



Mission among Children and Youth in Tanzania

April 2026



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

Dear beloved friends

It's Easter now, the time when we usually send out a newsletter, but this year we've been thrown off our usual routine.

Tabitha Shares

We had planned to come to Denmark this April for a meeting trip, but had to change our plans and cancel



this tour around the country. I had been experiencing severe pain in one hip and preferred to seek treatment within the Danish healthcare system. The doctor in Tanzania thought it was osteoarthritis, so I figured I'd need a hip replacement to get better. The pain was so severe, though, that I was given a morphine-based medication to relieve it. Unfortunately, I couldn't tolerate the medication, so I became terribly ill with vomiting. It was therefore a very sick and weakened Tabitha who landed in Denmark on February 26. It was the longest flight I've ever taken to Denmark. I couldn't find any relief anywhere, but just had to grit my teeth and endure the pain.

The month of March was spent going for examinations at the orthopedic surgery department with a view to getting a hip replacement. In connection with that, I finally had an MRI scan, and last week the results came back: The cause of the pain is not osteoarthritis, but cancer.

The images showed that the cancer has spread to the abdominal region, the lungs, the spine, and further into the bones. I thought I was going to get a new hip, so it was really a huge shock to receive that news.

The doctors have determined that the cancer has been developing for a long time. They are still in the process of evaluating the situation. Only after another CT scan following Easter will they be able to say exactly what type of cancer it is and what treatment options are available.

I put my trust in Jesus, who strengthens me every day, and I have not lost heart.



The Work Continues

Even though we are in Denmark and facing health challenges, the work in Tanzania continues undeterred. We thank God for the wonderful and capable staff we have. The children are continuing their education in both primary and secondary school. The young people are continuing their studies at college and university. Construction projects are moving forward.



Torkild Shares

I have to be honest and say that Tabitha's situation really knocked me off balance. It's probably very human to ask, "God, where are you in all of this?" When I sat down to write this newsletter, I had absolutely no idea how to approach it. Sometimes we worry too much, but God has everything under control. Our Danish newsletter team offered their help so that, despite all the adversity, we can share the latest news with you, dear friends.

On Monday, Tabitha was scheduled to be discharged from the hospital, and that same day, I unfortunately had the misfortune of tripping over a garden hose! I fell and broke my shoulder blade and had to go to the hospital. There's a humorous Danish saying: "Only a fool does not fear the garden!"—and I've certainly learned that the hard way.

So now my arm is in a sling, and I have to rest it for a few weeks. It was a setback, because Tabitha needs my help, and there are many things I'd like to accomplish while I'm in Denmark. But I have to accept that I'm now in a pause mode, and I'm praying that I can find peace in this situation.

School Mission

The school mission is also running at full speed. The young evangelists continue to visit schools four days a week.

The team typically consists of four people, each on their own motorcycle. They have to carry a lot of equipment, as they need sound systems and sometimes generators as well (if there is no electricity in the area). Two members of the team are skilled instructors/teachers, while the other two handle all the practical aspects of a school visit.

These are almost always day trips, during which they travel within a radius of up to 45 km from Arusha.





Schooling in Masailand

In Masailand, we continue our efforts to give children the tools they need to attend school and learn. There was great excitement when we delivered 76 desks to a school that had no school furniture at all. Our staff had made these desks at our workshop back home.

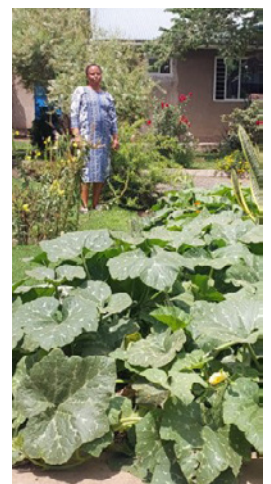
We thank you for your continued support of this work. It is truly close to our hearts that the work continues, even though we are not currently physically present in Tanzania. We communicate daily with our staff. Thank you for both your prayers and financial support.

Farming

In collaboration with dedicated individuals in Denmark and Tanzania, we have been involved in a pioneering project over the past few years aimed at educating villagers in Tanzania in agriculture, with a focus on kitchen gardens.

Selected individuals attend a course in Arusha so that they can subsequently return home, put what they have learned into practice, and pass it on to those around them. They learn to grow all kinds of vegetables and how to use them. This is a major improvement for people who otherwise live mostly on corn porridge. This can help improve public health, as well as the landscape and climate, since they learn to cultivate the land in a sustainable way.

It's really starting to gain momentum now. We can see that more and more people are showing interest in participating in this effort to promote a healthier lifestyle.



Highlights from the latest children's campaign



The car and trailer are packed and ready. It's Monday morning, and we're setting off on a two-day trip to reach a children's campaign. It takes so long because the last 80 km are off-road. Since we're heavily loaded, we drive very slowly and carefully so as not to damage our equipment. In the photo are Filippo, our sound engineer and technician; Resti, who's in charge of food for the entire trip and also helps hand out gifts to the children; and Torkild.



The rabbits are the PR guys who are spreading the word that something good is about to happen in town. When we finally arrive in the afternoon on Tuesday, we send the rabbits out in the back of a truck. At various spots, they jump off, dance to music, and talk about what's going to happen over the course of the week.

The children run after the wagon with the rabbits. We have their full attention. They're told that the event starts on Wednesday and ends on Sunday evening. It typically takes place on the school playground or sports fields. Many of the campaigns take place in Muslim neighborhoods. That is why it is important that the campaign takes place in a neutral area—Muslims are not as afraid



to show up there. They are more nervous if they have to enter church grounds.



It's not just the children's curiosity that draws them to participate. It can also be parents who truly want their children to experience an evangelical gathering. Like this touching sight of a father who came cycling every single day with one child on his back and the other on the rear rack.



Only children are allowed inside the blue rope. This is necessary to protect the children when the adults are also very curious and crowd in.



It's Kadogo (which means "the little guy") who hands out the gifts. The children are very shy, so it helps that it's a funny puppet doing the handing out. He can talk because a staff member is sitting inside the trailer with a wireless microphone.



Most of the time, you see older sisters bringing younger siblings. This picture is special because an older brother has brought his little brother. Both are completely absorbed in what is happening.



This little girl was so happy with her new dress that she suddenly came over to me and put her hand on my shoulder. That really touched me, because usually they're pretty afraid of me.

For many years, Sister Lykka from our hometown has sewn beautiful dresses for poor African girls. For every children's campaign, we take great care to select the 12–16 poorest girls from among the participating children. They receive a new dress, and Resti and local women help them put on their new clothes. Unfortunately, Lykka can no longer sew, so if you feel inspired to carry on this work, it would be a great gift.

Here I tell a story to explain the message in Proverbs 28:13—"Whoever conceals their transgressions will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will find mercy"—in a way that makes sense to the children:

A brother and sister have had a falling out. The boy has made a nice little boat because he wants to be a fisherman like his father. The girl has made a doll, which her mother helped her stuff with corn so it would take shape properly. One day, the children get into a fight,

and the girl takes the boy's boat and throws it on the ground, breaking it. Then the boy gets really angry—"Well, now it's my turn."

In an unguarded moment, he takes the girl's doll and buries it so she can't find it. She is heartbroken.

But he has forgotten that there was corn inside the doll. When a rain shower comes, the corn begins to sprout (here I enter the scene dressed as the mother with a hoe over my shoulder). The mother is surprised to see corn growing in a place where it doesn't usually grow. And the sprouts are arranged in a pattern shaped like a child (a doll). At first she thinks it is magic, but she plucks up her courage. She starts digging, and an arm pops up. And then she understands what has happened.

This is an example of what it takes to capture children's full attention.

Incidentally, it's taboo for a man to wear women's clothing. But since I'm a foreigner, they can forgive it and laugh it off.



Doctor Killed in Helicopter Crash

Over Christmas, we lost one of our beloved sponsored children, Jimmy Wilfred Daniel. He was a trained doctor and worked for a medical helicopter service. They were on Mount Kilimanjaro to pick up a patient. The weather was bad, with fog and strong winds. As they took off, the helicopter first rose and then crashed to the ground with a loud bang.



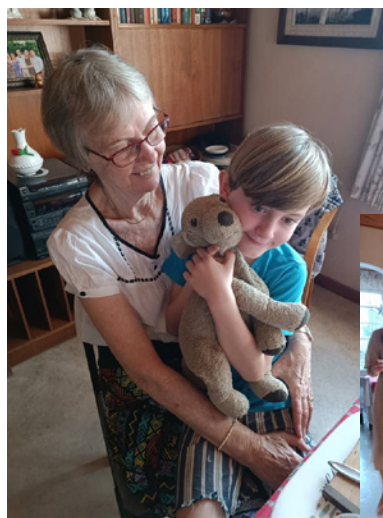
No one understands what happened. The helicopter caught fire, and all five people on board were burned to death. It was a difficult funeral to attend. He was only 36 years old and left behind a wife and two young children, ages 1 and 3.

Dorrit and Family Visit

We had a wonderful Christmas with our daughter, Dorrit, who hadn't been to Tanzania in many years.

She came with her husband, Troels Henrik, and their son, Frej, who is almost 7 years old. It was a wonderful experience for all of us.

We went on a safari, which was a big adventure for Frej, who had never visited his grandparents in Tanzania before. We spent two nights at a lodge—it was fun.



Dorrit and Troels Henrik went out with Torkild a couple of times to visit the Maasai, while Frej stayed home with me. They each had their own unique experiences. I got to know my wonderful grandson, and we spent quality time together. It was so good for both of us.

It was hard to send them home again when the three weeks were up.

Pray for us

In this situation, we feel a great sense of helplessness, yet at the same time we are hopeful, for we know that our lives are in Jesus' hands. We cling to the words from Psalm 118:17: "You shall not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord."

We would truly appreciate it if you would join us in prayer. Pray for healing; pray that God's will be done.

**Warm regards and God's peace,
Tabitha and Torkild**



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