

GREETINGS BY REV. ULRICH ECKERT ON BEHALF OF GAIMERSHEIM PARISH ON THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW CHURCH BUILDING OF KILAKALA ELCT PARISH ON 01.09.2019

Praise be to the Lord! Dear sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ.

Our life is similar to a big “safari”, a big travelling. Our life as Christians is, also according to the Bible, a big blessed “safari”. A safari inspired by the Holy Spirit as our tour guide.

We have to cross dangerous roads. We have to face problems at work, in our families, in our country, and also in our churches. We can experience and discover many new things during our safari. Our final destination in this “safari” is the real presence of Jesus Christ in His kingdom. But also here on the Earth, we can be blessed on our trip and become a blessing for our neighbors and fellows.

During a safari/trip, beside a good tour guide, we do really need also some rest places. Where we have shadow, water, food, fellowship and can get our energies restored. So we can continue the way well equipped with what is needed for the trip.

Maybe you are fearing that I will tell you now something about the great safari we have had during the last two weeks, first here around Kilakala and Morogoro, and then up to Iringa, Mbeya and even Lake Nyasa.

But, I will not. I’m using the example of the safari and of the rest place in relation to the inauguration of this new place of prayer, of worship and of Christian fellowship and witness. Because this house is supposed to be a rest place. It is supposed to be a place where people meet around the word of God and get restored in order to face their daily life challenges, sorrows and joys. It is supposed to be a special place of praise to God, of forgiveness of sins and of celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

For us as guests, but let me say: as your sisters and brothers in Christ, it is a big honor to be here today while you are inaugurating this church, this rest place, this house of prayer. (As our new church building is getting 20 years old next October and we will remember its foundation,) (so) we can experience how important a new church building can be in order to build the church of Christ which is build not with bricks but built with faithful believers.

So, sharing the word of God’s love and grace, we wish you that God may bless you richly while coming to this house of prayer, to this rest place, and while going back home or to work or at school or to hospital or wherever you will go. Have a blessed “safari” – in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Wapendwa ndugu zangu katika Kristo Yesu, Bwana Yesu Asifiwe!

Maisha yetu yanafanana na “safari” kubwa, safari ya mwendo mrefu. Pia, maisha yetu kama Wakristo, kwa mujibu wa Biblia, ni safari kubwa iliyobarikiwa. Safari ambayo inatiwa msukumo na Roho Mtakatifu. Roho Mtakatifu akiwa ndiye mwongozaji wa safari yetu.

Hatuna budi kuvuka barabara zenye hatari. Hatuna budi kukabiliana na changamoto katika kazi zetu, katika familia zetu, katika nchi yetu, na pia katika makanisa yetu. Tunaweza pia kupata uzoefu katika maisha na kugundua vitu vingi vipya wakati wa safari yetu. Kituo chetu cha mwisho katika safari hii, ni uwepo halisi wa Yesu Kristo katika Ufalme wake. Aidha hapa Duniani, tunaweza kubarikiwa katika safari yetu na tukawa pia Baraka kwa majirani na jamaa zetu.

Wakati wa safari, pamoja na kuwa na mwongozaji mzuri wa kusafiri kwetu, tunahitaji kwa uhakika kuwa pia na vituo vya pumziko. Mahali tunapokuta kivuli, maji, chakula, udugu na kupata kuhuishwa nguvu zetu. Na kwa jinsi hiyo, tuweze kuendelea na safari tukiwa tumesheheni vizuri zana zinazohitajika.

Huenda unapata hofu kwamba sasa nitakwambia kitu fulani kuhusu safari kuu ambayo tumekuwa nayo katika majuma mawili yaliyopita, kwanza kuzungukia maeneo ya hapa Kilakala na Morogoro, na kisha mwendo mzima mpaka Iringa, Mbeya na hata Ziwa Nyasa.

Lakini, sitafanya hivyo. Ninatumia mfano huu wa safari na vituo vya pumziko kwa kuuhusisha na uzinduzi wa mahali hapa papyrus pa sala, mahali pa ibada, ushirika na ushuhuda. Kwa vile nyumba hii inapaswa kuwa kituo cha pumziko. Panapaswa kuwa mahali ambapo watu wanakutana wakiwa wamelizunguka neno la Mungu na kupata kuhuishwa ili waweze kukabiliana na changamoto zao za kila siku za maisha, huzuni na furaha. Panapaswa kuwa mahali maalumu pa kumtukuzia Mungu, mahali pa msamaha wa dhambi na pa kuadhimishia Sakramenti ya Bwana.

Kwetu sisi kama wageni, lakini kwa usahihi zaidi ngoja niseme, kwetu sisi kama ndugu zenu katika Kristo, ni heshima kubwa kuwepo hapa leo wakati mnapozindua Kanisa hili, kituo cha pumziko, nyumba hii ya ibada. (Wakati jengo jipya la Kanisa letu litatimiza miaka 20 Oktoba ijayo na tutaokumbuka msingi wake) ili tuweze kuzingatia umuhimu wa jengo jipya la Kanisa katika kujenga Kanisa la Kristo ambalo halijengwi kwa matofali bali linajengwa kwa waumini waaminifu.

Kwa hiyo, kwa kushirikishana neno la upendo na neema za Mungu, tunawatakia Mungu apende kuwabariki kwa wingi mnapokuwa mnakuja kwenye nyumba hii ya ibada, mahali hapa pa pumziko, na hali kadhalika mnapokuwa mnarudi nyumbani au mnakwenda kazini au mnakwenda shuleni au hospitalini au mahali popote mtakakokwenda. **Muwe na “safari” yenye Baraka – katika Jina la Yesu Kristo, Bwana wetu. Amen.**