

Short Report on Tanzania Visit 2016

Arusha

Tuishime School

I was very impressed with the teachers from Senior Volunteer Network (SVN) and feel they had a good impact on the school. Whether it is lasting or not is a matter of conjecture. I was personally delighted to be with them and enjoyed the two weeks during which we enjoyed the surroundings and had good times of sharing and prayer.

Head teacher Elisa Nassari is finding challenges in his role as he is more of an administrator rather than a mentor/developer of teachers. The teachers are generally doing well although a number of them have very difficult family situations. There is a positive mood at the school although the underlying issue of low salaries remain.

The school performance in the 2016 Standard VII exams was a significant improvement over previous years due to good teaching and a reduction in cheating around the exam period.

The outdoor play equipment is used, greatly appreciated and is being looked after. Renovation of classrooms is slowly progressing with the external walls having been painted and illustrated with educational items.

Building estimates for the refurbishment of toilets and construction of an office block have been provided. HFT have agreed to fund the toilets (£5565).

Naomi wants to maintain a strong relationship with HFT which desire arises from the needy financial situation on funding capital items and the importance of having friendship with us. It struck me how important it is to maintain a long term partnership with them particularly in the future when Naomi and Felix will be too old to play an active role in the school.

The SVN visit illustrates the real need for UK trained teachers to serve long term in the school in order to produce lasting change particularly in the educational areas where the school have blind spots.

Improving resources in the school over the next few years is very important and HFT should allocate a fund for this. Some of the computers are not working and require replacement.

Other

Steve Kweka's house is not yet finished, despite the family living in it. He lost his job as head teacher due to a fire at the school but is quite happy being a regular teacher.

Mosses Paulo has been suspended from his position as ward educational officer pending a decision as to whether he was at fault in a recent case of financial irregularity. His salary remains unchanged. Mary is not well with cartilage problems in her left knee and some breathing difficulties. Mkapu and Irene are doing well as are Joram and Tabitha.

Augustino still has not received his back-pay after being suspended from his post but intends to repay the loan when able to.

We met Arnold Sospeter and Brown Manyaka, two students that we sponsor. They are both doing very well.

Singida

Felix and I had a truly wonderful time in Singida during which we went on mission and visited three villages – Nya ha ha, Urongu and Old Kiomboi. We went door-to-door with mission teams from churches and preached in churches seeing many people coming to faith in Christ. Follow-up is continuing under the watchful eye of Deo. We see the harvest as being in answer to the prayers that have been made over the last few years.

There is an intense hunger and thirst for God and we found open hearts to receive the gospel. People were receptive to listen as we presented the good news in different ways which were appropriate to their situation. We were aware of the toughness of some people's resistance but the Holy Spirit told us when to stay until a soul was won and when to move on. I was delighted that my presence was seen as valuable and motivational rather than an intrusion. Interpretation of words did not hinder the working of God in people's lives.

Deo is doing well in training up mission teams as well as those who will carry out follow-up. But he feels the pull of his family. Felix and I discussed his schedule and agreed with Deo that he needed to spend more time with the family in Mwanza. So 2017 will be 60% spent in Mwanza and 40% in Singida. He will look to find work in Mwanza to support himself.

We agreed that the mission work in Singida needs to be more intentional so Deo will schedule dates with each church when he will be with them and will agree the purpose of each visit. His emphasis will be a mixture of mission, and training of teams in mission and follow-up. He will also identify another 1-2 villages that require mission work.

Pastor Benjamin Kitusi is leading his church in Old Kiomboi in a strategic way. It was a pleasure to be in his team during our mission.

We drove on the road that Deo had built and were pleased that it was well made. He told us about the favour that he had found with authorities although it is unlikely that he will do further road construction work.

Dar es Salaam

I met Ibrahim (many times) and Shamsa (once) spending precious moments with them. They are both struggling but their faith in the Lord is seeing them through their present difficulties. Ibrahim did not pass his exam retake so has had to leave the course. He is trying to earn income from his chosen work of photography. Shamsa continues studying for her accountancy degree and is now in the second year. She has decided to drop her legitimate claim against her brother over inheritance of her father's house although this has significant financial consequences.

Pastor Stephen Osinde remains strong, passionate about the gospel and his goal to see a strong pastor's network established through The Oasis of Victory Faith Ministry. The ministry requires substantial financial support as his resources are strained and almost exhausted and challenged me to find it. But how to do this?

The Ministry celebrated its 10th anniversary by holding a 3 day pastors conference at which pastors from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Mozambique attended. On the Sunday 3 pastors were ordained in a wonderfully uplifting service. We had the opportunity to teach in a few sessions and praise God that our teaching was well received. The pastors are all from a poor

background and struggle financially but they are passionate to see God building their churches. There are unlimited opportunities to help them individually. I had invitations to visit them but am aware that God has called us to work in Tanzania so although it would be lovely to take up the offers there is a need to remain focussed in our work in order to achieve the purpose that God has put before us.

We visited the bible school in Mlandizi and were delighted to see that the first classroom is under construction and the temporary church building is being used. However, to meet their desire for the bible school to open in early 2017, they require significant financial support to complete the classroom and build an additional one. The impact of training pastors on the growth of the church will be significant and I feel strongly that it should become a strong focus for HFT.

I met a Professor Mwaikambo, who was the first female doctor and first female professor in TZ. I had a delightful evening with her and her granddaughter. I visited the HOPAC School to renew friendships and investigate how a UK teacher can teach in TZ.

Challenges to HFT

- Substantial financial needs at Tuishime School (office block) and The Oasis of Victory Faith Ministry (Bible School).
- Need to boost resources at Tusihime School (e.g. toys, books, computers & projectors, sport equipment)
- Preparation for mission in Visit 2017
- Value in teachers and other people staying long term in TZ – many opportunities to minister and help.