



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

March 2021



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



## Dear beloved friends

We had a completely different Christmas this time than we expected. In the middle of a December night when Mirjam was asleep she woke up by someone shaking her. As she opened her eyes she saw Sarah looking at her. Per had secretly arranged for her to come home for Christmas. It was meant to be a surprise - and it was. Per had made sure that someone else picked up Sarah at the airport when she arrived in Tanzania. It caused joy with parents and grandparents and we had a great Christmas together the five of us.

Due to the fact that Denmark closed down in December, Sarah had problems getting back to Denmark. That meant she got an extra month of vacation in Tanzania. It was like an added bonus.

## Every child has great potential

At the beginning of the new year, we had a surprising visit from Kelvin - one of the children that we supported since he started in preschool class. Now he had completed Form 4 (11th grade).

He radiated joy and told us that he had become No. 3 out of the 212 students in his grade level. In physics, he took first place. So the boy is very talented and we are



so proud of him. His dream is to become a doctor. First he has to study for another two years to get his high school diploma, and then he can start a medical study.

Kelvin really expressed his gratitude. He thanked us for helping children from poor families get an education. He himself is from a very poor family. I, Tabitha, clearly remember the day I met his mother for the first time. She came here one Saturday morning with a young girl who helped her with the twins who could not yet walk. Kelvin was 3-4 years old at the time. The father left them when she gave birth to the twins and never returned to see the children.

I remember how the twins cried and cried while we talked. They were so hungry. Fortunately, my yard was filled with bananas so the babies ate their fill which calmed them down and they quickly fell asleep. Kelvin's mother needed help with food and rent. She cautiously asked if I was able to send Kelvin to preschool class. We immediately decided to support the family.

Over the years, the family truly experienced the blessings of the Lord, and Kelvin wanted to tell us about it.





A few years later, his mother was blessed with a job as a maid with our German friends, Friedhelm and Rosy, and still works for them. Our German friends have given this mother a lovely little house, so now she no longer has to worry about paying rent.

Kelvin always cared for his mother and during our conversation he said: "If I become a doctor and get a job, then I can take care of my mother when she gets older." This was so sweet to hear.



## Corn distribution

Mirjam is currently very busy distributing corn and baby food. Torkild has been with her and the team on several trips. It has been a joy for both father and daughter to follow along and to see the joy of the women as they receive the food.

Many of the women walk between two and three hours each way to pick up their food ration. Some of them have a donkey to transport the corn as they often carry a child on their backs.







At one of the places where they provided aid, a mama sat under a tree cooking so that those who were hungry could buy some food.

The school was right next to one of the places where they handed out corn. The students sat under a large tree that served as a dining room. They ate the beans and corn that the parents had provided, and then the food was cooked at the school.

A little boy had become thirsty, and got a sip of goat's milk in a Maasai bottle.

There was also a mother sitting patiently waiting to get some corn. She was so beautiful. Just look at her jewelry. Typical home made Masai jewelry. The women want to be beautiful when they come and pick up food.

Currently, corn and baby food is being distributed in eight different Masai areas. Mirjam drives aid out to places where a collabora-



tion between the church and local authorities has been established to alleviate hunger.

If you would like to help support corn for these projects, you can send the gift to our mission account. A sack of corn with 100 kg is urrently \$ 28,5.

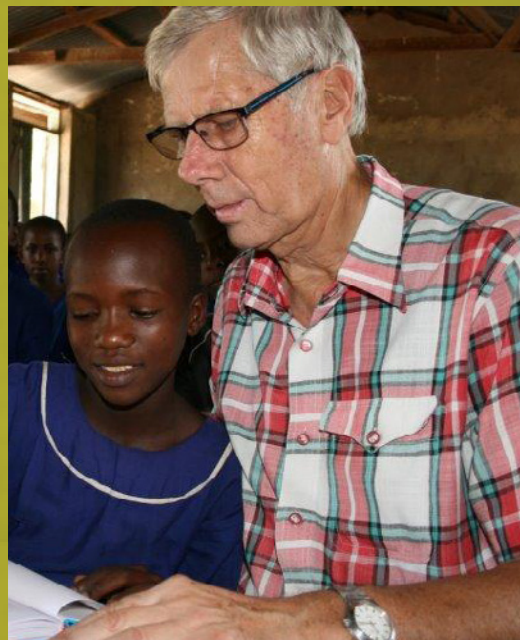


## Distribution of children's Bibles

We have been to Mswakini Chini, which is right on the border of Tarangire National Park, a beautiful zoo known for its many elephants. We arrived by appointment with the village management and the school superintendent by the name of Mary. Think about it, it turned out that Mary used to live next door to my parents in Arusha; this was quite fun. She is a born again Christian and was very excited that we came and handed out Bibles to the nearly 300 students.

We started out in 4th grade, and I introduced myself and the book called "Biblia ya kupaka rangi".





The children got excited. As something new, my dad was with me on this trip. He of course also shared a word and it was so good. The students sang a song to us - beautifully and without any instruments. We continued on to the 5th, 6th and 7th grade, and the students were told that every Friday they were to bring their new Bible to school, because on Fridays they would receive Christian education from now on.

As you can imagine we got a lot of smiles. Some were shy, but the majority dared to share their enthusiasm with us. Some of them were allowed to borrow crayons from the teacher's office so they could paint in their new coloring book Bible. It was such a wonderful experience – and being able to spread the word of God to

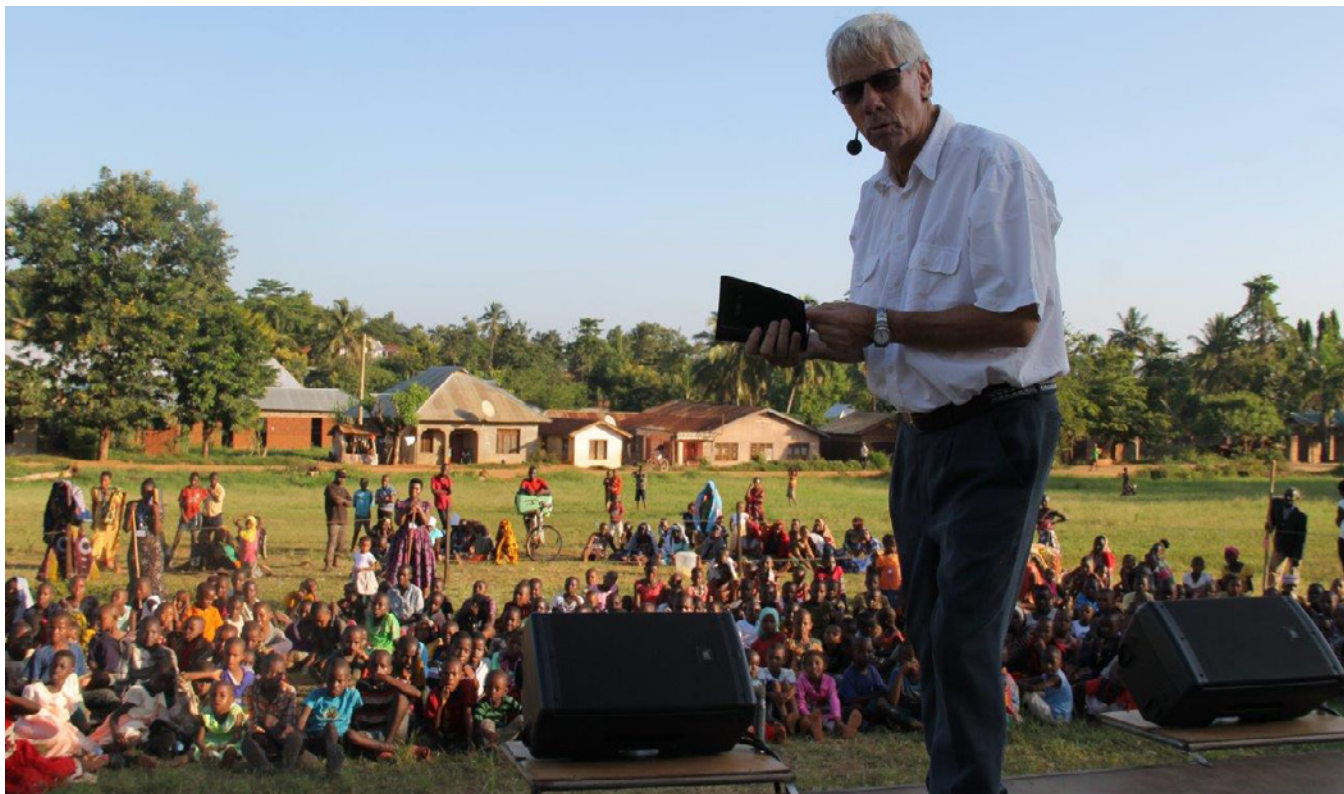
many families through the children. For the children, as you know, tell and show their experiences at home, and then the whole family gets something out of one Bible! How amazing that we can share the word of God with so many children and families.

If you would like to help reach out with children's Bibles to even more children, then the price of each Bible is \$ 3,3. You can label your gift "BIBLES".

May God richly bless each one of you.

**Love,  
Per and Mirjam**





## Children's campaign

At the children's campaign in a village called Mtonga near Korogwe, Torkild and the team were put to the test. On the first day, the Muslim mothers simply came and took their children home during the meeting. The children cried and were unhappy because they were not allowed to join. It was heartbreaking to and frustrating not being able to do anything.

At some point there were very few children in the meeting place, but they stayed on. In the evening, Torkild called me and told me about the situation, clearly frustrated. I wrote several of our friends in Denmark asking for prayer. And once again, God heard our prayers. The problem was turned into thanksgiving.

Think about it, already the next day the Muslim children started showing up for the meetings again. During the week, more and more children came, and even the Muslim children came up on the platform to participate. One of the big girls with the headscarf came up on the platform, where she recounted what had been taught the day before.

The highlight of the entire campaign was when the little girl pictured here emerged. She stood with majestic dignity and retold, without blinking, the whole teaching

from the day before. Both children and adults cheered and clapped at her.

One day out of the blue, an elderly man arrived at the meeting place on the back of a motorcycle. Well, they were actually three on the motorcycle. He asked permission to say something to the children and was given a microphone. Everyone, both children and adults, listened very carefully. Then he said to the children: "The best thing you can do in life is to accept Jesus as your Savior. Do not wait to become a Christian until you are as old as me. If you choose to become a child of God, you will experience a lot of meaning in your life."

Then he disappeared as suddenly as he had arrived.

On Sunday afternoon, some of the poorest dressed children were selected. They got behind the trailer where they received a new dress or blouse. The boys got shorts. Then they all got up on the platform so everyone could see. It brought great joy. In this way, all the children experienced the tangible love of God.

It was a good and unforgettable week despite a tough start.









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## School ministry

Philipo is our school evangelist. We thank God for him; he really is a gift to the ministry. He is off on school visits several times a week. He often visits two schools a day. In some places, students show up in large numbers. Sometimes 500-600 students come and listen to his songs and the joyful message. Many of the students want to accept Jesus as their Savior.

The other day a school inspector came up to him afterwards and said: "We want you to come to our school

and teach." School ministry is a big mission field. All the schools in Tanzania are open to Christian teaching, so we have great opportunity to bring the gospel to the students. We are so pleased that we are doing school ministry again.

Philipo visits the schools several times during a year to follow up on his ministry.

**Love from your missionaries in Tanzania,**

**Torkild and Tabitha**

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