidings



PO Box 2316
Arusha, Tanzania
www.acc.habari.co.tz

APRIL 2016: Vol 353

Arusha
Community
Church

From the Chair: 'our words can break trust and break hearts'

Please read Proverbs 18:8, 20:19 and 27:6.

What do these verses teach us? Recently we discovered in our fellowship how sharing opinions about a particular preacher or sermon without sharing them with the preacher involved has caused hurt. Webster's definition of gossip is "report of an intimate nature" or "chatty talk." This seems innocent enough but the Bible warns against it. What may seem of no harm can actually be very hurtful. Discussion of issues is good, but can we separate discussion on an issue from discussion about the person who raised it?

When ACC requests persons to preach, we of the congregation who listen should (a) pray for the person who shares, (b) not take offence at what is shared, (c) realize that we may not all agree on what is shared but accept to disagree even as we are led by God, and (d) consider giving feedback to the preacher but be appreciative when giving criticism.

Appreciative words build up, and enable the listener to receive critical feedback. Feedback is best given in a timely way, not months later. A real friend gives both honest appreciation and honest criticism. Let us be friends of our preachers.

In a more general sense, we should always consider what we say about people, not only the preacher. What hurt can be caused if what we share should get back to the person of whom we speak? In Romans 1:29-30, Paul ranks gossip along with murder. It destroys both friendships and reputations. In a church where pastoral care is the responsibility of us all, gossip breaks the trust that enables care. It keeps our fellow members from opening up to us and getting the help they need. Despite good intentions, our words can break hearts and break trust throughout the church body. In this, I know I have stumbled...even against my own family members. For this I am truly sorry.

Are we good at disguising gossip? When someone confides in us about a personal issue, do we get on the phone and share it? Do we call the prayer chain without first praying? Please let us not do this without the person's permission! Otherwise, what we share under the guise of asking for prayer becomes potential gossip, and is a break in trust. In James 1:26 we receive good advice for giving pastoral care: "If anyone ... does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless." How good is our religion? Can we be trusted?

"Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD"
(Psalm 19:14). If we must share others' private burdens, we can share them with God.

—*Erwin Kinsey, Council Chair*

Proverbs 18:8 (NIV)

⁸The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts.

Proverbs 20:19 (NIV)

¹⁹A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much.

Proverbs 27:6 (NIV)

⁶Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

A VIEW FROM HERE: BEGINNING LIFE AS A LEARNER DRIVER

—An ACC Member Reflection Shared by Christine Ebong

*“Thy Word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105*



So I finally walk into the driving school on Day One of my four-week training course. I had my driver's license in hand and my comfortable shoes all laced on yet at this point I surely hoped I wouldn't need those that day. I was directed, not to the neatly marked cars, but to the class room with desks and chairs and after quickly explaining to one lecturer that I was rather deficient in spoken Kiswahili I was directed to the front row with a quick, "if you can go to the main market and shop you will be ok!" For a whole hour the lecturer in charge took us through countless road signs. All sorts of colors were reflected in these signs. Despite her effort to group them for easy remembrance and understanding, I struggled to differentiate them and even further tried hard to understand this new version of Kiswahili I was hearing. The whole time I wondered to myself, "why learn all these complicated things while all I need to do is drive a car out of my home to go do my shopping?"

In our lives as Christians there may be a similar situation. We come just as we are or indeed after making some adjustments just ready to start the walk as a Christian. We are introduced to the Word of God, the Scriptures and then it all seems foreign to what we have been used to before. We may sometimes feel we do need explanations so we can understand at least enough to apply these principles. Or maybe it seems all too familiar because we have been with people who knew a lot of it before. But then something keeps telling us there is something to learn from this familiar life and book. But what is that lesson? And why would we need this book anyway? Is it not enough to know how to dress up and come to church and look the right way, behave the right way? Why do we need the Bible and why do we need the interpreter?

The Word of the Lord is our guide and strength. From the Word we find comfort, warning and encouragement. We learn to pray according to God's will when we pray with the Word in mind. When temptation hits we can resist and stand and prevail. When we meditate upon the Word of God we find boldness and courage to face any challenge on the way. The Holy Spirit guides us to understand and apply the Word in our lives. So we do need and have the Interpreter with us all the way. In short, the way I see it, the Word of God is the Constitution for the Church and the Holy Spirit is the Constitutional Court that we can go to for interpreting this Constitution.

***Do you have a reflection to share?
Or perhaps a poem, drawing or
other creative work inspired by your faith?***

Please share! Send your submission to

acc.facilitator@gmail.com and the

*Communications Coordinator will seek to share it in
Glad Tidings, the church website or on social media.*

Do we read our Constitution? Do we yearn to apply it in our lives? And do we run to the Constitutional Court for interpretation of seemingly confusing sections of our Constitution? May the Lord enable us to yearn to live according to His Word and seek Counsel from his Spirit when we need direction.



New members of the ACC Church Council were elected at the 2016 Annual General Meeting in February. They welcome your questions, ideas and comments! Please feel free to speak to any of them in person, or contact them via the ACC Facilitator at acc.facilitator@gmail.com.

Clockwise from top left: Erwin Kinsey, council chair; Linda Jacobson, vice-chair; Martijn Veen, secretary; Irene Mchomvu; Narola Mollé; Olivier Muhoza; Moira Brehony; Jimmy Ebong. Not pictured: Elizabeth Hudgin, treasurer.

Watch next month's Glad Tidings to learn more about the council members...

AA and NA Meetings at ACC

AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)

Monday 1 pm – 2 pm

Tuesday 1 pm – 2 pm

Thursday 1 pm – 2 pm

Friday 5 pm – 6 pm

Saturday 10 am – 11 am

NA (Narcotics Anonymous)

Tuesday 5 pm – 6 pm

Thursday 5 pm – 6 pm



If you have a prayer request and would like our members to support you in prayer, contact the four key people—if possible by SMS—and they will inform the others in the prayer chain.

Erwin Kinsey: 0754 480 184

Margaret Kenyi: 0754 090 078

Susan Simonson: 0754 266 559

Stella Karamuna: 0754 281 337

Mission Statement: Arusha Community Church seeks to bring Christian praise and witness to God through worship, service and study. The congregation provides opportunity for Christian fellowship, service and witness, community outreach, personal growth and family growth. Recognizing the close link between worship and culture, Arusha Community Church has an inter-denominational ministry to the international community in Arusha.

Arusha Community Church (ACC) is an international, interdenominational, lay-led congregation. We are united in faith in Christ and worship in the English language.

Services are at 10:30 am every Sunday morning, as well as on other special days of the Church Year. **Sunday school** for children is during church through the school year. **Adult Education** is usually held before the service at 9:15 am. For more information, please visit our **website** at www.acc.habari.co.tz.

Glad Tidings submissions are due 15 April 2016 to acc.facilitator@gmail.com

All are welcome!

**Christian Education Workshop:
Conversations on Christian Education for Mission**

Sunday, 10 April at 9 am in the large Sunday school classroom

The Gospel calls us to learn and teach (Matthew 28:19-21), and Christian education is integral to the lifelong journey of faith for all Christians. In this workshop, the Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson will share experiences, resources, visions and challenges relating to Christian education ministry in Southern and East Africa.

Pastor Knutson is the Global Mission Regional Representative to Southern Africa for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The primary purpose of Christian education is to equip disciples of all ages in the church to participate faithfully in God's Mission for the sake of the world.

APRIL 2016 Sunday Service Schedule

Date	3 April	10 April	17 April	24 April
<i>Church Calendar</i>	<i>Second Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>
Service Type	Communion Service	Morning Worship	Communion Service	Family Service
Worship Leader	Erwin Kinsey	Moira Brehony	TBD	Olivier Muhoza
Preacher	Rev. Deborah Troester	Eamonn Brehony	Christine Derungs	Josephine and Johan Sundqvist
Music	Erwin Kinsey	Angela Schramm	Christine Ebong	Daniel Kalule
Sound	Edmund Kisombe	Edmund Ntwale	Joseph Kraft	Eunpa Cho
Flowers	Yoka Bruinsma	Rosemarie Charles	Helena Koster	Christy Miller
Ushers	Rogers Eliau Obeid Nickodemasy	Olivier Muhoza Peter Feer	Henrique Christopher Senais Joseph	Rogers Eliau Dorice Eliuta
Duty Elder	Jimmy Ebong	Martijn Veen	Moira Brehony	Erwin Kinsey
Library	Eliel Gideon	Narola Mollé	Fitsimt Dejene	Sion Mira
Books	Betty Magaya	Rogers Eliau	Raymond Lema	Peter Feer
DVDs	Yuki Omori	Leon Veen	Nancy Kimaro	Olivier Muhoza
Scripture Readings	Acts 5:27-32	Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)	Acts 9:36-43	Acts 11:1-18
	Psalms 118:14-29	Psalms 30	Psalms 23	Psalms 148
	Revelation 1:4-8	Revelation 5:11-14	Revelation 7:9-17	Revelation 21:1-6
	John 20:19-31	John 21:1-19	John 10:22-30	John 13:31-35

Many thanks to all those who serve!