



*SIGN Field Reports
take you with us as
we walk the world!*

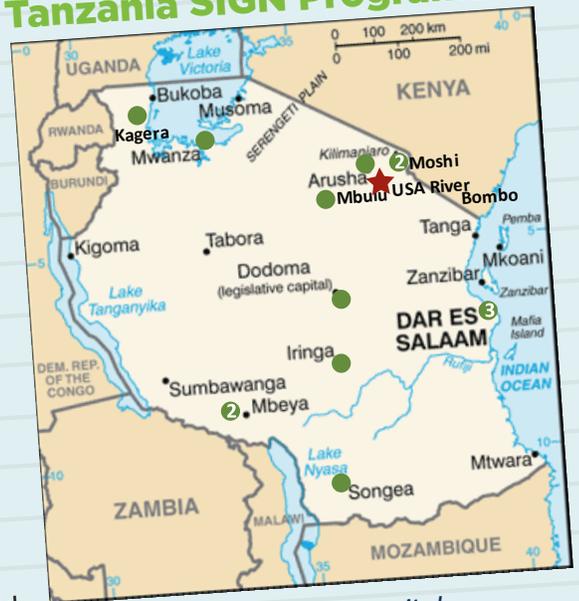
Tanzania: Nkoaranga Lutheran Hospital

The Burden of Trauma

Dr. Sam Kiwesa feels the burden of trauma every day at Nkoaranga Lutheran Hospital in Arusha, northern Tanzania. The hospital is located on a hill above the busy A23 Highway that connects Arusha to Dar es Salaam, the capital city, and neighboring Kenya. Every day patients come in directly following a road traffic accident, but more commonly they come in from nearby hospitals that do not have the facilities to care for fracture patients. Sometimes the patients are untreated and lie in pain for a week or more before their family finds out about Dr. Sam and the 'magic nail' for healing.

Dr. Sam was first trained as a general surgeon, but once in practice he kept seeing the terrible fractures caused by road traffic accidents. He completed an additional residency for orthopaedics so he could provide orthopaedic care. Dr. Sam is dedicated to his patients and is a talented surgeon. *(continued on back page)*

Tanzania SIGN Programs



- ★ Nkoaranga Lutheran Hospital
- Other SIGN Programs in Tanzania



Traffic on A23 Highway is often a dangerous mix of buses, motorbikes, & pedestrians.

Tanzania: Nkoaranga Lutheran Hospital

Field Report



When patients arrive at Nkoaranga a week after injury, the treatment is more difficult and painful.

(continued from front page) During our recent visit, a patient was brought into the ER by his brothers following a traffic accident. This patient had been injured a week prior and lay in a hospital with open wounds, which had not been cleaned.

That facility did not have the trained personnel to care for the severity of his injuries. It took a week for the family to learn where they could take their brother to get definitive treatment. Dr. Sam was frustrated to see the infected wounds and fractures that had not yet been set into proper alignment. He wondered aloud why the doctors had not sent the patient to him within 24 hours, when the job of cleaning his wounds and setting his leg would have taken a couple of hours. Now the surgery and the patient's recovery will take significantly longer.

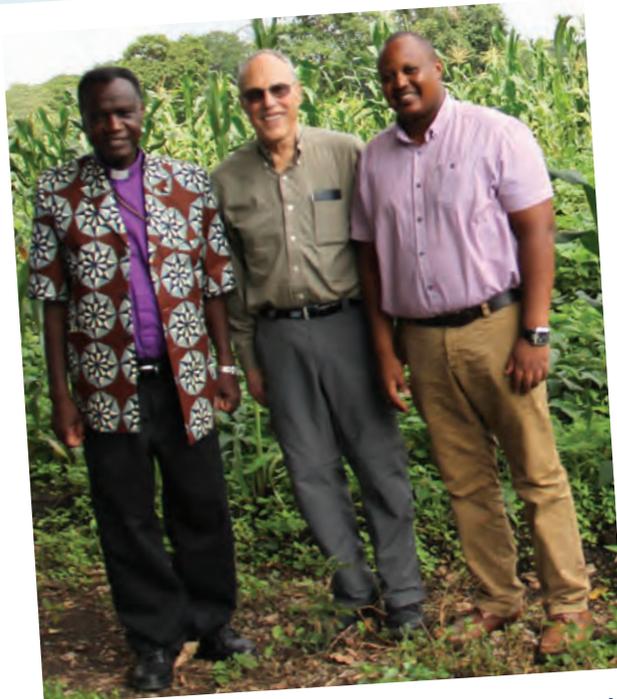
Dr. Sam dreamed aloud of a hospital located on the highway that would become the first hospital families and other clinics would think of to refer their trauma cases. That dream is beginning to come true.

Bishop Elias Kitoi Nasari is the local Lutheran Bishop and has a heart to serve the poor. He is 100 percent behind Dr. Sam's dream and has already promised the land to build a trauma center. Dr. Sam is working with an architect to design a three-story facility that

will include three operating rooms, emergency and triage care, physical therapy, and six-bed wards each for men, women, and children.

We received news that on May 6, a bus traveling on a steep, remote stretch of highway in Arusha crashed into a ravine, killing 35 passengers, including 32 students. *"As we are praying for quick recovery of these kids, I think this tragedy can be used to explain the need of having a trauma center in our area,"* Dr. Sam says.

Dr. Sam is one of SIGN's emerging leaders because he has the heart and vision to improve trauma care in his community. We are proud to partner with him and help him achieve his dreams.



Bishop Elias Kitoi Nasari (left), Dr. Zirkle, and Dr. Sam Kiwesa (right) stand on the site of the future trauma center.