



Mission among Children and Youth in Tanzania

December 2019 



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





Golden Wedding



Life is going so fast. This year we reached another milestone – our Golden Wedding. How privileged and grateful we feel that we can be together and be able to work at the mission field together.

We took an advance on our Golden Wedding while in Denmark this summer. We held a mini party with our children, in-laws and grandchildren. The day itself we celebrated in Tanzania with Mirjam (Per was

in Denmark at the time). We had a good dinner in a nice restaurant. In the evening Mirjam invited for soup and Christmas rice pudding. It was wonderful day. Thank you all for congratulating us. It was heartwarming. It is such a joy not to be forgotten although far away.



A moving visit to the widow's house



The widow whose house we helped finish is extremely happy and grateful. She has been a great testimony to the workmen. Every afternoon she went into her room, knelt down, thanked Jesus and asked him to bless the people who out of their love had decided to support finishing her house. All were moved by this widow's faith and gratitude.

Thank you all for giving her a monetary gift. The house is beautiful. It is a token of God's care for an individual. Several neighbors have stopped by to congratulate.

We took some pictures of the house and she knelt down before us, cried and thanked the Lord. She was so moved of the love of God for her.





A woman in crisis



We have been contacted by a mother named Celina and her three children. She moved in with her parents due to marital problems. The husband was violent and kicked her out. Celina's parents live in a mud hut. The roof is leaking so they get wet when it rains. Therefore they are often sick. Their beds are made by rafters and skins and very uncomfortable to lie on. We saw the family together with Mirjam and were deeply shocked to see the conditions.

Mirjam found a way to help the poor family. They received a new little house, new beds, mattresses, blankets etc. At the moment our building team is constructing



the house. The grandfather had some large stones that could be used as a foundation. He had also made and burned some stones hoping that one day he would build a small house.

Our construction team lives on the construction site in a large tent that we received by our church at Blåhøj. In this large tent they put up small igloo tents where each person has their own tent. Very nice. In the large tent they can also store their food and do their cooking without problems even when it rains.

We decided to help Celina with schooling for the oldest of her three children. She is an 8 year old girl named Sipora. Unfortunately she has been sexually harassed by the father. Therefore we want to remove her from



there so the father cannot reach her. The girl is clearly marked by the situation. She is nervous and scared. The mother says she is one of the best students in her class, but after the horrible incident she is no longer able to concentrate and therefore has fallen behind in school. The boys are in a good local school, they will stay with the grandparents and their mother.

At the grandparent's house is another grandchild. He lost his father in a motorbike accident. His mother works as a maid with an African couple. We think they exploit her very badly. She gets up at 4 in the morning and works till late at night. When they go to work she looks after their daughter besides doing all the daily chores. The salary is less than 15 \$ a month. She has not a single day off – not even Sundays.

We would like to help her son, Brighton get to school. We hope to find somebody who will support him (a heart child) so he can go to our school. We think it will be a great help to Sipora that she has some one she knows who can accompany her. If two will support him I will be really happy. I need two sponsors as money for tuition and for the orphanage is needed. Please write us if you would like to help Brighton with tuition and a place to live.

Also we hope that we can help this mother get a better job so she can have a normal life and get Brighton into a good school.



News from Mirjam

Dear friends,

After many months where we have not had the opportunity to get out into the bush with aid due to the corona and subsequently due to the presidential election in Tanzania, we finally started out again in November. We had several applications for emergency aid already in March. In the meantime we received many more so now we have a large pile of applications. I lack support to help out in four areas. So far, we have begun in three areas, one of which is brand new, called Londolowo, and it is in Giley.

The area is a 4-5 hour drive from Arusha and you drive on dirt roads most of the time so transportation is a challenge. But the many Maasai women are so happy because we bring them baby food. The area is very large and they go to great lengths to get help. Several come all the way from the mountains – a 5 hour walk. It is not possible to drive up there as there are no established roads so you can only get there on foot. In the area they are going through are many dangers lurking. There are lions and hyenas. But they defied the dangers by going in small groups and supported each other. It just shows how desperate they are to get help for their children.



We really need your support for these children. Maybe your church want to adopt an area?

Christmas is near and I wondered if any of you might want to give the many children we help the opportunity to have their own children's Bible. The children here do not own books as children do in Denmark. As you can see in the picture they LOVE getting their own children's Bible. A Bible costs only 3 \$. For 3 \$ you bring so much happiness to a small child. The special benefit of giving a children's Bible is that it is read by the whole family.



Last year we wanted seed as a Christmas present and as you may remember they had a good harvest. So we would like to repeat the idea and give the families who do not have the opportunity to buy seeds a Christmas present. It costs 23 \$ to help a family with seed. You can label your Christmas gift with "SEED" or "CHILDREN'S BIBLE."



A Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to all. Mirjam and the team



If you would like to give a gift please send to:

Account name: Betania Kirkecenters Ydremission
 IBAN no. DK7097120741793075
 Bank name: Den Jyske Sparekasse, Borgergade 3,
 7200 Grindsted Swift/BIC code: JYSPDK2G
 - and mark it "Seed" or "Children's Bible".



Completion for 7th grade



We have had graduation for the 7th grade students. These students felt really cheated because this year they are not allowed to party in connection with graduation. There is a tradition for parents, siblings and friends to come and celebrate and congratulate. We therefore decided to give them a small party. The school's new dining room was nicely decorated with tablecloths so that the students could have a good day after all. Delicious food was prepared and sodas served. All teachers and staff attended the party and the students did some singing and drama.

It was a solemn day of handing out diplomas. And finally, each student received a gift in the form of the best book one can get, the Bible. How happy they were. We saw several of them reading the Bible before the party ended.



Teaching Christianity



We have hired a young school evangelist who teaches Bible lessons at various schools. The other day he was invited to a large secondary school with many students. He brought some of his friends. They sang, did drama and taught the word of God. The young people left in the morning and were not home until the evening. It was a long day and they had nothing to eat all day long. We asked why they had not eaten and they replied, "After we finished teaching the word of God we asked if any of them would like to surrender their lives to Jesus. Many of the students came forward and wanted prayer. Suddenly hours had gone by." But they were excited - it had been a great day.





Children's crusade



We just held a children's crusade in a village called Kisaki, which is located in southern Tanzania. Torkild so much looked forward to going on a children's campaign as it had been a long time since he had one. This was partly due to our extended leave in Denmark and the presidential election in Tanzania, which is now well over.

Tanzania is currently in the small rainy season which is good for the crops, but on the crusade they wanted dry weather. We prayed so many prayers for the success of the meetings. They had one miracle after another. Heavy, threatening, black clouds in the sky. Sunday night it flashed and thundered while they showed movies. But guess what, it kept dry so they managed to complete the entire program. God is wonderful.

It was an eventful week. Best of all, several children and young people accepted Jesus as their Savior. We are so happy because

there is quite a big church in the village that will take care of the new believers.

However, the trip home was quite a nightmare. It rained heavily the night before. They set out to drive 150 km on a gravel road. There were a few places where the road was very bad. Torkild did not know if they could drive through, but they managed, glory to God. After 6 hours they finally saw the asphalt road. Then they knew that the rain could not stop them. The whole trip of 750 km took about 19 hours. It was a very tired man who arrived home, but a happy and a grateful one. The whole crusade had gone so well and many children had turned up every day.



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God does not fail us

Thank you very much, dear friends, for your care and support for the ministry here in Tanzania.

Your faithful support shows that we are not alone reaching out to needy families.

During the year that passed there have been great challenges worldwide, but one thing is for sure: God is faithful. Let us remind one another of the word in Hebrews 13:5: "I will never fail you or forsake you."

With this promise we will continue in full confidence that God will let our efforts succeed.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you so much for all that we shared in 2020.

**Yours, with love from Tanzania,
Torkild and Tabitha**

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