



Mission among children and youth in Tanzania

Led by missionary couple Tabitha and Torkild Jensen
send by Betania Kirkecenters Ydremission

OCTOBER 2012

Dear faithful friends!

We are so grateful to our dear church and to all of our friends for the unforgettable jubilee celebration you all prepared for us! It was a day we shall never forget and it will always remain in our mind as a token of God's love and care for us – He always fulfills His promises. A special Thank You to dear friends from far and near, who were a part of the celebration.

Our daughter Mirjam had made a powerpoint presentation which described our ministry during 25 years. It was great. We could clearly tell that our looks had changed quite a bit during all the years.

Many things have changed in Tanzania as well. When we began in 1987 not very many goods were available in the shops. All shelves were more or less empty – it was even hard to get toilet paper. Today, nice looking supermarkets have been established and it is possible to buy almost anything.

During our first years here there was a ration on gasoline. We had to store barrels of gasoline in the garage in order to make sure we had enough fuel to get around the country.

Although things have changed for the better in many ways, the gap between rich and poor has become greater. According to the latest estimations about 10% are in possession of all the means. The remaining 90% have hardly anything.



During the years that passed since we have been here, we have seen the blessings of the Lord in so many ways. We just want to mention a few of the many things that we have been a part of here, through the grace of God.

Thank you so much for standing with us in the ministry. May the Lord richly bless you and pay you back a hundred fold.

Yours in Him,
Torkild and Tabitha

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Husk at mærke indbetalingen MBU.TZ



Facts

Over the years we have built:

231 churches in collaboration with our German friend, Friedhelm.

8 houses for our employees in appreciation of their devotion to the ministry. It is important for them to have a nice home.

The Love Home which is a home for orphans.

A school for 500 students ranging from nursery class through 7th grade.

The house for Pudde and her dear children.

At the moment we are building another school and construction is proceeding.

Through sponsorships we have 138 students in classes from nursery class through 7th grade. We have 69 students in secondary classes, which lasts for six years, 36 are in collage or other education.

There are a total of 243 students who receive support for their schooling through sponsorships. Praise God for all of this!

We have been digging a number of wells at the Masai's and elsewhere.

We have been distributing aid in the most drought stricken regions.

Many other people have received some sort of help.

We are thankful to the Lord for all the things that He has caused us to be a part of. We are merely His tools and also your prolonged arms to Tanzania. All this is a result of your love to the ministry and your willingness to give.

Back to work

We are back in the ministry here after a wonderful, but busy leave of absence to Denmark. On the arrival to Arusha we were welcomed with red roses, open arms, and a delicious dinner and we were happy to be reunited with our staff.

Unfortunately after having been here for just 1½ weeks we received the news that Torkild's older brother Henning had died. We were very sad and Torkild left to be a part of the funeral. Henning had undergone extensive heart surgery and due to some unforeseen complications he did not survive.

Torkild's father who is now 97 years old has a hard time coping with the fact that he lost two of his children within the past three years. Saying farewell to them has been really tough on him, but as he also says, "The Lord is in charge of all of our days."

When Torkild returned from Denmark, he left for a children’s crusade in a very remote village between Dodoma and Mtera. There is so much poverty in the village, which is made out of a number of mud huts with grass roofs and with no electric current. The place was very dry, dusty, and windy indeed. You should have seen the equipment as they returned back home – it had turned totally orange from dust.



The inviting church counted around 30 members, but on the Sunday it was very crowded leaving people standing outside. The pastor was beaming because as he said, “We have never had arrangements like this – children’s crusades and showing of films – it seems as if the entire village comes out!” The village has been known for its witchcraft. There are many witch doctors and they deter people from coming to the evangelistic meetings. But glory to God, many children and adults came anyhow.



A miracle in the relationship between the pastor and his father happened. When the pastor as a very young man became a Christian and decided

to preach the gospel, his father was so disappointed that he cut off communication with him. They have not been in touch for several years. The pastor’s father attended the crusade and later on he contacted his son saying, “This is the most fantastic thing I have ever experienced!” and the father asked his son for forgiveness and they gave each other a big hug. When the love of God is at work all barriers fall!

Unfortunately the pastor is ill. He has a large lump on his throat which turned out to be goiter. He needs surgery, but costs are about DKK 1500 and he does not have that kind of money and has not dealt with it.

One night after showing the film five adults came wanting to accept Jesus as their saviour. Later that week another three came. There was joy in the church that Sunday!



Wanted: A new wheelchair

Torkild and the team noticed that every day a young mother in a wheelchair came.

The oldest of her sons was pushing her so that she would be able to attend. It appeared that they

lived five miles from the place and the oldest of the children had helped each other push their mother the whole way (a two hour trip). During the crusade she and the children stayed with some friends as it was too far to walk every day. Torkild decided to visit their home in order to have a look at their



living conditions. On his way there he met the mother and the children sitting in the hot sun. The old wheelchair with the flat worn tires had had a puncture. Torkild got them into the car and drove them home.

Their story goes that both the mother and the father are disabled. As a young girl the mother had a hip surgery and she has not been able to walk ever since. Whenever there is no one to push the wheelchair she uses sticks or crawls to get ahead. One day as the father was working in the field he was bit by a poisonous snake. As a result, doctors had to amputate his leg right under the knee to save his life. The man cut out an artificial wooden limb because of not having money to buy one. Although



bothered by the limb he is in the field working every single day. He is not a lazy man, no, he is extremely hard working although oftentimes in great pains.

The couple has four wonderful children and a lovely home. But they are very poor and their bed is a fur on the floor. The kitchen is not very impressive either.



They have had a bad year because of not having a harvest yet, due to lack of rain. There was not a lot of food in the house so Torkild gave them a money gift for some maize. Although having it

tough financially the family did not ask for anything. Nevertheless, Torkild asked if they had a special wish and the wife brightened up sharing that her biggest wish was a new wheelchair as the one she had was totally worn down.

If any of you should feel like helping the poor woman get a new wheelchair the price is just below DKK 3000. We of course will purchase and deliver it to her.

Pudde

We just went to see Pudde and her lovely children of which the number has grown to 11.

We told Pudde, “You cannot keep taking in children, they all need clothes.” Pudde understood and replied, “I won’t, mama and baba, I understand, don’t worry.” She asked us to send her love to you all and give lots of thanks for your support of the lovely house. They are so happy.



The new school

The hall of the new school is now finished and in October it will be dedicated.

On that occasion we will have company from Denmark, our Pastor Morten, Torben and Dorrit, Preben and Gudrun, and Peter Madsen. We look forward to that. At the picture in front of the hall are our school staff and teachers.



We are now launching the second stage, which is finishing two additional classrooms by the end of the year.

Mirjam

We have received the following words from our home church, Betania:

“Betania KirkeCenter sent out Torkild and Tabitha 25 years ago and it has been a great joy for us to follow their ministry over the years.

The ministry has grown from its small beginning until today where it is widely spread and involved with a big staff and many partners. With expansion follows a greater work load and several times we have discussed with Torkild and Tabitha how to lift off some of the load.

During recent years Mirjam assisted her parents with different co-ordination tasks and we have seen a great development of Mirjam’s ministry in many areas. Also, Torkild and Tabitha have witnessed the growth of Mirjam’s ministry, and how she has taken on more and more tasks, which is a great relief to them.

Therefore it was a big confirmation to them when Betania suggested that Mirjam become a co-ordinator of their ministry. The teamwork with Mirjam is exactly what Torkild and Tabitha need.

Thank you for your support and prayers for the ministry of Torkild and Tabitha.

Yours, Bent Ole Sørensen
BKC Missions Coordinator



We would naturally like to give Mirjam a salary for her work since she needs money for the necessities of life like the rest of us.

If any of our readers feel an urge to support Mirjam with an amount each month or once in a while we would be very grateful. We are thankful for any amount. Any gifts for Mirjam should be earmarked **“Bjerre’s Mission TZ.”**

These gifts are tax deductible.

We are excited that Mirjam wants to be involved in our ministry $\frac{3}{4}$ of her time. It means that we do not have to cut down on the activities that have grown over the years. We consider her assistance the goodness of God and we thank Him for His concern. During recent years Mirjam has helped us co-ordinate different projects. Mirjam is good at Swahili and English, which is a great asset.

Thus, the work load is being relieved. We look forward to an even closer co-operation and believe that we are about to enter a new time in our ministry. It will release Torkild so that he can continue to go to Muslim villages with the Gospel to children.



Thank you dear readers for your prayers for Mirjam, and that the Lord may bless her in the ministry she will be involved with.

Bladet videresendes ikke, men tilbagesendes med oplysning om adresseændring



A burnt family

After deadline we were noticed of a terrible accident at the house of one of our guards, Loriku, from the Masai land.

His wife and their two youngest children were awfully burnt when a petrol lamp exploded.

We made sure they were hospitalized and they get special treatment in the intensive care.

Their lives have been in danger, but now they seem to have stabilized.

They need prayers and financial help for the stay. Please read more at our webpage

(www.mission-tanzania.dk).



Regler for skattekvitteringer

SKAT kræver, at vi som beløbsmodtager skal indberette CPR-nr. på alle indbetalte beløb for den enkelte giver.

Dermed vil beløbet automatisk fremgå af det kommende års selvangivelse. For at opnå fradrag skal missionskassereren derfor have dit CPR-nr. og navn.

Har du brug for mere information om dette, kan du kontakte ham på email:

ymission@stofanet.dk, pr. tlf. 75353058 eller pr. brev til Willy Højgård, Søndermarksvej 307, 7190 Billund.

I 2012 kan man få fradrag i henhold til skattelovens § 8a på op til kr. 14.500,00, hvis man har givet kr. 15.000,00.