



**Mission among**  
**Children and Youth**  
**in Tanzania**

September 2018



Led by missionary couple Tabitha og Torkild Jensen stationed by Betania Kirkecenters Ydremission



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## Dear faithful friends,

We are back in Tanzania and in full swing working again. Our staff gave us a magnificent welcome, not only with a lot of hugs, but also with a beautiful flower decoration and a delicious dinner for 19. Our staff expressed how much they had missed us. We are thankful that our faithful staff had taken good care of everything in our absence.

To you, dear friends we just want to say Thank You for giving us a tremendous time in Denmark. Thank you so much for receiving us in the churches, in the home groups, and through private visits. All of this makes us feel so welcome and shows us that we are truly sent by you to Tanzania.



We enjoyed the last days in Denmark with our children, children-in-law and grandchildren. We borrowed a summer cottage from good friends for about a week at the west coast of Denmark. Tabitha enjoyed teaching our grandchildren to play croquet, and it was a big success. The weather was perfect during this time – almost like being in Africa.

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## Kicked out

Shortly before travelling to Denmark we had a children's crusade in a village with very few Christians; the population was predominantly Muslim. Also, there were a lot of Somalis at the village who had come as refugees, but were not Tanzanian citizens. We were all in great expectation for this crusade. Especially the local church was in great anticipation and had prayed a lot for this outreach. The meetings started as usual on Wednesday afternoon and with a film in the evening. The police permission had been received and everything was fine. But Friday morning while eating breakfast we got an unexpected call from the police. They asked us to come with them to the police station, which we did. The message was for us to pack down all equipment and to leave town immediately. We were in shock. The police said



they had received the order from their boss and we had to obey. What we found out was that some Christian religious fanatics did not want our presence. They had called the police commissioner of the region and said that we were troublemakers and that we were creating dissension – all of it of course a lie. We packed out gear and got ready to leave the place, disappointed.

Just as we were about to leave, four Muslim mothers in burkas came up to us and asked, “Why are you packing?” We explained why and they said, “We are so sorry to hear that because we are so pleased about what you are doing for our children. We have sent our children to the meetings every day and we too have been there. We like what you are telling them.” Nothing hurts as when Christians attack other Christians instead of cooperating. We have no reason to attack one other – on

the contrary. We should stand shoulder to shoulder and bring out the gospel.





## Aid to the Masai people

Mirjam is working very intensely distributing aid to the Masai children. We asked her to share about the latest distribution of baby food.

### Mirjam shares:

“In June we began our new project, “Baby Food”. The children in the Masai district are very undernourished so we were contacted by the local authorities with a request to help the most vulnerable children. We have therefore applied for support in a three month trial period. After this, we will evaluate the effect on the children.

The children are aged 0-2 years and we have 200 children in the program. All of them were weighed before the start. It was quite a project, but it was successful.

Before the food distribution the mothers were trained by a nutrition expert of how to make this special gruel and the children had a taste. The mothers were told that 1 kg of this was equivalent to 3 kg meat or 72 eggs. They were also told what proteins were in the mixture, which were building the health of the children. The mothers gave a really good response and asked many relevant questions. We were happy that they participated so actively.

The women stood patiently and waited as their names were called so as they could take home the food. Every child got 3 kg, which would last for three weeks. We are a team that supervise the project and distribute a new portion of food every third week. According to the latest evaluations, the project seems to be a success and it is my prayer that we receive enough funds to start up in other Masai districts. We will work one year in every place to make sure that the children get healthy. The

doctors that we work with have asked us if we can help children up to 5 years as they are undernourished and a very vulnerable group.

Please pray that this will be a success and that God will help the little undernourished ones to get a better start in life. Thank you also for praying for funds as it is quite expensive to run this project. And last, but not least: THANK YOU for praying for the team and for me that God gives us energy and protects us as we set out on these long and demanding trips.

1 kg of this mixture is 10 DKK so for one child it is 520 DKK per year. If anyone wants to support food to these 200 children please pay your gift to our account, which is

Account name: Betania Kirkecenters Ydremission  
IBAN no. DK7097120741793075  
Bank name: Den Jyske Sparekasse, Borgergade 3,  
7200 Grindsted  
Swift/BIC code: JYSPDK2G  
**- and mark it “Bjerre Mission – Baby Food”**

Per and I very much appreciate your support.

**Love from Mirjam”**







## Church dedications

Our German friend, Friedhelm, and Torkild have been on a two weeks long tour in Mid and South Tanzania. They have had 8 church dedications and also been inspecting 12 new church projects. It has been a great joy to see the beautiful churches that were dedicated. It is always such a blessing to see people happy and thank-

ful; to see them praising and thanking the Lord for their new church.

One of the new church projects that we visited at this tour was a place where we had crusades about two years ago. We called the pastor and said we would like to stop by and see how far their church construction was coming because there were good chances that Friedhelm would help them finish it. Two years earlier



*A lot of food is being prepared for these church dedications as it is a celebration for all.*



*A boy takes a bath in a water hole before church dedication.*





when we were visiting, there was only a small church with about 20 members. The pastor told us joyfully that at the moment they had 80-90 members and 110 children in Sunday school. It was glorious to see what God had done in the meantime. Many of the church members and a lot of children came out. They stood in a procession receiving us – the children cheering when they saw that Torkild was back. It was such a happy day with the village, the church members, and the children. Friedhelm was very moved to see all of this and to hear about the growth since the children's crusade. He decided to help them finish the church – and the news caused great joy.

Two tired, but happy men arrived home after a very successful trip.



## Grace

Grace is one of my favorite students who are now in 8th grade. We have supported her schooling for 10 years. One day Grace turned almost mute having a hard time to talk. During some time she had had difficulties, but now the situation worsened. Grace cried very much, being so sad. We sent her to the hospital and they discovered that the tongue had gotten stuck in her mouth and could not move when she talked. It would take surgery to loosen the tongue. We decided for her to get surgery. A few days later she was discharged from hospital and she came with her mother to thank us. Never have I experienced a girl this happy, because now she was able to talk normally again. Praise the Lord. I don't think I have ever been given as many hugs and kisses as I received from Grace that day. They were both so grateful for our help. Thank you so much, those of you that helped support this surgery. May the Lord Jesus richly bless you. The girl is now back in the boarding school where she is a student.

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with us and asked if we were able to take the girl into our Love Home and into a good school.

The name of the girl is Winne, barely 4 years old, but old enough to start kindergarten. I hope some would want to help this little girl so that we can move her quickly. There is an urgent need for help as the girl is often sick with a cold or pneumonia. The family she is staying with lives in a mud hut. It is moist and has an unhealthy indoor climate. And they cannot afford sending the girl to a doctor.

Torkild and I want to thank you so much for all your faithfulness over so many years. Thank you for your prayers and for supporting the ministry. May the Lord Jesus bless you and reward you 100 fold.

### **Much love from Torkild and Tabitha**

## **A poor little girl**

We have had company of a little girl living under very poor circumstances. Her parents are divorced and the father is unfortunately invalid and totally unable to work. For several years he had been digging wells and had been standing in cold water to the knees day in and day out. The doctors think this can be the reason for his illness. The mother is mentally sick, gets frequent fits and is sometimes seen running around the village naked. This little girl has moved in with another poor family who really cannot afford having her. The aunt got in touch

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