

2018 Day of Grace

The Day of Grace Program (DoG) is an annual two-day program, which focuses upon caring for pastors and evangelists in the Iringa Diocese. Pastoral ministry in Iringa means sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and caring for hundreds of parishioners which often involves challenging conditions. Disease, death, lack of infrastructure, limited resources and the never-ending high expectations of time and energy are constant stressors on pastors and their families. **The Day of Grace Program** provides a respite from the enormous daily demands and challenges of parish ministry in which the pastors and evangelists are invited to simply “be present” and receive the gift of grace through others (at no cost to participants).

The Day of Grace Program is intended to promote health, wholeness and well-being which includes:

- (1) Affirmation and appreciation of pastors and evangelists
- (2) Opportunities for fellowship and worship with friends and colleagues
- (3) Physical care and promoting personal well-being (including a physical health assessment by local physicians)
- (4) Presentations, lectures and teaching (large and small group)

Day of Grace Program Facts:

*A *Day of Grace Program* was held in Iringa in 2012 and 2013. The DoG Program was brought to DIRA District villages (2 villages each year) from 2014-2017.

*Since *The Day of Grace Program* began in 2012 over 1,200 pastors, evangelists, pastor’s spouses and DIRA Staff have participated in the program.

*All pastors and evangelists are invited to an annual *Day of Grace Program*. Participation includes all congregations in the Iringa Diocese, not just those partnered with BKB.

*In the past 6 years, DIRA pastors have been invited to participate in at least two programs; pastor’s spouses, evangelists and DIRA Staff have participated in one.

**The Day of Grace Program* offers a physical assessment, medical testing, preliminary diagnosis and medications as needed by participants. Ongoing medical follow-up and care is suggested for those with medical issues.

*98 cents of every dollar donation goes directly into *The Day of Grace Program*.

*The *2017 Day of Grace Program* served two DIRA Districts and over 300 pastors and evangelists at Bomalagombe and Ilula parishes,

2018 Day of Grace Program Plans

*Beginning in 2018 *The Day of Grace Program* will return to Iringa for a single event. Pastors and their spouses from two DIRA Districts will be invited to attend each year.

*The keynote presentations for 2018-20 will be on: Marriage and Family.

*The medical focus and lecture will be on breast and prostate cancer.

*Trained pastoral counseling will be available to participants (new in 2018). *Morning prayer, worship, and music by local choirs will be joyfully offered. DIRA leaders will be available for consultation.

The Day of Grace Program Team includes: Bishop Blastone Gavile, Rev. Lusungu Msigwa, Rev. Himida Sagga, Nayman Chavala, Dr. Yumfa Sovelo, Dr. Barnabus Kahwage, Dr. Mifwimi Saga; Beth and Rev. Tom Hansen, Betty and Jim Wolf, Carol and Rev. Gary Langness.

The Day of Grace Program is a partnership between the ELCA: St Paul Area Synod ; SPAS and the ELCT (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania); Diocese of Iringa; DIRA and is graciously supported through individual donations. For further information contact Beth and Tom Hansen:

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