



BEGA KWA BEGA COMPANION CONGREGATION SCHOLARSHIPS

One of the largest and most impactful projects we undertake together as companions is providing secondary scholarships for students in our companion parishes. The gift of education changes lives for not just a single student, but the benefits ripple out to touch the lives of their extended family, congregation, community, and country. *Tupo Pamoja*. We are together.

The process begins with a pledge. Bega Kwa Bega congregations in the Saint Paul Area Synod are asked each year to pledge an amount for student scholarships. Some congregations give \$1000, and many contribute much more. The cost to support one student for one year ranges from \$400 to \$600.

Parishes select students and set award amounts. Parish partnership committees receive requests for support from students and parents within the parish. Using criteria agreed upon by the synod and diocese, students may be awarded 100%, 70% or 50% of their tuition fees. The criteria take into account the student's family situation and financial need. Funds can be used to send students to secondary school, vocational school, and to some college certificate programs. Some parishes use a portion of their budget to fund classes for evangelists.

Students report to school each January and the BKB team verifies enrollment. Each January and July, representatives from the diocese and the synod visit the six diocese schools together. They verify student data, take photos, and greet students on behalf of the companion congregations that are supporting them with funds and prayers.

Once enrollment is verified, scholarship payments are made to the schools. Each BKB – SPAS congregation has a Scholarship account in our system. Payments are made in bulk for students attending the diocese schools. For students attending government schools, payment is made when the parish pastor brings the request to the BKB office.

Student lists and payment records are available to congregations. Sometimes we receive letters from students, which are passed along to congregations to share with donors. Request these reports from the Director of Bega Kwa Bega or from your Cluster Leader.

We love to collect success stories! When congregations visit their companion parishes, or when congregations communicate through email or video calls, we encourage them to ask about students. Where are the graduates now? We know that the beneficiaries of BKB Scholarships are teachers, pastors, headmasters, nurses, doctors, medical technicians, and working in banking, business, government, and in the national park system. *Bwana Yesu Asifiwe!* [Praise the Lord Jesus!]