

**Robin Orner**

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**From:** Jodi and Steve Swanson in Tanzania <jodiswanson@57460009.mailchimpapp.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 5, 2026 3:54 PM  
**To:** First Lutheran Church  
**Subject:** Building and Transition



**It's a New Day!**

**March 2026**

Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson  
Medical Global Personnel  
Arusha, Tanzania



**ICHA**  
INSTITUTE FOR CHILD  
HEALTHCARE AFRICA  
Modeling Pediatrics For Tomorrow

Dear First Lutheran Church,

A new year always brings a sense of fresh beginnings, and here in Tanzania we are experiencing many of them! Reconstruction of the **Arusha Pediatric & Maternity Centre (APMC)** is progressing well, the **Tiny Feet, Big Steps African Neonatology Conference** has been rescheduled for **May 11–15,**

and we are grateful to now have **15 Tanzanian staff members working with ICHA.**

Working alongside these young Tanzanian colleagues is one of our greatest joys. Their dedication, hard work, and optimism inspire us daily, and we only wish you could meet each one of them as we have.

**Find more information regarding ICHA by signing up for our ICHA Newsletter!!**

[Sign up here for our ICHA newsletter!](#)

## **The Arusha Pediatric & Maternal Care Centre (APMC)**

Our new clinic has now **passed its first government inspection**, an important milestone toward registration as a specialty clinic. The former primary school campus is being transformed into a **laboratory, pharmacy, 6 exam rooms, administrative offices, and waiting areas**, with plans for an acute care treatment room and staff conference space. We have also installed lighting, WiFi, security cameras, and a computer-based medical record system. Each step requires time and effort, but we are hopeful to open in mid-April.





## Transitioning to CHSC

After resigning from ELCA last year, new opportunities opened for ICHA's work in Tanzania and at Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre. Next month we will officially join **Christian Health Service Corps (CHSC)**. We are grateful for this partnership and will attend their orientation in the U.S. this summer. In the meantime, our work—including neonatology training and the new clinic—continues to be supported through ICHA @ [www.ichafrica.org](http://www.ichafrica.org).

## Tiny Feet, Big Steps Conference May 11-15 2026

Our main TFBS conference, postponed last November due to post-election unrest, will now take place this May in Arusha. African instructors are coming from **Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, and Ethiopia**, alongside our growing Tanzanian team.

This year we will also host a **two-day pre-conference workshop focused on teaching skills for African nursing instructors**, led by our friend Lindsey Hoover. These gatherings continue to build friendships, collaboration, and stronger neonatal care across the region, and we are putting in special

efforts to improve the teaching abilities of both our TFBS nursing instructors and physicians.

Planning has already begun for **TFBS conferences in Ghana and Uganda later this year in October-November.**

More information can be found at [www.tinyfeetbigsteps.com](http://www.tinyfeetbigsteps.com)

## Evelyine Mushi to graduate March 26!

Many of you have followed **Dr. Evelyine Mushi's** journey over the years. On **March 26**, she will graduate from her **Pediatric Residency at Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town.** Hongera sana, Evelyine! We are incredibly proud of her perseverance through these demanding four years, and eager to celebrate with her!

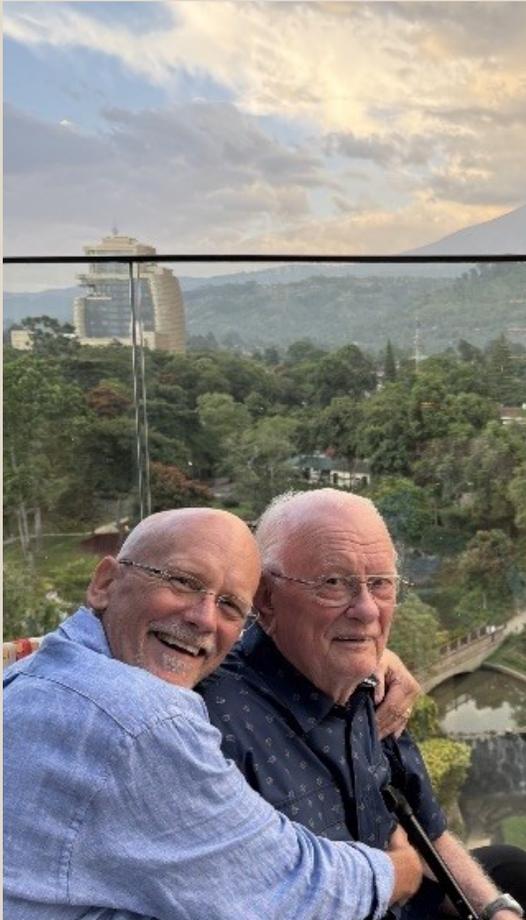


Evelyine plans to pursue a **Neonatology Fellowship at the University of Cape Town**, but will spend time in Arusha first helping with our TFBS conferences and clinical work in the NICU. She will also be joining our ICHA team as we visit several Ugandan NICUs in a few months as consultants.



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**Babu is back in town!**



We are happy to welcome Steve's 91-year-old father, Allen Swanson, back to our home in Arusha. It is a chance for him to escape the cold MN winter and enjoy the great outdoors surrounding our home. We are enjoying his company and as the naps increase, we are reminded that our time with him will not last forever.

He keeps himself busy with books and continues to work through his study Bible which is always an inspiration for us. Steve's sister has just joined us which will allow us to travel to South Africa for Evelyine's graduation and attend/teach at a conference in Greece. We are enjoying the mini-family reunion here in Arusha.

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We have been taking giant steps forward and at the same time we have been hurdling big challenges and we are so grateful to the Lord for His goodness, strength, and provision over these past months. Though we carry a tremendous amount of stress, we also carry within our hearts a tremendous amount of gratitude for the many supporters that have walked this road with us.

Thank you,

Steve and Jodi

As we continue to raise funds to support our work through ICHA, your partnership is crucial! Please click the following link to donate:

**Institute for Child Healthcare Africa** ([www.ichafrika.org](http://www.ichafrika.org))



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**Institute for Child Healthcare Africa (ICHA)** arises out of a decade of innovative pediatric and neonatology work, especially in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). It is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, and a registered international non-governmental organization (NGO). Care of hospitalized newborns and children, and training of doctors and nurses, is supported through your donations.

You can see more at: [www.ichafrika.org](http://www.ichafrika.org)



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**For more information and videos:**

[ichafrika.org](http://ichafrika.org)

or

[Neonatology Africa](#)

Funds received through

**Institute for Child Healthcare Africa**

([www.ichafrika.org](http://www.ichafrika.org))

are directed in entirety towards international pediatric and neonatology training of African doctors and nurses, care of children, and the development of healthcare facilities in Tanzania.

Checks can be made out to ICHA and sent to:

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**Our personal mailing address is:**

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