

## **2020 Day of Grace Update**

**The Day of Grace Program (DoG)** is an annual two-day program which focuses upon caring for pastors and evangelists in the Iringa Diocese. With limited resources and never ending demands of time and energy, pastors and evangelists have little time for themselves and their families. **The Day of Grace Program** provides a respite from the daily 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 Diocese of Iringa (DIRA) villages (2 villages each year) from 2014-2017 and returned to Iringa in 2018.

\*All pastors and evangelists are invited to an annual *Day of Grace Program*. All congregations in the Iringa Diocese are invited to participate, not only those partnered with St. Paul Area Synod churches.

\*Since *The Day of Grace Program* began in 2012 over 1,400 pastors, evangelists, pastor's spouses and DIRA Staff have participated in the program.

\*In the past 7 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*.

\*There was no *Day of Grace Program* in 2020, however God willing, *DoG* will return in 2021.

### **2019 Day of Grace Program**

\**The Day of Grace Program* returned to Iringa (Kihesa) in 2019. Pastors and their spouses from the East and West DIRA Districts were invited to attend.

\*The keynote presentations for 2019 were on: Marriage and Family.

\*The medical focus and lecture was on breast and prostate cancer.

\* A \$2,000/year Emergency Fund for transport to hospitals/care was initiated.

\*Morning prayer, worship, and music by local choirs were joyfully offered. DIRA leaders were available for consultation.

\*There was reimbursement of all travel and accommodation expenses of participants.

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

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