



Mission among Children and Youth in Tanzania

September 2024



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

***A new commandment I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34***

Dear beloved friends

We want to thank you so much for being with us in Denmark this summer. Thank you for the way you received us; it warmed our hearts so much. And it was very encouraging for us to sense your interest and support of our ministry as we visited churches and homes.

Everyone, children and adults need to feel loved and accepted. But this applies to children especially.

We have a sweet girl in the orphanage. She is from a very tough background. She feels so rejected and forsaken and she often prefers to be by herself. During her entire childhood she never felt loved by her parents.

Her mother was mentally ill and did not want to be bothered by her. Her father was an alcoholic and died a couple of years ago. This little girl really suffers and needs care and safety. She has an aunt who takes care of her during holidays. That way she still has a little contact to her father's relatives.

In the school she has had difficulty learning.

At the orphanage and in the school they realized how important it was to show her love and care. This resulted in the fact that she began being motivated to learn and to play with other children.

Because of this there has been a lot of prayer for this girl. And we saw that as she received love she began to function normally.

There is a huge number of children in Tanzania who feel forsaken and who really need to be loved. The Bible says it simple: "You must love one another".

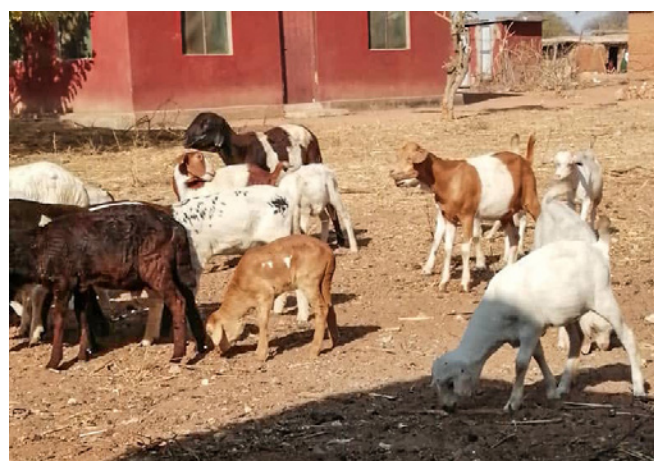
Crusade in rural surroundings

Torkild and the team are in full swing doing children's crusades again. They just returned from a crusade. Torkild is flourishing when he is in the bush sharing the gospel with the children. He says, "That is where I flourish. I totally forget I'm becoming an older man."

The last crusade was in a village where the people are mainly farmers. And that was evident. Everywhere in the village were pigs, goats, sheep, hens and cattle walking around freely. It seemed a natural thing to the people who lived there but we were pretty amazed as we saw some large pigs walking unto the meeting site.

The church who invited us has 35 members. The pastor was thankful that we wanted to help him preach the gospel to the children. The children's meetings were so blessed. From day 1 many children, but also youth and adults turned up. The pastor said that many came from afar as rumors spread to the villages nearby. It was evident that there was a longing for the word of God. If not, they would not have walked up to 1½ hours each way to get there.





There were salvation prayers for children and adults. It was very special and encouraging to experience that the pastors from other denominations were backing the meetings. We were invited by a Pentecostal church, but pastors from the Baptist church and the Anglican church were faithfully coming and prayed for the new believers.





Mama Hannah and the sowing school

During our visit to Denmark we told about Mama Hannah. She was a tailor and very competent. She told us briefly before going to Denmark that she wanted to start a small sowing school for young girls who had not finished their schooling yet.

Young girls who do not have a job often end as prostitutes or get into abuse. She has a great burden to help such young girls get an education as a seamstress.

During our stay in Denmark several agreed that was a good idea and we received money to buy sowing machines. As we returned to Tanzania we got in touch with Hannah and gave her money so she could buy sowing machines and a good overlocker. I, Tabitha went to inspect the sowing room. She has now taken two young girls under her wings to teach them to sow. The girls seem to be proud to take this sowing course. It gives them self-confidence and they can now develop and show their skills.

One of the girls is Adolphina of 15 years. She has been through 6th grade and is from a home with seven children. She is number four.

Her parents had divorced and the mother had to take care of the children. The oldest girl is now married and has a job. She gave her mother, Adolphina and her younger siblings permission to live at her place. Recently the mother remarried and now lives with her husband but left Adolphina and her younger siblings with the big sister. Adolphina is taking care of her younger siblings and cooking the food. While the little ones are in school Adolphina has time to learn to sow. She is happy and proud that she takes the sowing course.

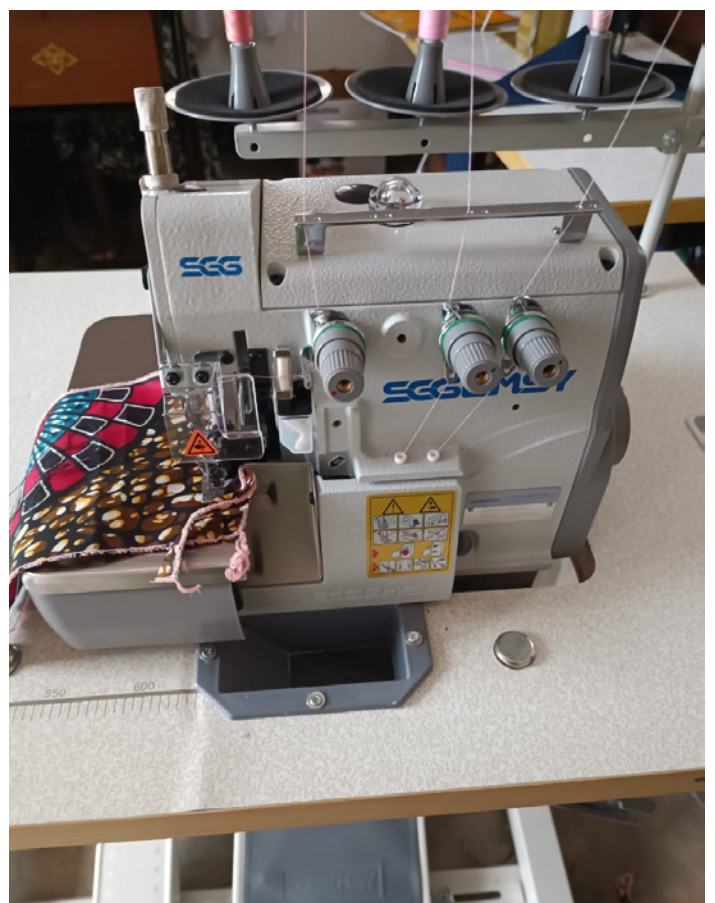
The other girl is Upendo, which means "Loving". She is 23 years old and a single mother of a one-year-old child. She has nine younger siblings and has completed 9th grade. But Upendo's mother who is also a single mother was unable to help her on in school. The mother has not a steady job and she was fighting hard just to get food on the table. It meant that there was no money to let her continue at the school.



Instead, Upendo was sent to live with her grandparents to look after the goats. The grandfather wanted her married so he could get a pride price. She refused and fled to Arusha where she got a job as a maid in a family. The man of the house wanted sex with her but she refused so she had to run away again.

Then she met a young man and they decided to live together. When she got pregnant the man ran off. She is therefore alone with a one-year-old child. She is struggling as she cannot find a job. Mama Hannah has taken care of her and is teaching her to sew so that one day she will be able to sew for others and have her own little business.

We want to thank those of you so much, who supported this project so we got money to buy the sewing machines and was able to give Hannah the possibility to help young girls have a life of their own.



News from Mirjam

Dear Friends,

Once again we need your help. We are in touch with a child that urgently needs a doctor.

Little Erick has been in the local hospital. His little family is from Mswakini, where my faithful co-worker Obedi lives. The family contacted him to hear if he could help them.

Parents are a young couple age 22 years. They live off farming and did not have a good harvest this year. Their little son age four months has problems breathing through his nose and is very malnourished. The local hospital has given him oxygen but cannot find the cause for the illness. There is an urgent need to get the boy to the Arusha Hospital and get him in treatment.

Little Erick's mother called Obedi. She cried and cried and begged for help saying, "We are so

afraid that we are going to lose our little boy. We asked God for help." Obedi told us that they go to the same local church. The church is praying with them but have no means to help them. The whole region is so poor.



If you have the heart to help little Erick please use the account details mentioned in this letter and mark it "Bjerre Mission".

I am leaving again for Tanzania in September. I look very much forward to being back and to be physically present with my lovely team which has many current challenges. I am so grateful to be able to continue the work that God called me to do. I will continue as long as He needs me. Together we are serving Jesus. I praise God that YOU want to be a part of it.

**Love from
Mirjam**

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

Mama Oliva

As some of you know, Mama Oliva got breast cancer. She had immediate surgery thanks to you, dear friends who were willing to help this mother by supporting her financially.

One Saturday morning she and her husband came to say thank you. Mama Oliva said with tears: "Greet all of your friends and tell them Thank You because they made it possible for me to have surgery. We lack words to express our gratitude but we fold our hands and ask Jesus to bless and reward you."

Please receive her loving greeting. It was from the depth of her heart.

She showed us the surgery wound because she wanted us to see how fine the scar had become. The wound had already healed and there was no inflammation.

They brought us gifts: a large good-looking cock and a bunch of bananas.

At this moment she is in Dar Es Salaam at the only hospital in Tanzania which treats cancer patients. She is



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getting some after-treatment in the shape of injections. We are asking for a complete healing for Mama Oliva.

Unfortunately it is very expensive to have her in Dar Es Salaam. We rented a room for her which gives her the possibility of cooking for herself. She is in the hospital once a week. There is 700 km to Dar Es Salaam from Arusha and it is better for her not to travel back and forth. She needs to rest between treatments. We do not know yet how long she will remain there. We are awaiting an answer from the doctor.

50 students graduating from 7th grade

On 31th August we graduated 7th grade. This year we had 50 students who finished the school and pass on to Form 1, which is like 8th grade in Denmark.

**Sending you our love and hugs,
Torkild and Tabitha**



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