




# Mission among Children and Youth in Tanzania

December 2022 



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



# Dear beloved friends



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## A heartwarming story

The other day one of our former guards, Loriku came to see us. He is from Maasai land.

More than 10 years ago he underwent some traumas. In 2012 he lost his wife and little son after a domestic accident. The wife sat in the cabin cooking with two of

the kids. When the lamp ran out of petroleum she began filling it up again and as she did, it exploded in her hands. The fire lit her clothes and mother and son both died as a consequence of the accident. Only the daughter survived.

Loriku decided to remarry. He took not one wife but two wives. It is not unusual for Maasais to have several wives. He explained his decision by the fact that he would not risk being left alone with children again.

As the years went by he never considered becoming a Christian and he never wanted to talk about spiritual things. The Masaais are proud people and oftentimes they worship their ancestors.

But one day he came to our house with great news. He said, "Tabitha, I and my two wives and our children have decided to become Christians and we are all going to be baptized." He smiled saying, "I understand your surprise, but it is true!" I got so excited, jumped, hugged him and wished him God's blessings.

He had one wish: "Mama, can I have a Bible? I would like to read it to my family." I got even more excited and ran to get two Bibles for him and the family. He was a real happy Masaai who left our house with his two Bibles under the arms.

Now they have all become members of the Lutheran church. All honor to God.

To us it is a miracle that shows us that to God nothing is impossible.



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## Visit from Aaskov Y's Men's Club

We had a lovely visit from 11 persons from Aaskov Y's Men's club.

They went with Torkild to a village in the bush where a crusade was held. All of them were in the Sunday service at a small local church who invited us. The team from Aaskov Y's Men's club sang a hymn to the excitement of the church members.

They also toured animal parks and saw the school and the orphanage. And we showed them Mama Neema's home. She is a widow that we helped get her fields back after she had them pawned so that she could pay the hospital bills for her sick husband, who unfortunately died.

We drove through the dry landscape and the car was totally covered of dust because of the long-term draught (at the writing moment we finally got rain, even at Mama Neema's house). Due to the drought Neema spent several hours per day to get water.





Her greatest wish was to get a donkey that could transport the water. A donkey can carry four buckets of water, which is 80 litres.

As the Y's Men team heard about her needs they had a fund-raising and Neema received enough money for a donkey. Neema is happy for the transport animal. It is a great help for her every day. She saves time and efforts now. Also she is happy because she got her fields back. She has sown maize and beans and she is hoping for a good harvest. It is needed.

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## Mama Janet



We had a fund-raising for Mama Janeth who lives with her three kids in the slum. Mama Janeth had been assaulted by a man from the neighborhood who tried to strangle her so that she had to go to the hospital. Her children were never free to run around because of many in the area being on drugs or alcohol. Now we have moved to a very good neighborhood where they live in two rooms. It is only five minutes walk from our place. Because of the great support that they have received we can pay their rent for the next 8 years. Praise God!

Shortly after she moved in I went to see her. There was not a lot of furniture. They had only a double bed for all four of them. No chairs, they sat on buckets. There was a small sofa table. We decided to get them a sleeping couch. Now the boys sleep in the living room and mother and daughter have the bed. Also they got carpets and they now live well and secure. They asked me to send many lovely greetings to all who helped them. They are so happy and grateful. Now they are able to move around freely without having to be afraid. We ask Jesus to bless all of you who made it possible for them to move away from the slum.





### Help for little Lukumok

During my last trip to Tanzania I went to Matala A, where we handed out baby food for 400 children.

There I met little Lukumok and his mother. The mother believes in the witch doctor and had not gone to the doctor with her little boy. Imagine, little Lukumok was three years in September, but he looked like a one-year-old. He is very undernourished. I noticed he had amulets around his neck, stomach and wrists. Those are typical signs that a witch doctor has been consulted. Also he had bells on one foot. Unfortunately I did not get a picture of that, but it seemed strange, even eerie. The boy was very loose and thin. His arm was as thin as the thumb of my father. Luckily the mother insisted that we took her and the boy to Arusha where he was rushed into the hospital. Apart from undernourishment the doctor said he had pneumonia. We trust his mother will meet the love and care of God at the hospital while there. We pray that it will change her faith in witchcraft so that she may take better care of her little son in the future.

### Will you pray for them?

Also we need help for the hospital bill. Your donation may save the little boy who is in a critical condition.

Another wish is help for Christmas gifts for the many children (and mothers) that come for treatment. Power failures have been a big problem for several months. It means that there is no light during the night when mothers need to care for their small children, when they stay in our home during the treatment. So they light some candles or a petroleum lamp. We have had experience with mothers and children that get burnt because of not being careful to put out the light again.

Small solar cell lamps that look like light bulbs may be bought here. They are charged by the sun and cost only DKK 55 each.

Your donation will make it possible to help many children with a useful Christmas gift. They can bring home the solar cell lamp after the treatment and use it in their home or hut. An extra benefit is that they may save the expense for petroleum for their lamps.

Love from  
Mirjam



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## Mirjam visiting



Mirjam's visit has been so enriching. Torkild drove off with Mirjam to distribute baby food to the Maasai children.

At one of the places, a car with a fully loaded trailer got stuck in the sand, which was like powder because of the drought. Mirjam was happy to have her dad along to pull them free again. Here we normally get stuck in mud, but this time it was sand! Afterwards it was time for a cup of coffee.





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## A great sorrow



We recently lost Pius, an employee for many years. He was only 34 years, married and the father of 5 and 8 years. It was a big shock to us all, especially his wife and children.

Pius had become dependent on alcohol and could not control it. One morning the phone rang. We were begged to take him to the hospital as he was very ill. We set out immediately and there was no doubt he was in a lot of pain.

He died in the car before we reached the hospital. Such a great shock to all.

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## Lyesu



Lyesu is a Maasai boy who likes to climb trees like other children. About six weeks ago Lyesu fell down and broke his left arm. Lyesu's parents are very poor and live in a grass hut in Maasai land. They had no money for a doctor. So they wound a piece of cloth around his little arm hoping that it would heal by itself.

The poor boy got more and more pain. One day the pastor's wife in Masaai land called us and asked if we could help the little boy as she could not stand to watch him suffer. The boy goes to Sunday school at the pastor's wife and she had noticed his condition and just wanted to help him.

As seen on one of the pictures the arm bone was pressing through the skin.

We sent him to a missionary hospital in Arusha and he had surgery to put the bone in place. We pray that the surgery is successful and that the boy may be able for use the arm again.



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Thank you so much for helping this little boy.

**With these lines we wish all of you a Happy Christmas and a very  
Blessed New Year.**

Thank you for your support of our work and ministry. Thank you for the  
prayers and the gifts that you send. Without you we could do nothing.

We pray that Jesus may bless and reward you.

★ **Love from  
Torkild and Tabitha**

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