

# MY LORD GOD / BWANA MUNGA WANGU

by **Thomas Merton**

Translated from English into Swahili by Sr. Christa Kimashi & Sr. Frieda Kisaka

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April 8, 1993, will mark the thirty-fifth anniversary of the publication of Thomas Merton's *Thoughts in Solitude*. Originally titled *Thirty-seven Meditations*, it contains his most popular and frequently reprinted prayer, called "My Lord God" or "The Road Ahead." The translation of this prayer into Swahili is the first translation of Merton into an African language which has reached the Thomas Merton Center.

## MY LORD GOD,

I have no idea where I am going.  
I do not see the road ahead of me.  
I cannot know for certain  
where it will end.  
Nor do I really know myself,  
and the fact that I think that I am  
following your will does not mean  
that I am actually doing so.  
But I believe that the desire to  
please you does in fact please you.  
And I hope I have that desire  
in all that I am doing.  
I hope that I will never do anything  
apart from that desire.  
And I know that if I do this  
you will lead me by the right road  
though I may know nothing about it.  
Therefore will I trust you always  
though I may seem to be lost  
and in the shadow of death.  
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,  
and you will never leave me  
to face my perils alone. Amen.

## BWANA MUNGA WANGU,

sijui niendako, nashindwa kuiona  
njia mbele yangu, wala siwezi kujua kwa  
hakika kwanba njia hiyo itakomea wapi.  
Kwa kweli hata mimi mwenyewe  
sijifahamu, na yale ambayo nafikiri  
nafanya kufuatana na mapenzi yako,  
inaonekana sina hakika nayo.  
Lakini naamini kwamba  
tamaa ya kukupendeze  
wewe kwa kweli inakupendeza.  
Natumaini kwaba ninayo tamaa hiyo  
katika yote nifanyayo.  
Naamini kwamba sitafanya lolote nje  
ya tamaa hiyo, na kama nikifanya hivyo.  
Wewe utaniongoza katika njia iliyo  
sawa ingawa sijui lo lote.  
Kwa hiyo nitakuamini daima  
ingawa naweza kuonekana kupotea  
katika kivuli cha mauti.  
Sitaogopa kamwe kwa kuwa wewe  
ipo pamoja nami daima,  
na wala hutaniacha katika  
hatari peke yangu. Amina.

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**Sister Christa Kimashi** and **Sister Frieda Kisaka** are sisters of the Congregation of Our Lady of Usambara in Tanzania. They are currently studying at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York, and are completing four years of college work in three years. They translated this prayer as one of their assignments in a Merton course they took at the college. They hope to translate all of Merton's *Thoughts in Solitude* into Swahili.