



# **Mission among** Children and Youth in Tanzania

March 2023



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



# Dear faithful friends

We had a somewhat different Christmas than expected. I, Tabitha, got very sick just before Christmas and saw a doctor on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. It appeared that there was a heavy inflammation in the whole gut region that had spread to other parts of the body. The problem was due to a worm infection that I had had for a long time, according to the doctor. I got a prescription for a very strong medication which went over bad with me, so I had to stay in bed unable to do much. During Christmas



and New Year Torkild spent a lot of time taking care of me. So there was no Christmas delicacies, but Torkild said that the best Christmas gift for him was that I recovered. On top of this I got pneumonia and coughed a lot. It took me one month to get over it but now I'm finally feel well again.

## Assault

There has been a terrible incident here happening to one of our faithful employees, Emil. He was a driver of one of the school buses and was married to our house maid Resti. One early Saturday morning around 5 he was on his way to work. Three motorcyclists stopped him and ordered him to give them his bag with computer and telephone. Emil also was an IT teacher in our school and his entire curriculum was on the computer. He did not want to hand it to them. Then one of the men pulled a knife and cut him in the stomach very severely. They took the bag and left him bleeding on the road.

Emil lay at the roadside for some time before anybody found him. He had lost a lot of blood but was still conscious when he arrived to the hospital.

Doctors immediately began surgery on him. Unfortunately his wife Resti was away on a crusade with Torkild and the team. But before the surgery he was able to call her up and he told her about the assault. Immediately, Torkild got her on a bus to Arusha. Emil had surgery and for six hours the doctors fought for his life. Unfortunately he was so injured that they did not manage to save his life.

Emil died around 1 p.m. and Resti arrived in Arusha at 4 p.m. What a horrible experience for Resti. She said, "I just cannot understand that my husband is gone. Emil was always so good to me." They had married late, in their mid forties and got only six years together as a married couple.

The burial made a deep impact on us all. And Resti had to say goodbye to her dead husband whom she loved so much.



## The future of a handicapped



We have had a beautiful visit of Leo and Laila from Denmark. They went with us to the foot of the Mount Kilimanjaro and met with a young man, Johnson, and his uncle.

The last part of the distance was a small, red dirt road that twisted among the banana plantations. At the end of the very steep road was the house where they lived. House may be an exaggeration because Johnson and his uncle share a room of 7-8 m<sup>2</sup>. The room is at the end of a hen house and there is just one building. There is no ceiling in the room next to the hen house. The smell was tough and we thought, "How can they sleep in that stench?"

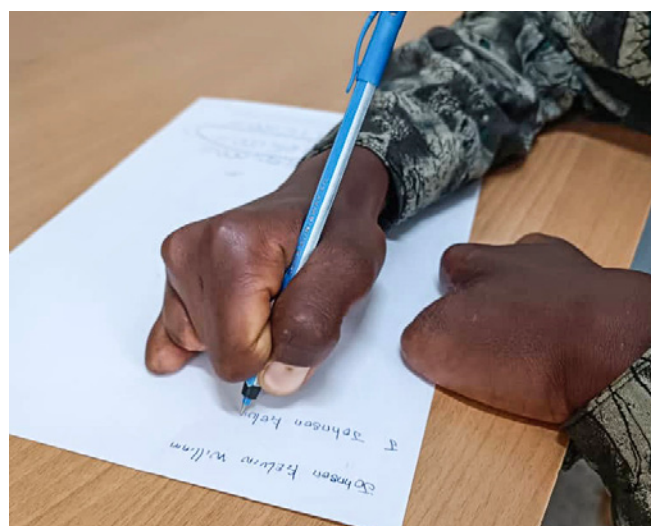
Johnson has no parents. When he was little his mother died and his father died in November of last year. Johnson is an only child and his uncle is the only relative left.

Besides these challenges, Johnson has a handicap. There was an accident in his home when he was little. The housemaid had put a pot on the fireplace and left it to go outside. Johnson just learned to crawl. He moved himself to the fireplace and grabbed the handle of the pot with both hands. On his left hand his little fingers melted away at the extreme heat and his right hand is very damaged as well.

Although he lost his fingers Johnson is a competent writer and has a beautiful handwriting. He retained his thumb and most of the index finger on his right hand so he can hold a pencil.

Johnson seems to be a nice boy and is a very good student. But after his father died there is no one to pay his tuition. Without school fees he cannot continue classes as the uncle can barely make ends meet. That was very evident when we visited their home.

We have met with Johnson and his uncle again to hear about Johnson's wishes for the future. In faith we have sent him on to Secondary school. He will be 18 years in July and has two more years before he graduates. If anyone reading this would like to help support his education there is a need for DKK 6,000 per year for this.







## Children's Crusade

38 degrees C, that is how hot it was in the village near the coast of Tanga hosting our crusade. The church who invited us had only 12 members. After the preaching of the gospel, the small church was known in the whole region. It was wonderful to encourage the Christians and to co-operate with them about the crusade and the film.

There was a lot of poverty in the village. The people lived in clay lined cabins. Most of them were Muslims and there was little Christian activity. Saturday was a market day and goods were spread out on a sack on the ground, very primitively.



At the beginning there was a lot of opposition against the crusade. But we know that there are "no victories without battles." In spite of resistance the crusade was successful. From day one many children and adults came out and the number grew by the days. Oftentimes it is hard to gather people in the coastal region because of the many Muslims. But glory to God, it was a successful week.





Every day some were requesting prayer because they wanted to receive Jesus as Savior. It was an unforgettable crusade. The Christians were clearly encouraged by everything that happened during the week. The word was preached. Now we pray that the church gets a lasting fruit.



## School Ministry

The four young evangelists are doing a marvelous work. They participate in children's crusades and in between they do school ministry. Recently they visited four schools and in every school they sang and testified for an hour to the students. In one for the schools they prayed the sinner's prayer with several. 12 wanted to give their lives to the Lord. Thank you for your prayers for the four young evangelists.





## News from Mirjam

# Back in Tanzania

I am back in Tanzania and in full swing with the work. Three of my four weeks here quickly disappeared. I have been in two different Maasai areas where we handed out baby food to 600 mothers of babies. But it is hot and dry: 32 degr. In the middle of the day and no clouds.

A few regions received a bit of rain, but unfortunately no Maasai regions. That is awful for our friends. In Mswakini they had a rainy season close to Christmas and were very grateful for the seed they received and used. The corn came up fine. But now the rain has stopped and the new crops dried out. What a TOUGH world to live in. Right now especially the children are suffering. Therefore I would like to know if anybody

would like to help us buy food for the many children between ½ and 3 years of age. It is so important that the children receive a good start in life with nutritious food. The situation is serious. Right now many only get one meal a day. This is awful and it is hard to watch when I think about the abundance in Denmark.

I wish so bad to get food to the areas that are affected the most. Will you help me do that?

We just began using the corn grinder in Mfereji when we were out there to hand out baby food. Women met us dressed in the most beautiful outfits. They sang and danced to us, the men also danced. This is a rare sight and it meant so much to see their spontaneous joy. They





held acceptance speeches and we received gifts and a lot of hugs.

The hugs and the gratitude I would like to pass on to you who helped back up this project. It was incredible to be able to make a difference and then to see their love and joy because of it. The grinder was tested and handed over to the committee. Now, the women no longer need to walk for hours to grind their corn.

Thank you also for remembering my family and me in your prayers during the periods where we are away from each other when I go to Tanzania. I need wisdom for the many decisions about where to put our attention and finances. It is often difficult because there are so many needy people.

**May God bless each one of you, I pray.  
Mirjam and the Team**

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## A Maasai girl becomes a mother

A young Maasai girl around 14 years got pregnant and was going to give birth. She got strong birth pangs but was unable to give birth by herself. We have known the father of the girl for many years and he came and asked if we could help his poor daughter. We immediately agreed. She was hospitalized, got a cesarean and received a healthy little girl.

After this we had the young mother and the baby placed in a private home for two weeks. We estimated that it was necessary in order to avoid an infection of the wound and for the mother to recover under calm circumstances. Both the mother and the child are doing well now and are back where they came from.



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## An acutely ill albino girl

A few days ago we met with an albino girl who was very ill and was hospitalized. An x-ray showed that she had big problems in her abdomen. A quick intervention was necessary for her survival. The following day she had surgery. At this moment she is still in hospital and has had two big surgeries.

It is hard for us to say no when ever needy people come our way. They are people who have no other option for help.

In Luke 10:33 we read about the Good Samaritan who showed such love and mercy for a man in need. We believe that we are to show the love of God in a very practical way. We see that our children's crusades go well hand in hand with this ministry of helps.

It is very encouraging for us to experience your great support whenever we send out an emergency cry in situations like that.



It fills our hearts with joy and gratitude that we are not alone solving the problems. You stand with us shoulder to shoulder and make it possible for us to help.

**Much love from your prolonged arms in Tanzania  
Tabitha og Torkild**

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