



Mission among
Children and Youth
in Tanzania

June 2023



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

Dear faithful friends



I, Tabitha, experienced something wonderful recently. A former student, one of the very first students we supported called and asked if he could come and see me.

We had supported him from kindergarten and all the way thru college. Look at the first picture of him.

In 2018 he graduated and became an accounting officer. He is now married and works in Dodoma. God kept reminding him to go see Mama Tabitha. And on that day I got more hugs than ever before.

He kept thanking me for all that I had done for him, but especially for the religion classes that I taught each Friday. He told me that on Fridays none of the students were sick as they did not want to miss the Bible stories about Jesus. He said, "Tabitha, I remember almost all of your lessons and I can almost hear your voice teaching."

I was moved to tears. I recall that when I arrived to the school a group of students always came to carry my rack, the blackboard and my basket. He was among those that came each time; I remember vividly.

He told me that one day during class he received Jesus as his savior and today he is a member of an Assemblies of God church in Dodoma being the youth leader.

To me this was such a wonderful story. I thank the Lord for reminding him to come. It warmed and strengthened my heart and my faith.



Children's crusades

Since the last newsletter we have had three successful children's crusades and one that was less successful.

The last one did not go as planned. We had been invited to at church with 55 members. The village was approx. 700 km south of Arusha and there was not a lot of Christian activity. But there was four large mosques and two schools with a total of 1600 students. We were allowed to use the school football field for the crusade.

The first night rain was pouring out of the sky. The next day was dry and sunny. We crossed a river to get to the meeting site. The platform and everything else was ready for the crusade to begin. When we had completed preparations we wanted to return to the place where we were staying to have dinner before the start at 16 hours. As we came to the bridge at

the river, it was under water and large logs came floating due to heavy currents. No one could get over – it was way too risky. We had to patiently wait for a couple of hours until the water had come down. The water came from the nearby mountains.

As we finally got some food and returned to the site, quite a few children and adults had come out although the majority of the people were Muslims. We got a good start.



After the meeting we wanted to prepare for the film. But an official from the region turned up and refused to give us permission to show the film. He only allowed us to have the meeting in the afternoon. We learned that those in charge of decisions were all Muslims. Obviously, no one wanted a Christian children's crusade in the village.

We were disappointed but decided to do the children's meetings.

On the Thursday when we were about to begin we received a letter telling us to pack our things as the football field was needed for a sports event.

Many children had come out but we had to disappoint them. We and the team decided to pack our gear and left to go home Friday morning.

This seemed like a defeat but we believe that the Lord will turn it around for our good at some later time. We



do not always know the ways of the Lord. But when we look back on all the years in Tanzania we seldom had to cancel a crusade. We thank God for His love and care for us through all the years.



A heart child became a machine engineer

Kelvin is yet another heart child who graduated. He also came by to see me and to update me from his life. He also received support since kindergarten till his graduation.

He was very excited as he told me that he was now employed in a goldmine in West Tanzania. His job is to keep the plant going. He completed the three months trial period and the company quickly learned that Kelvin is a solid guy. He is a trustworthy guy that really wants to work.



He too came to show his gratitude for all the support he had received over the years.

News from Mirjam



Dear faithful friends,

The team and I had eight new children coming in for treatment in May. The children are so excited. But unfortunately not all can be helped.

Enock is from Tanga close to the shore. It took him a whole day to arrive in Arusha. Enock's father left the family when they discovered that he had a handicap. The mother has no facilities so she has to carry him around. He is not a small child but a big teenager age 16 years.

In spite of his handicap Enock is a very happy boy. One cannot but love him. We had hoped that he could get some help at the Plaster House, but the doctors concluded that they were unable to help him.

His mother asked for a wheelchair so she did not have to carry him so much. She told us that her back gets sore and achy from lifting her son. A wheelchair costs around 2000 DKK. I hope that some are able to help

Enock's mother so that she does not have to stress her back.

You can help us by sending your support to:

IBAN account no.
DK7097120741793075
Account name: Betania
Kirkecenters Ydremission
Swift code: VEHODK22
Bank name: Vestjysk Bank

Remark "Bjerres Mission"

Thank you for supporting the treatment of children born with handicaps. Through surgery most of them can be healed and able to live a normal life.

Wishing you God's richest blessing,
Mirjam



Widows in a difficult situation

In May we sent out an emergency cry about a widow of five children that needed help for a new home. The house she lived in was not for humans. The roof was leaking and she and the kids got wet when it rained. Because of this they were often sick and freezing.

When we visited this woman we were very surprised to see that 38 other widows were there asking for our help for food. They heard that we were coming and came from afar hoping that we would help them.

It had not been raining in the region for three years but it was green when we were there because the rain had finally come. Maasais are proud cattle people and have pastures for their flocks. But due to the long draught many of their cattle, goats and sheep had died. The effect of it was that they could no longer sell milk, meat and live animals. They have no other source of income so the situation was a disaster. They get one meal a day, often corn porridge. This can just barely keep them alive.

Thank you so much to each of you who gave to these poor Maasais. Your quick response caused us to begin acting after just a few days.

The first priority was building the home for the widow and her five children. It is a wooden hut and there is a concrete floor.

Then we bought 18 tons of corn to distribute among the widows.





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We just went to see the place again. As we arrived there was a lot of cheering, singing and dancing from the Maasai women. It really moved us. We gave food to 200 widows and 20 old men. Our plan is to give corn three times.

After the food distribution we went to see the widow and her five children. We wanted to inspect her new hut which was scheduled to be finished by the following week. Only windows and doors were still missing.

The widow and her children were so happy. She thanked us many times for the large donation: "Without your help we had never gotten a new home!" and then she wept. We were really moved to see her gratitude. We praised the Lord with her for all your support to the Maasai widows.

May the Lord Jesus bless and reward you in every way. We cannot find the words to thank you. So we turn our prayers to Jesus asking Him to bless you a hundred fold so that you many never lack anything.

**Love from your arms in Tanzania,
Torkild and Tabitha**



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