

MY LORD GOD / BWANA MUNGA WANGU

by **Thomas Merton**

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

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.

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.