



# Mission among Children and Youth in Tanzania

March 2019



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



Take a glass and fill it to the brim with water – and then a little more. The water overflows. This is how Christians may experience the blessings of God in their lives. He or she always has something to give to others. John 7:38 says, “He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” I believe we are living in a time when we need to be filled with the living water of God so that we have energy to help others. So many need an encouragement and a helping hand and all of us are usable.

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## The triplet mother

It is now about a year ago since we first met the triplet mother and her 7 children in the Masai district. I believe you all remember the story of how we found her as we were handing out maize. We arranged for her and the children to come with us to Arusha where we got them a home and gave them nourishing food. Later they were hospitalized as the children were undernourished and needed food supplements. They were in hospital for quite some time and then the authorities took over and we lost contact with them.



Now a year later, Mirjam has begun handing out baby food to small children from 6 months up to 2½ years in their village, Matala. One of Mirjams team members set out a few of days ahead of time to prepare the distribution. He looked for the hut of the triplet mother and found her at a neighbor’s house. Her own hut had become so bad that she could not live there. The authorities had given her some lumber and roof planks for a new hut. The neighbors helped her build a dirt hut and put on roof tiles. But there was still no door and therefore it was a risky place to live since snakes, creeps and other wild animals could enter. When we heard about the situation we immediately decided to send money for a door. Now the mother and the children live in their own little hut.

The triplets’ situation is promising. The children are thriving. They play with each other and run around. We know that God helped this family and we want to thank those of you who helped this mother so that we were able to give her urgent help. The life of this family is totally changed because of your love and care.





During Christmas we had a wonderful visit of my two sisters, Anna and Kamma, and Kamma's husband, Poul Ejvind. Torkild wanted to show them the Masai village, Matala. The trip went through beautiful nature with wild animals. On Sunday morning they attended a service in the small local church. Who sat in the church with all her children? The triplet mother did. The wonderful thing is that the mother surrendered her life to Jesus and she is giving HIM the honor for the survival of the triplets.

My older sister Anna was visiting us for the very first time. She was deeply moved by what we were doing and not the least among the Masais. Poul Ejvind and Kamma were here for the third time. It is beyond description the joy it was to spend Christmas and New Year with them. So many years since we did that last time.

It was unforgettable days to all of us. We remember them with a lot of gratitude.



## Church initiations

We have had another round with church initiations. Six villages have been blessed with a new church building thanks to our German friend, Friedhelm.

One of the places was at the Barabaig tribe. This tribe is an indigenous people whom others were very fearful of because of their warlike attitude. But by the grace of God, many have heard the gospel of Jesus Christ and have received Him as their Savior. It is so special to see these people's excitement of their new church building.

Torkild was away on a children's crusade in a village where they had begun a church construction, but because of lack of funds it had been stagnant for a very long time. He then turned to Friedhelm for help who immediately decided to help finish the church. The church was among the six churches that were initiated.

During the crusade he realized that the pastor's family was very poor.

Their clothes were torn and worn although they had put on their best clothes. Torkild gave them some money for food and clothes. See how great they looked at the church initiation.



## Dear friends,

How time flies, but how wonderful to be able to help and see what a difference it makes. I continue taking baby food to the children in Matala. It is a four hour drive each way and much of it on a very bad road. We have done Project Baby Food for three months and we are now in the situation that there are no more funds to continue doing it. When we started up we were told that 248 children had an urgent need for help, but now it appears that a more correct number is 300 in the age group 6 months to 2½ years. There is a surprising number of triplets out there and unfortunately also quite a lot of sick children. For some time we have been supporting children with medical care as there is no medical treatment in Masai land. This means that they need to go to Arusha for help.



The boy, Lyesu, is nine years old, but at the age of four he fell and hurt his head and the parents were not able to get him to a doctor. When we met him he had turned five and he had been living with an untreated brain damage. What a sad

sight. He looked like a drunk. He was unable to stand (no balance), he could not talk, made merely sounds and he was drooling constantly. After having received treatment he has begun talking and smiling, he is more active and is not drooling so much anymore. He will never become like before, but great progress has been made thanks to healthy food and professional treatment. We have gotten him into a treatment center for two weeks in June and if he makes further progress he will get another three months in September. All of this is costly and in faith we have accepted supporting him. If any of you would like to help, please earmark the amount "LEYESU".



The pastor in the region where we work has introduced us to this boy whom I have decided to take to Arusha as I found a children's hospital where they can straighten his legs. It means that he will be able to walk normally again and become a "normal" child that runs and plays football with his friends instead of sitting and watching.

It moves my heart to see children that could have been helped but who does not get any help because of poverty. The consequence is that they live with handicaps for the rest of their lives.

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Bank name: Den Jyske Sparekasse, Borgergade 3,  
7200 Grindsted

Swift/BIC code: JYSPDK2G

**- and mark it "Bjerre Mission – Baby Food"**

Thank you so much for your compassion and your support. May the Lord bless you!

**Love,  
Per and Mirjam**





## The emergency aid

We need words to express our joy and gratitude when it comes to your support of our need for maize. Due to your donations we were able to buy 40 tons of maize before prices went up. We recently bought an additional 9 tons of maize at a reasonable price.

At one of the places where we handed out maize we met a mother and her two children. She and the children looked tired and hopeless. As they received a portion of maize their faces lit up with hope. Even older men looked joyful and we had a good talk about life. The pictures speak for themselves. Thank you for your willingness to help us reach people in need. Because of your help they see the love of God. Their big smiles reveal a heart full of gratitude.

## School dining room

The school is expanding and the number of students is now almost 300. This means that the dining room has become too small. Therefore we have begun expanding it. Since the school campus is not very large we decided to build the dining room in two storeys. This increases the price of the project as a lot of iron and cement is needed. Unfortunately, the price for iron and cement has gone up so it will become much more costly than first calculated. We still need a railing for the 1st floor so that the children do not fall down, and lumber and roofing is needed as well. We have an urgent need to finish the dining room.

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## Our daughter, Dorrit



On 24th January we became grandparents again. Dorrit and Troels Henrik had another lovely little baby boy. Unfortunately he was born way too early. He was due to be born at the middle of March. One day, Dorrit could not feel any life and she hurried to the doctor who did an ultrasound scan. It appeared that the umbilical cord was three times around the baby's neck. A quick cesarean was made to save his life. Weight was only 1460 grams and length 44 centimeters. Mother, father and child are all doing okay and the baby boy is gaining weight. Three weeks after the birth his weight was 2070 grams. A miracle baby.



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## Volunteers

We have the privilege that four young volunteers are staying with us at the moment, one being our grandchild Rebekka and her boyfriend Tobias. Rebekka became a nurse graduate in January of last year and few days later they both left for Tanzania.

The other two volunteers are Charlotte and Huemac and it is quite special for us to have them. As children they heard a lot about us when they attended Sunday

school at their church in Copenhagen. For many years it was their dream to come and see us and be a part of our ministry.

All four of them are a great help. The children and the teachers appreciate their assistance.

At this moment we have the company of four ladies from our home neighborhood. We are pleased to be able to show them what we do. We love having old friends visiting – some of them from the time we lived at Karstoft.



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## A poor pastor's family

We recently went to see a very poor pastor's family. The family has three children.

As a young man the father worked in a goldmine. However, about 20 years ago a serious accident happened. The mine collapsed and all his colleagues died. He was the only survivor. He was stuck in the mine for a long time before they managed to dig him free. Unfortunately, the doctors had to amputate one of his legs.

He uses crutches, but has a hard time getting around. He told us his testimony of how God called him to become a pastor while he was stuck in the mine shaft. At every chance he witnesses to others about the protection of God and angels watching over him during and after the accident.

But life is just hard as he is not able to work physically and his wife is unemployed. They do not beg for money, but they really need help for their three boys. They are in school and need school uniforms, shoes and books. We have calculated that all three children can stay at school if we can help with 3,000 DKK a year.



Dear beloved friends, we want to thank you so much for always supporting us when it comes to our ministry among children and youth in Tanzania. May the Lord God richly bless you for your readiness to stand with us.

**Much love from,  
Torkild and Tabitha**

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