



But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off  
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## About our companions

✠ The diocese in the Mara Region of **Tanzania** covers 20,074 square miles, more territory than Delaware and Maryland combined. In 1991 when the diocese was inaugurated, there were 5,551 Lutherans; today there are 12,177. In 1991, there were six pastors and 52 evangelists; today, 16 pastors and 91 evangelists. The diocese operates a hospital with 200 beds, a number that is often inadequate to meet the need. There is a Bible school that trains the evangelists and a Savings and Credit Project, the only one of its kind in East Africa.



✠ More than 5,140,000 people live in **Finland**, which is located in Northern Europe, bordering Norway and Russia. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland is strong in its ecumenical relationships and commitments to cooperation on the national as well as international level. The ELCF has eight regional dioceses, including our companion, the Tampere Diocese, which celebrated its 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2004.



✠ Just across the Gulf of Finland, in Eastern Europe between Latvia and Russia, **Estonia** has about 1,415,000 people. It covers an area slightly smaller than New Hampshire and Vermont and includes about 1,520 Baltic Sea islands. After years of repression under the Soviets, congregations are growing, and the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church has around 200,000 members. The main priorities and activities for the EELC are in the development of clergy and lay leadership. The Very Rev. Andres Põder will be installed as Estonia's new bishop in February 2005, with Bishop Knoche in attendance.



# Companion Synod *and* Diocese Sunday 2006

**For your congregation and others from the Delaware-Maryland Synod, today is set aside as a day to recommit ourselves to walking together with our international companions in Africa and Europe as partners in ministry, with each member contributing experiences, ideas, and prayers to and for the other.**

Thanks to the Companion Synod Program through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Division for Global Mission, our synod has been partnered with the Tampere Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Finland and with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Estonia for about 15 years. A similar relationship began in June 2002 with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania in Mara Diocese.

An active program of visits, mutual prayers, and communications keeps the Companion Synod relationship vibrant with all three partners. In late summer 2004, Bishop H. Gerard Knoche and a group of synod travelers spent almost two weeks in Estonia and Finland, staying in host homes, visiting ministry sites and learning about the history of faith in those two countries. They also took part in the observance of the 450th anniversary of the Tampere Diocese. In October, 2005, a delegation of six people made a similar visit to the Diocese in Mara Region.



If you're interested in learning more about our Companion Synods, contact Pr. Darrell Layman, St. Paul Church, Funkstown, Md., chair of the synod Global Mission Committee, (301)791-1738, damhlay@aol.com. To learn more about Tanzania, contact Pr. Bob Lowden, (410)752-7179, bob@lowden.org.



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A



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B

## INJILI KAMA ILIVYOANDIKWA NA MARKO 1:14-20

(The Gospel in Kiswahili)

14 Yohane alipokwisha fungwa gerezani, Yesu alikwenda Galilaya, akahubiri Habari Njema ya Mungu, akisema,

15 "Wakati umetimia, na Ufalme wa Mungu umekaribia. Tubuni na kuiamini Habari Njema!"

16 Alipokuwa anapita kando ya ziwa Galilaya, aliwaona wavuvi wawili: Simoni na Andrea ndugu yake wakivua samaki kwa wavu.

17 Yesu akawaambia, "Nifuateni nami nitawafanya ninyi wavuvi wa watu."

18 Mara wakaziacha nyavu zao, wakamfuata.

19 Alipokwenda mbele kidogo, aliwaona Yakobo na Yohane, wana wa Zebedayo. Nao pia walikuwa ndani ya mashua yao wakizitengeneza nyavu zao.

20 Yesu akawaita mara, nao wakamwacha baba yao Zebedayo katika mashua pamoja na wafanyakazi, wakamfuata.

Generally, every letter is pronounced. If a letter is written twice, it is extended into two syllables. The stress almost always falls on the second-to-last syllable. Vowels sound like French or Spanish vowels.

## Mark 1, 14-20

(The Gospel in Estonian)

14 Aga pärast seda, kui Johannes oli pandud vangi, tuli Jeesus Galileasse ja kuulutas Jumala Evangeeliumi

15 ja ütles: „Aeg on täis saanud ja Jumala Riik on lähedal, parandage meelt ja uskuge Evangeeliumisse!”

16 Ja kui Ta Galilea mere ääres k

17 Ja Jeesus ütles neile: „Tulge Minu järele ja Ma teen teist inimesepüüdjad!”

18 Ja sedamaid jätsid nad v

19 Ja pisut eemale minnes nägi Ta Jaakobust, Sebedeuse poega, ja Johannest, ta venda, neidki paadis v

20 Ja kohe kutsus Ta nad. Ja nad jätsid oma isa Sebedeuse paati ühes palgalistega ning läksid ära Tema järele.

There are 23 letters in the basic Estonian alphabet. Vowels may be pronounced many different ways, depending on which of three degrees they represent. Most consonants are similar to English, with *j* always pronounced like *y*. The stress on all true Estonian words is on the first syllable.

## Evangeliumi Markuksen mukaan 1:14-20

(The Gospel in Finnish)

### Jeesus julistaa evankeliumia

14 Kun Johannes oli vangittu, Jeesus palasi Galileaan ja julisti Jumalan evankeliumia.

15 Hän sanoi: "Aika on täyttynyt, Jumalan valtakunta on tullut lähelle. Kääntykää ja uskokaa hyvä sanoma!"

### Ensimmäiset opetuslapset

16 Kun Jeesus kulki Galileanjärven rantaan, hän näki Simonin ja tämän veljen Andreaksen. He olivat järvellä kalastamassa heittoverkolla; he olivat näet kalastajia.

17 Jeesus sanoi heille: "Lähtekää minun mukaani. Minä teen teistä ihmisten kalastajia."

18 He jättivät heti verkkonsa ja lähtivät seuraamaan Jeesusta.

19 Jonkin matkaa kuljettuaan Jeesus näki Jaakobin, Sebedeuksen pojan, ja hänen veljensä Johanneksen. Hekin olivat veneessä, verkkojaan selvittelemässä.

20 Jeesus kutsui heti heidät. He jättivät isänsä Sebedeuksen ja tämän palkkalaiset veneeseen ja lähtivät seuraamaan Jeesusta.

Finnish is very difficult to learn. There is only one sound for each of its 13 consonants and eight vowels, and only one letter for every sound. The stress is always on the first syllable.



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