



Mission among Children and Youth in Tanzania

December 2014 



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



Dear beloved friends!



We have just had a wonderful time with a group of 15 people from Denmark.

Our mission treasurer, Willy, and his wife, Marie, were in charge of the tour, which made it easy for us, and good and safe for the participants. The visit was a great encouragement to us and we sensed that there were people in the group that would help lift us up in prayer in future.

Included in the group were two of Tabitha's nieces, Vivi and Charlotte, and their husbands. The original plan was that Vivi and Charlotte would go without their

husbands, because Africa seemed to be too far away to the men. But at the last minute they decided to join and it was an unforgettable experience for them all. As they said, it is quite another thing to see the ministry and the country than to just hear people talk about it!

Many may have some concerns about the various bugs that are out here and the tremendous poverty, but once they are here, they can better relate to it all.

The vast majority of those who come to visit, leave with a positive experience and a better understanding of the work and the opportunities to help make a difference for all the needy the people.

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I would like to quote a bit of what Charlotte wrote in our guest book:

"Thank you for three amazing weeks! It has been an awesome experience to be with you. I have been deeply impressed. Words are very poor! You make such a big difference when you reach out to people. Seeing and experiencing your ministry has filled me with awe. My dream came true :-) and my husband Arne is also very pleased to have experienced Tanzania. Love from Charlotte and Arne."



The group experienced a lot of different things. One weekend they were at a children's crusade at a village located in a beautiful mountain area. The drive there was a huge experience of nature; it was actually like driving in the mountains of Switzerland.

Crusade in Moa

The village, Moa has 5,000 inhabitants and is 99% Muslim. This means that it is an unreached area. There is virtually no Christian activity.



The church is new and has only 12 members, and it is in the real sense a pioneering work that has begun.

Torkild and the team drove ahead to start up and the group would then come a few days later. There was much struggle from day one, as there was trouble getting permission to hold children's meetings and to show films.

When the permit finally came and they got started, almost no children came out because the imams had warned the children and told them to stay away, because Christians were dangerous and troublemakers. At the village there were no less than five major mosques so the whole village was under a strong influence of Islam.

We traveled with a talented song and dance team who spent a lot of time singing and dancing to draw people, especially children. Later, Torkild pulled out the doll "Kadogo" and this attracted much attention.

As the village is located in a valley, one could clearly see around the hillsides how the children and the adults were sitting outside their huts listening.





The children gradually began to list down to the meeting place as they would like to see the doll and experience it up close. On Friday things started to move and there came a lot of children, adolescents and adults - this was wonderful to see in such a Muslim dominated region!

A Muslim mother who was completely covered by a burqa, came up to the pastor and said: "My kids have been here every day and they tell me so much about the doll, "Kadogo " so now I have to come down to see what is happening."

A Muslim leader went up to the pastor on Sunday and said: "Could you get the team to stay on for a few more days? Because what they do to the children is wonderful." This was a tremendous encouragement to us all, since the beginning had been so severe with a lot of opposition from Muslim leaders.

They had come and asked us to turn down the audio system, as they did not want people to hear the Gospel. But God strengthened us and gave us wisdom to continue preaching the good news.

We planted a seed and are holding on to the Bible verse that says that the word of God will never return empty. Children's hearts are good soil and therefore we are convinced that the seed will germinate and that there will be a harvest.



At the Sunday morning service a lot of people were touched. The pastor's wife got up to sing a song of praise, but she burst into tears and everyone was deeply moved. She told me that she and her husband had been on the verge of giving up because it was really tough to be in this village.

But now they felt that God had sent our team to encourage them and to give them a boost. They had been renewed in their courage to continue their church with the few Christians.

A young girl who worked at the guest house where we lived, received Jesus and came to the church service that Sunday.

Head-on Collision

A fatal accident has hit some close friends of ours, who look after four of our heart children from the Masai region so that they can go to school in Arusha.

The man of the house - Baba Jesca – was on his way to the funeral of one of the church members. Baba Jesca was a driver of one of the cars on the way to the funeral.



During an overhaul he oversaw an ambulance that drove with the sirens on and there was a head-on collision. In the ambulance the driver and the patient were killed. In the car that Baba Jesca was driving, he and two passengers were killed.

Baba Jesca leaves behind a wife and three children, and the four heart children that they were foster parents for.

It has been a great shock to us all and is also a reminder that "No one knows the day tomorrow," and that we must always be prepared to leave this world.

We are very shaken by the accident and have seen how friends and relatives have wept and grieved because our maid, Resti, goes to the same church and is close friends with the stricken family, mama and baba Jesca.

If anyone would like to give the mother a love gift for

Christmas, we know that it will be greatly appreciated by mama Jesca and the children. Her husband was working and making money for the family, so now it is up to her to find out how she can handle all the expenses.

Mswakini

We have been back at Mswakini where we built the clinic for the Maasais. We were out there to put solar lamps in the clinic. This allows them to have light in the evening / night and to help the sick around the clock.

When we were in the process of installing this, a young, traditionally dressed Maasai with a long stick came over and greeted me warmly. He spoke kindly to me as if he knew me very well and I thought, Who is he?

It turned out to be the young Maasai, we have given a three years nurse education. He was very proud and happy now that he had graduated. Then he put on the nurse coat and went to work. It was a great mutual joy to meet there at the clinic.

We want to thank you so much for the support for him. We get so excited every time our young people graduate and get a job.





Construction of the Love Home

We are in the process of constructing the dining room and kitchen at the "Love Home". We have just placed the concrete that bears the dormitory on the first floor.

Have a look at all the posts which are set up to support base for the concrete deck. We are very proud of the work that our builder, Frank, is performing along with his team of workers. Frank has been an appren-



tice with our son-in-law, Per, and has received good training.

We feel a strong urge to say thank you to you who have helped make it possible for us to build upstairs rooms on top of the dining room and kitchen.

We asked for an additional 70,000 DKK in the last newsletter to complete it all at once, and praise God, because we have received the money and can continue construction until we are finished. Thank you, dear friends.

The children are really looking forward to getting some more space.

Single mother in need

We have a cry that is about a single mother named Veronica and her three children. Her situation is extremely difficult and she is struggling daily to get by.

She has visited us regularly for three weeks, but since we have been away, she has gone in vain. A few days ago she came back and now we were at home and had the opportunity to listen to her.

After six years of marriage, the husband left her. When this happened, she was two months pregnant with the third child. They had lived a normal family life in a good house, until the day when the man got a bank loan.

Immediately after that he disappeared without a word, and when he did not pay back the loan the bailiff came and took the house and all the furniture and even the children's clothes.

She then moved over in a mud hut and began to go out as a washerwoman to get money for food and rent. She earned very little and the day for the baby to arrive approached.

She gave birth at home in the cottage and it happened suddenly. Since she was alone, she cut the umbilical



cord with a knife and tied it with a thread. It turned out that there were twins, but unfortunately the second child died during birth.

She continued telling her story to us while crying and begged for our help to get the two older children in school. The youngest is now nine months and the other two 3½ and 6½ years. If someone would be able to help her get the two children to school, it would be a huge blessing to this desperate mom.

Thank you for the support – it makes a difference!

Thank you so much for your support for the ministry - both through the support and prayers. I know that without you, we are nothing. Your support makes a big difference.

We could talk about the many people who have experienced a difference in their lives because of your support. People living in extreme poverty has been given a lift and experience God's care in their daily lives. Some live in really miserable conditions and are not able to give their children an education.

Several of these poor families see it as a miracle when one or more of their children are sponsored through our "Heart Children" project.



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Christmas 2014

Christmas thoughts



Christmas is coming quickly and we would like to wish all our dear readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year.

This year we are privileged to have the whole family together for Christmas. We look forward as never before to receive Dorrit, Christian, Vinni and our three small grandchildren on 7 December. The grandkids have never been in Tanzania, so it will be a joy to show them where grandpa and grandma live.

We have not spent Christmas with all our children since 1999, the year Tabitha was in Denmark to undergo surgery for a slipped disc.

Miriam is so sweet - she has invited all of us for Christmas Eve. Fortunately, they have a big house where we can easily be. Sara and Rebecca are also home, it will be great.

We look forward to seeing God's plans for Tanzanian children in the new year 2015. We believe that Tanzania's future lies with the children, so it is important to give them the word of God as guidelines for their life.

Love and blessings from your missionaries in Tanzania, Torkild and Tabitha

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SKAT kræver, at vi som beløbsmodtager skal indbetale CPR-nr. på alle indbetalte beløb for den enkelte giver. Dermed vil beløbet automatisk fremgå af det kommende års selvangivelse. For at opnå fradrag skal missionskassereren derfor have dit CPR-nr. og navn. Har du brug for mere information om dette, kan du kontakte ham på email:

ymission@stofanet.dk, pr. tlf. 75353058 eller pr. brev til Willy Højgård, Søndermarksvej 307, 7190 Billund.

I 2014 kan man få fradrag i henhold til skattelovens § 8a på op til kr. 14.800,00, hvis man har givet kr. 14.800,00.