



# Mission among Children and Youth in Tanzania

June 2021



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





The picture of Per and Mirjam was taken in our yard just before leaving for the airport. There was a small bright spot in the difficult farewell hour: we were able to keep their little dog. It's just cute.

Hand on heart: it was very difficult to say goodbye. We have always had a good cooperation around mission. At the same time, we enjoyed the opportunity to visit each other and had fun together as a family.



## Dear faithful friends,

Since the last newsletter, we unfortunately had to say goodbye to Per and Mirjam, who have worked in Tanzania for 20 years.

They made the decision because the Tanzanian authorities began imposing heavy taxes on private companies. This meant that they felt compelled to sell their company and house and go back to Denmark to start a new life. Their girls Rebekka and Sarah are so happy to have mom and dad back home. Per got a job as soon as he was out of quarantine.

Mirjam will continue her ministry in Tanzania and we will continue to work together. She will receive an office in our home church, Betania KirkeCenter and she will travel here as needed.

So her work will continue as before. For example, her relief team just left to distribute corn and baby food at a new location. Large numbers of people who were extremely poor turned up. Several had to go home empty-handed. The team did not have enough food at all as more people than those on the list showed up. The team was told that in their great despair three men had recently committed suicide as they could no longer support their families.

We are now in the rainy season. Here in Arusha where we live we are blessed with a lovely rain. Everything is so beautiful and green. Our yard abounds with bananas and avocados.

Unfortunately, it looks very different in northern Tanzania. At the Masai, where Mirjam runs emergency aid they have received almost no rain. The rain falls very randomly. This creates major problems for the Masai.







## Almost two years since kidney transplantation

We have had the pleasure of going to Tanga to visit Othello - the boy who got a new kidney on July 27, 2019 - and his parents. It was a day of joy for me, Tabitha in particular, for I had not met them before.

Othello started school again, which he is incredibly happy about. He's just a ray of sunshine. He is so grateful because he got his life back.



While I was sitting and talking to him, the alarm on his watch went off. "What's going on?" I asked and he promptly replied, "I need my medicine." Unfortunately the boy will have to have medicine for the rest of his life. But he seemed completely in control of taking it.

The wounds from the surgery have healed fine and the doctors are so happy with him.

We asked in to the mother now that we had the chance. It turned out that she was feeling really bad and not able to do anything. We encouraged her to go with her son to the hospital where they both had surgery, the next time he went for a checkup. It turned out that the mother had some complications with her wound, and she is getting treatment now. We hope she will soon recover and regain her strength. Both the mother and the father thanked us for our willingness to help their son, because if they had not received help, Othello would have been dead today. We praise God for the help they received and thank all of you who supported financially.

On the trip to Tanga we made a stop in the beautiful nature and ate our packed lunch.







## Dear friends

Per and I are in the process of settling in Denmark, but the ministry in Tanzania continues thanks to my parents and my team. The team is doing a fantastic job. It's great to see that they have such a heart to help needy people.

Just before I left Tanzania, one of the government officials in the Mon-duli district asked if we would follow her and visit some very poor places. She knows several of the families personally and had tried to help them, but did not have enough resources to cope with the task.

It was an overwhelming experience that made a deep impression on me. Although I have seen a lot of misery this was really catastrophic: Meeting young, single mothers, listening to them and understanding that they had almost given up on moving on with their lives.

In the area we also met several grandparents who were left with very young grandchildren, whose parents had either run away or died of AIDS. Several of the grandparents were in poor health and could no longer work. They were left all alone with no means to help their grandchildren. It was just so heartbreaking.

By the grace of God, we succeeded in providing 105 children with a nutritious gruel and 190 families with corn.

Here in the month of May, the team was off to distribute corn and baby food. The team has experienced many difficult situations over time, but they were very concerned about these families. Rumor quickly spread that we had come to help. Twice as many poor people than we had expected showed up so there was not enough food for all.

The team asked me if there was any way to provide food for those who had to go home empty-handed.





I have a hard time when I think of all the people I met: unemployed, poor, single and widowed who are unable to support themselves. Does anyone want to help me reach these poor people?

**Love**  
**Mirjam and the Team**

Kontonr. 9712 0741793075 mærket "Bjerrres Mission" eller via MobilePay på 18513. Husk du kun får skattefradrag, hvis CPR-nummer og adresse er oplyst.



## Clean drinking water

Through Aaskov Y's Men's Club, we have received support for our school. We applied to the club for help in purchasing a water treatment plant to get clean drinking water. The students often got upset stomachs so we had the water analyzed and it turned out that it was not suitable as drinking water.

Now the problem is solved and the water is both tasty and clean. There are no more people talking about stomach ache.

The school superintendent, the teachers, the board and not least the children are so grateful for this great gift. Many thanks and appreciation to Aaskov Y's Men's Club.







## A better home

We would like to share a great joy with you: We sent out an emergency call about a family who really needed help for a new place to live. In an email, we contacted our friends to find out if they would like to support their move.

We wrote, among other things: "We were deeply moved the other day when we visited a poor family with two children. We just felt we had to share this with you:

They live only 4½ km from our school. But the road is so bad that it takes their two little boys 1½ hour each way to go to school. That means they walk 3 hours every day. The youngest of the boys is in the kindergarten class and the big one just started in the 3rd grade. The mother said that especially the little one is exhausted when they get back home. They leave home at 6 in the morning and are back home at 17. The road is so bad that even though we drove by car, it took ½ hour for the 4½ km. Yes it was quite a drive, even for an experienced driver.

When we saw the house where they live, we got another shock. It was made of tent cloth, and the roof consisted of tin plates. There was not much space as the house only measured approx. 3 x 3.5 meters. See the picture of their living room: there can be a two-person sofa on one side and the same along the wall and



then a small table. Before we went into the house, we had to agree on where to sit, and then we went in one at the time. There was no space to walk around. In the bedroom there was only room for a double bed where they all slept. The partition between the bedroom and the living room was made of an old sheet.

They cannot afford to pay rent as the wife has become mentally ill. I'm afraid she may have had a postpartum depression, and have been had it for a long time without getting professional help. Now she's getting some medicine and she seems to be better. The medicine is quite expensive; it costs DKK 140 a month which makes it hard for the family to make ends meet.

The father has not been able to work fulltime, so the family has had a tough time financially. A few months ago, he got a job at our school as a janitor. The boys have sponsors who pay for their schooling, which is nice.

Now that the heavy rainy season has begun, it is getting cold. The wind is blowing into the house and it is very humid. In the summer it is just the opposite: it gets hot as in an oven when the sun bakes on the tin roof. "

It is our pleasure to tell you that all the money has come in so we can buy a small plot and build a small house. A big Thank You to all of you who supported this family.

At the time of writing, we have moved the family to a small house next door to the school for them to stay here until we have finished building. The mother cried with joy because her children no longer have to walk the long distance every day. We are so happy for them.

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## School Evangelist Philipo

Philipo, our school evangelist, is very busy doing school visits. He also goes to various churches on Sundays and participates in the services.

Through the Mission Fund, we have received a monetary gift for the purchase of a new motorcycle and a battery-powered loudspeaker system. We have made a really nice box to put on the back of the motorcycle, so he can take the sound system with him when he goes out to the schools. Philipo is happy, because now it's easy to get around. This allows him to visit several schools in one day. Last Friday he was at our school.



## Restart of children's campaigns

Torkild has not done a children's campaign since mid-December last year. We had to take a break due to the risk of corona disease. We were advised by both the authorities and our church organization not to have any large congregations.

Torkild and the team miss so much going out to the villages to preach the gospel to the children.

We are now in the process of planning the next campaign which will be during week 21.

May the Lord Jesus richly bless you. Thank you so much for supporting our ministry - it moves our hearts deeply.

**Love,  
Torkild and Tabitha**

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