



Mission among Children and Youth in Tanzania

December 2018



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





Winner's family



In our last newsletter we wrote about a little girl, Winner who moved into the orphanage. We had heard that Winner's parents were both sick and decided to go see them in order to understand their situation a little better. We started out at Winner's dad, named Salum. It was a pitiful sight. He could not get out of bed and had been bedridden for three months. We asked him to try to get out of bed. With much effort he managed, but we had to support him as his legs were too weak to carry him. The first thing we noticed was that there was no mattress in his bed. He lay on the raw boards, actually round fence poles. This in itself must have hurt in his whole body. We quickly decided to buy him a mattress and before we left the place a motorbike taxi delivered the mattress. Salum lives with his dad and cook for both of them. Unfortunately he too was bedridden due to great pain in both knees. We brought some arthritis medicine and gave it to him. The day after he was able to get out of bed and walk around. We got a hold of a niece of Salum whom we asked to cook some nice food for the two patients so they could gain strength. We got a hold of a brother-in-law of Salum and asked if he could take Salum to a hospital in the nearest town. We sent him to a private hospital. After a thorough examination the

doctor said, "You will walk again, but it will take some time." He received some medicine and went through some rehabilitation in order to strengthen the leg muscles. This is 2½ months ago and Salum is now able to walk around the village – praise the Lord Jesus.

Then we drove on to Winner's mother who lives with Winner's grandmother. We were shocked to see how poor they were. Their furniture was without cushions; we were seated directly on the boards. The bedroom and the kitchen were awful. Mice were racing around the whole place (even when we were there). Winner's mother is mentally ill. When she got an attack it took two strong men to hold her in order that she did not hurt herself or others. We got her into a mental institution and she was given a diagnosis. They ordered some medicine, which she will need for the rest of her life. Only problem is that when she is feeling well she stops taking the medicine. Therefore her older sister now comes every day to ensure that she takes it.

We are very pleased that little Winner is so happy to live at the Love Home. She is thriving with the other kids and so proud to be in kindergarten.



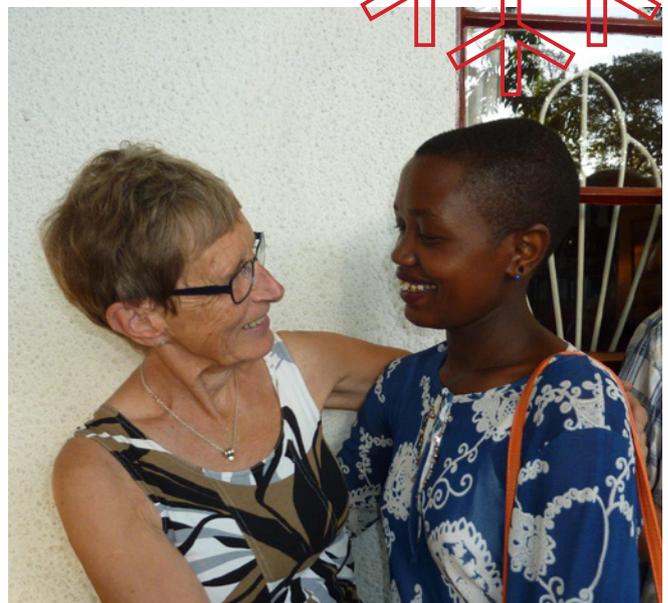


How is Neema doing?



Back in December of 2011 we told you about a very weak Masai girl named Neema who was to be married to an older man. Neema fled home at the time and ran to a nearby church to get help. The pastor and his wife took care of Neema, helped her and put her up. The pastor's wife discovered that her back had been beaten severely. She got a beating because she refused to get married. At that time in 2011, Torkild and some company visiting went to see this pastor who then told them about Neema. It ended up with Neema coming with them to Arusha and she is now living with a foster mother named Anna who takes good care of her. Some of our company wanted to help Neema get to school and are paying Anna for her room and board. Neema was 13 years old at the time and she had never gone to school. She started in 1st grade but it soon appeared

that she was very intelligent so the school had her skip a grade several times since she was doing a lot better than her classmates. Now she is in 10th grade and her dream is to become a nurse. Let us pray it may be fulfilled. In October this year her Danish sponsors came to see her. The joy was great on both sides. Her biological mother was there too. Mother and daughter were all big smiles (see pictures). It appeared that in the meantime the mother had received Jesus as her Saviour. She is now faithfully in church where Neema used to hide. Today they are one happy and harmonious family.





Mirjam writes:

The baby food project

I am so happy to tell you that the pilot project with nutrient-rich baby food has been a great success.

The 200 marginalized children received a nutrient-rich porridge for three months. Every third week, each mother received three kilograms of flour with added different nutrients for her baby. All babies were weighed before the project began.

After the end of the project the children were weighed again and the doctor made a report. In the report it said that 98% of the 200 children had gained weight. It was such a delight to see how well and healthy the children were looking. Some of these little ones had gained as much as above 1 kilogram. God is so wonderful. 2% of them did not show any sign of improvement, which was due to different illnesses.

The change in the children was so evident. Apart from gaining weight their skin had clearly become soft and elastic again and they were showing signs of well-being. They became more active and full of energy. The mothers explained that there was a very distinct difference. Even the old men came up to us and told us with excitement how the children had begun thriving.

We therefore applied for money to continue the project and God has been faithful. Because it was such a success we decided to do a similar project in Matala which is one of the new Masai areas where we work and where the children are extremely malnourished. Our project will begin in December 2018 and continues on during the first three months of 2019. It is very exciting to see if it will become as big a success as the other. Thank you for your help and for praying for the team and for me.

If you would like to help the little babies receive a good start in life you may support the program by earmarking your donation "Baby Food".

Other places have approached us due to a bad harvest as a result of drought or too much rain. We would like to help the worst cases with food for Christmas. If you feel like supporting with maize, please earmark your gift "Maize".

Please send to:

Account Number 9712 0741793075 or MobilePay 18 513 and mark it "Bjerre – Baby food" or "Bjerre – Maize". Your support makes it possible for us to help the weakest, which are the children.

On behalf of the many children and adults that received help during 2018 we would like to thank you so very much. It is our wish and our hope that the good co-operation may continue in the new year. We feel so privileged to be your arms and feet in Tanzania.

Per and I are happy that Sarah will be celebrating Christmas with us. Unfortunately Rebekka will not be able to come until sometime in January as she is graduating as a nurse at the beginning of January. Rebekka will be taking a 9 months furlough and would like to come out and volunteer in Tanzania.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

**Love from
Per and Mirjam**





Y's Men's Club visiting

We have had a lovely visit of a group from the Y's Men's club in Kibæk, Denmark. A couple who are Neema's sponsors was part of the group. Another couple from the Y's Men's club has had a heart child from when they came to see us back in 2011. It was a great experience for them too to see their "African son" who wants to be-



come an engineer. Together with this Y's Men's group we went to a Masai district that we support with humanitarian aid. Maize was taken to about 200 homes and each of them received 20 kg. The Y's Men's club has supported our ministry financially for several years and we were happy to show them the projects that they had been supporting.

The group from Kibæk also saw the school that we had constructed. All had a wonderful day and we were moved to hear the school choir singing. One of the guests narrated the Bible story about the five loaves and two fish and Torkild translated. All the guests were surprised that 250 children of different ages could sit so quietly while being taught. We stayed at the school and ate ugali, rice and beans with the children and the teachers. It was an unforgettable day to all.



Kindergarten in Masai land

During our trip last summer around Denmark we told about a new Masai district where we began a kindergarten. We collected money for desks, plates, cups and large pots for this kindergarten. Also, we built a kitchen so that the children now can have ugali every day. The children are very undernourished and need a food supplement. There was no toilet at the kindergarten, but we got one made.

Gospel choir visiting

We have had a visiting gospel choir from Denmark at our school. They sang and performed to the students - such an unforgettable day. The choir also spent time playing with the children. Several of the guests decided to be sponsors. We are so happy every time a child receives a schooling sponsorship.



Children's campaign in small church



We have done some children's campaigns that have been different to what we normally do. A Pentecostal church with only 14 members invited us. There were very few Christians in the village so the church decided to focus on the children. The pastor told us that there was a lot of opposition against Christians and that there was a witch doctor in the area. In spite of a massive

opposition at the beginning of the meetings God turned the situation around and a lot of children turned up. On the Sunday we held a service under a tree. Several visitors stopped by including a lot of young people and some indicated that they wanted to be Christians. We prayed the sinner's prayer with several of them. Our hearts were filled with praise to our heavenly Father when we saw that the word of God never returns void. The gospel was preached to small and big during this week and for the church this was a confirmation of their vision to focus on the children.

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Company from our home church at Blåhøj, Denmark



We have recently had company of our missions cashier Willy and wife Marie, and Jørgen and wife Ester who are all from our home church at Blåhøj. It is wonderful to have company from home and to experience the fellowship. They made a trip to Sanjaranda and saw where the Danish Pentecostal mission began back in the 1950's.

Christmas greetings



With these lines we want to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for standing with us in the ministry year after year and for your faithful prayers and support. Your support makes it possible for us to help the poorest of families and to show them the love of God.

Thank you so much for the support to the children, which enables them to get a good education. And a big Thank You for supporting children's campaigns through which the Gospel is being preached.

Thank you for mails and letters. May the Lord Jesus bless you all abundantly.

We will be celebrating Christmas with Tabitha's two sisters and a brother-in-law. We very much look forward to being with them. One sister has never been to Tanzania.

**Love from,
Torkild and Tabitha**

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