

Dr. Theresia Mepukor Laizer, Tanzania

After completing her Masters in Pediatric and Child Health and reporting back to work at **Selian Lutheran Hospital**, Tanzania, Dr. Theresia was assigned to be the Chairperson of Selian's Quality Improvement Committee. In that role, she has helped the hospital improve its quality of service and customer care with weekly staff training and implementation of SAFE CARE guidelines. An excellent pediatrician, Dr. Theresia's work with young patients brings comfort and healing, including to a girl brought to Selian by her parents from their home in southern Tanzania. She had suffered for many years with an abdominal tumor until Dr. Theresia provided proper diagnosis and treatment. Dr. Theresia is the mother of two young sons, one of whom was born premature and struggles with severe cerebral palsy. She herself was born into a polygamous Maasai family and lost her own mother at the age of 2. Raised by her Maasai community she had the opportunity to attend the Maasai Girls Lutheran Secondary School where she was baptized as a Christian and her ambition to be a doctor was raised.

Dr. Theresia's story is a celebration of the everyday miracle of education, and its power to transform not only individuals but communities as well.

Nominated by: Dr. Amon Israel Marti

