

## **Report on Tanzania Visit 2018**

### **General**

The European team of Matt, Patsy, Alex, Hannah and Martin joined Tanzanians Ezekiel, Ezra, Felix, Deo, Moses and Daniel to form a very strong Mission Team. We spent the majority of our time on mission in Singida with just two days in Arusha at Tuishime School and three days in Dar es Salaam at a pastor's conference.

It was a joy to work with Pastor Deo in jointly leading the team and to experience teamwork of the highest level with others. We bonded well as a team, supported each other, prayed for and with each other and enjoyed being together. We all felt that we had accomplished much and seen God work in a powerful way through people making commitments to follow Jesus, through healings and delivery from demons. We really benefitted and appreciated the prayer support that we knew was being offered up for us and the work we were doing in Singida and Dar. Thank you greatly for all those who supported and prayed for us.

### **Tuishime School**

Teachers who have left are Thomas, Rehema, Anitha and Monica. Mathias remains as head teacher. The atmosphere in the school felt different this year as I did not know the new teachers and had no time getting to know them. The teachers seemed positive with no one flagging any issues to me that needed to be followed-up. Bosco still hasn't settled his immigration status but is allowed to work. Peter and Margaret have a new baby girl.

The local Anglican pastor is coming into school to hold two Christian classes each week although I was not able to observe the lessons. Apparently they are going well. A few vegetables are being grown in the garden and Bosco is teaching the children about soil properties, crop management and the importance of good husbandry.

Results of Std VII national exams held in August showed that all children passed the exams. The relative standard compared to other schools is much lower than previous years as the position of the school in the district has dropped from 15/50 to 33/51. This reduction in position was due to poor results in mathematics and science. Naomi is seeking to shake up the teaching so that the high standards of previous years is again achieved. Bosco said that many of the observations that were made during our visit in 2017 have been heeded and put into practice although he could not give me examples. The older year groups made a school visit to Tanga earlier in 2018. The computers are all working well.

Mollel, who we are sponsoring in O'levels (Kiswahili, geography, civics), has taken the exams and awaits the results in January. We will sponsor him for A'levels (history, general studies, Swahili, geography) if he passes the O'levels.

The school has recruited a librarian who has sorted the books, shelved them and was issuing them to children during my visit. Reading books are being used more widely by children and some classrooms have additional shelves for storage. This is a great success.

The condition of classrooms is unchanged and remains poor as no money has been allocated for re-painting or repairs. All are in need of renovation to make a more pleasant learning

environment for children and teachers. A new kitchen has been built to replace the previous wooden structure which was condemned by inspectors. It looks magnificent and works well. There are still plans to build offices for senior staff and a new plan to build a dining hall all in the middle of the garden. Funding for this will come from the school itself.

The main challenge in the school is the financial situation. They are still not allowed to raise fees and a TSh15million outstanding tax bill is being paid to the government TRA with an 8 month term remaining. Naomi also took out a TSh30million loan over 2 years to pay for the new kitchen. She is taking a salary from the school and confirmed that when the loan has been re-paid the financial situation will be a lot healthier. Payment of fees by parents is poor leading to continuing issues with difficulties paying teacher salaries. The cost of food items have increased which also contributes to the financial strains.

I talked with Naomi and Felix about succession planning at the school and for the first time they were quite engaging which was a real answer to prayer. They still plan for Felicia to take over the Director position in about 3 years' time but this is dependent on family matters. They propose that ownership of the school will transfer to their children and their husbands. Naomi and Felix will hold a meeting with the immediate family concerning how to protect the future of the school. Felicia comes back to the school from time to time and participates in staff and parent meetings so is aware of issues and has a relationship with staff.

I emphasised the importance of improving communication by the school to us and Bosco and Peter promised to send a short report each month.

I talked with Felix and Naomi about performance management of teachers to help them improve. Whilst initially there was some resistance to the idea she was eventually convinced and promised to implement it. But I'm still unsure whether she really understands how to do this. I also mentioned the value of recruiting younger teachers to reduce the wage bill with the additional benefit of them bringing new ideas into the school.

### **Singida Mission**

We travelled from Arusha to Singida where we were met by the Here's Life Africa team (Moses and Daniel) and then travelled to Ibaga, experiencing a puncture late at night in one of the vehicles. We had booked two vehicles for the fortnight which was enough for the team of 11 people we had. Moses drove one of them whilst Deo drove the other one. There was an element of frustration in the team during the first mornings as we "frittered" time away and left late but after a discussion we felt that this issue had been understood and future days would be different (which they were). We became more time conscious after that meeting.

Mwandalya/Nyahaa – the first village we visited for mission. The newly built church which was funded by Hope for Tanzania in 2018 is splendid. Though we had seen many photos of it during its construction phase it was amazing to see it and enjoy its spaciousness and peaceful atmosphere. We met Pastors Oscar and Dorcas as well as the overseer, Pastor Jackson. The training session we held for the church on discipleship and evangelism was well

received. A football match had been arranged between young men of Mwandalya and a nearby village so we took the opportunity to give out tracts and carried out a survey of their attitudes towards God and church. An impromptu open air service was held which attracted a large crowd. A film was shown in the evening after which there was a great response to the gospel preaching. Deo and I feel that whilst eventually Mwandalya could become a hub church this will take quite some time as Pastor Oscar has not yet completed his Bible school training and the church is still small and somewhat weak. Perhaps the greatest challenge in the village is how to effectively reach the youth and children. For this a trained worker with the necessary skills and approach is probably needed. There is also the great need to train church members in their faith and are equipped to carry out mission; both of these will take time. I talked with Deo about the need to reduce future church build costs to bring them below £20,000 in order to use our resources wisely. Before we agree to build another church we both agreed that two prerequisites are needed: that free labour is available as is a trained pastor who is committed to outreach and church growth.

On the second day (Sunday) Matt preached on light and darkness during which we took the children out and sang songs, played games and acted out an interactive Bible story. We visited many people in the village bar area and talked to them about the way of salvation. We showed another film (Pastor Jerry) in the evening which people loved. We asked Oscar many questions about his strategy for church growth, the needs in the church and his Bible college course. We didn't learn so much as his answers were shallow but I did note a change in him and felt that this change will deepen during his second year at college. We encouraged him to make the most of the training and talk to as many people as possible to increase knowledge particularly about how to reach children and youth. We encouraged him to use the church building for community activities. Oscar would really benefit from an additional income and Deo suggested he start keeping pigs to breed and sell. We need to consider whether to fund this. After a discussion with Matt we both recognised that, at least in the churches we have been to, there is a significant lack of interaction between pastors and church members which does not enable relationships to be built up. It would appear that this is a cultural problem.

Kidaru. This was our first visit to the village in which Pastor Anderson has responsibility to shepherd the church. He comes from a nearby village, has 4 children and has lived in the village for 22 years. He studied at the Arusha TAG Bible College and has planted a daughter church at Tegero. In Kidaru he started the church from nothing with the help of another leader and constructed a simple church building which has been extended over the years. Initially people did not appreciate his coming to the village but he built friendships with them and now has been invited into schools and to village council meetings. He is seen as a spiritual leader in the village despite his church building being simple compared with other ones. Kidaru has church buildings for other denominations which are of a higher constructional quality than the TAG church building and this has resulted in better educated people going to them despite Christians favouring his teaching and the activities he runs. This is because they fear being asked to fund a new church building. Pastor Anderson's strategy for church growth is for members to carry out home visitation and conduct open air meetings. He sees the main challenge as integrating new Christians into the church. The

church has about 70 members but in his opinion growth is limited as people prefer going to the other churches. He holds classes for new Christians and visits people in their homes. He wants to reach out to the community and reduce the high infant mortality rate by building a centre where expectant mothers can safely deliver their babies. This view is deeply affected by his personal experience as he has himself lost two babies. The pastor wants to construct a new building to attract people although we said that it was the messages he preached and the spiritual strength of the church that was more important. He works full time as a pastor but has a small shop in the village selling motorcycle parts and farms chickens and maize on a small scale.

We held a teaching seminar on the first day the start of which was delayed due to a village meeting being held. The church was wonderfully supportive of us during our stay and furnished an empty house with mattresses, bedding and curtains. We sensed that this meant that some of them would probably have slept on the ground. All food was prepared for us at the church by the women of the church. We were so grateful to them. On the second day we held meetings for children after they finished school during which we sang songs and told a story about Noah and the flood. Due to the incredibly high numbers this was somewhat chaotic but was enjoyed by them and was a better option than doing nothing. We spoke at open air meetings despite being given little notice but God gave us the words to say and there was a good response. In the evening we showed part one of a film which we concluded the following night and many people responded to the gospel message.

We were very well looked after by ladies from the church, with all meals being provided, and by the pastor and other church members. It was a wonderful lesson of love and sacrifice.

Tegero. We drove the short distance to Tegero where Pastor Shadraki leads the church. He comes from a Muslim background and is very committed to mission by the church. He has 6 children and moved to the village from Kidaru a year ago. Previously he had lived in Kidaru for 8 years and before then in a village near Kiomboi. He came to Kidaru as a farmer but God called him to Tegero to be a pastor so he left his house and farm. He has been to Bible college and has enough Bible knowledge to train and disciple others. He invited the pastor from the Tegero Lutheran church to the last open air mission meeting which is a positive sign of co-operation between the two pastors. Shadraki's biggest challenges are the numbers of Christians to disciple, the inadequate size of the church building and the distances people travel to his church. The church is about 40 in number with 17 baptised members and many wanting to be baptised. Classes for Christians are held each Wednesday (Bible study) and Friday (prayer). Community needs are a water well, dispensary and provision of activities/training for young people. The pastor has already dug a small well and is growing passion fruit. Others have started small businesses of keeping animals following training by Deo.

On the first morning we visited the market bar area in the village splitting up into a number of teams. Our group went to speak to a number of young men including James who we got to know reasonably well due to his ability to speak English. The men thought that their drinking of alcohol prevented them going to church due to the condemnation they expected

to receive. But we said that they should visit as change in a person's life comes after they start to follow Jesus. However I suspect that many of them see church as an alien place to go, are uncertain of how they will be treated and unsure of what goes on inside. They may also fear the loss of community which the bar area promotes. We all felt that for the church to make inroads into this community, relationships need to be built and an alternative activity to drinking alcohol provided for them. We witnessed to the men and left for another group. This included Daniel and Zanaibu (married couple) and Emmanueli. Zanaibu is a Muslim lady whilst Daniel is a lapsed Lutheran as is Emmanueli. We built friendship and spoke to them about the love of Christ, his grace and desire to have a relationship with them. They said they would consider and make a decision on the next day. The other groups had amazing experiences seeing an arm grow, sight restored to a lady and a lady with deafness healed. I preached at very short notice at the open air meeting on "you will reap what you sow" and made it difficult for people to make the commitment by speaking about the challenges of the Christian life. A few people responded. We showed a film on both evenings to which there was a good response.

On the second day we held a teaching seminar for the church which Zainabu and Daniel attended. By the end of the seminar more than 30 people were listening and we experienced a powerful time of testimony and prayer. We went back to the market area to witness to people and there met a man called Anderson Aaron who showed great interest. We took a similar slow approach in witnessing to that of the previous day taking care to build up relationships and show kindness and care. In the evening we showed a film and many people responded to the gospel. During the film we saw James, who had been drinking again, and again encouraged him to follow the way of Jesus and move from darkness to the light.

On the last morning I met Michael and his wife and daughter and his father (Lamech). His father had pain in his shoulders and legs so I prayed for him and did some exercises with him. I had seen Lamech at the bar the previous day so told him to stop drinking as this was probably affecting his health, would shorten his life due to the toxic chemicals in the alcohol and was preventing him passing on wisdom and knowledge to his family due to his bad example. We witnessed to Lamech and Michael and they made a commitment to follow Jesus. Just as we were leaving we paid one last visit to the market area and saw Zainabu and Daniel. We impressed on them the need to turn away from their current lives and follow Jesus but without someone to help them overcome their alcohol dependency it will be difficult.

Kiomboi. We only had a brief period in the village as we had prioritised other villages due to the more pioneering nature of this year's mission. We showed a film in an area near the church where there were no church members. Though the numbers of people watching the film was low a good number made commitments so we hope that they will join Pastor Kitusi's church to increase its size. Matt and Felix returned to Arusha in the early hours of Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November whilst the rest of the team conducted a seminar on stewardship to the church during the morning. The church remains strong despite numbers reducing due to people leaving the area and is probably the spiritually strongest of the ones we work with.

People have strong faith, knowledge about the Lord and are active in evangelism outside the church. We had a wonderful time. Afterwards we spoke with Kitusi and the elders and found out their needs which are: need for speakers, amplifier and keyboard (for open air outreach), generator, electricity connection (TSh2million), building extension. Regarding the extension the area has been marked out but as it only increases seating by about 40 people it is perhaps not critical for the extension to be built immediately as there is still spare capacity due to the reduced number of church members. Deo suggested building with concrete blocks rather than using mud bricks so that the structure lasts longer. He will make a proposal with costing. Every Sunday evening the church goes into Old Kiomboi but currently they have no music to enhance the singing and dancing. Alex talked with Kitusi and his elders about experiences from Cologne City Church, namely that the church exists for the city, the Sunday service is for non-Christians, everyone in the church is part of the mission, the church is not about the leaders but about fire (passion), the leaders have a strong vision (to change the approach to mission), and the church builds momentum by communicating success to its followers in different ways including with social media. Hopefully this sharing will help Kitusi re-model his church to meet the needs of those in the town and give an example of how to do church differently in more rural areas.

Urughu. It was great to be back in the village again and continue our work to build up the church so that it sees growth in the surrounding area. This year it felt the place to be. I shared some thoughts with the church from Jeremiah 29v7 about praying for the prosperity of the city (Urughu). We ran two mammoth teaching sessions on relationships (with God, the church community and the external community) and stewardship (citizens of heaven and using our talents, time and treasure) which occupied a 4 hour period.

The church is smaller in numbers than last year as a number of people have moved away. We felt there were some obstacles in the church - lack of interaction with the community, witchcraft and idol worship as well as a lack of passion for missional activities. The mission team spent time praying for the church and village and walked around it to break up the hard ground so that fruitfulness would result. The prayer ministry that we did in each village will prove vital in the spiritual battle in which we are fighting. Whilst Alex preached in the Sunday service, Hannah, Patsy and I ran a children's club with the church children's worker. We sang songs, told an interactive story about the Prodigal Son and played games. We all had so much fun and the kids loved it. In the open air meeting Patsy and Hannah shared their testimonies and I told a story based on John 1 – the word becoming flesh. A few people made commitments to Jesus which was a great encouragement. We went to Urughu Lake and enjoyed meeting fishermen and witnessing to them as well as seeing hippos and having a canoe paddle on the lake. The Pastor Jerry film was shown which led to quite a few people making commitments. We felt satisfied that the church has been added to in numbers through the work of the Holy Spirit in people's lives. Building up the Urughu church for outreach is now one of Deo's main priorities.

Ulyangombe. This is the village where we carried out pioneering work last year, which Pastor Julius has visited from time to time and for which we have since persevered in prayer. We visited the village, teaming up with the mission team from Urughu, and split up

into small teams to blitz the village with tracts and invitations to the film. Any feelings of disappointment during our visit were soon put to rest as vast numbers of children turned up and we played games with them before the film started. Many people came for the film which had a big impact on them when the call came to commit themselves to Jesus. On the following day we returned to the village and visited people in their homes. A number became Christians – Jackson and his whole family, Regina, Farmer Jonas and his family, a number of nominal Christians, quite a few Muslims. We met a number of people who had become Christians last year, one Veronica who was glowing with God’s love and peace. We encouraged them to meet with other Christians now rather than waiting until a structure was built. Patsy had a picture of a flower waiting to open and bloom – the time is coming soon! So the total number of people who committed themselves to Jesus in the visitation this year was 23 and last year was 80. We have the birth of the church of Ulyangombe. We gave out the few Bibles we had but many more are needed. At the open air meeting, Moses and Alex preached powerfully after which the film was shown. At the same time a small group of us prayed for a number of women with health problems and some were healed from pain through the power of God. We had a battle with one lady who asked for prayer for healing but we discerned that she had previously dabbled with witchcraft as a result of being a Muslim and concluded that her ill health was due to her previous practices. So we prayed for deliverance and after a battle the demon came out and she was set free. Her pain disappeared and she became a joyful person once we had prayed that she receive the Holy Spirit. She was able to praise God and lift her arms up high, which she could not do before, and she experienced lightness in her body and spirit. Another Muslim lady asked for healing prayer but we insisted she commit her life to Jesus first, which she did, after which she was healed of her pain. It was a powerful time for all of us.

The following day we returned to Ulyangombe to hold the inaugural church meeting. To make sure people came we went out to tell them about the meeting and encourage them to come. Many did and we were greatly encouraged. In total there were about 30 from the village with an equal number from the team and the Urughu church. It was a simple service with a few people giving short talks and some singing. It will be a challenge for Pastor Julius to develop the church and make it relevant to the needs of the village people. Hopefully he will not establish a traditional meeting format but one that is more inclusive and allows participation. We encouraged the church to see themselves as the church, not to wait for a building (which will come), to love, care and support each other and do good in the community. The needs of the church are to construct a simple structure that will serve as a place for the church to meet and offer them some protection from the weather, a few chairs and many Bibles. We were all excited to witness the start of this new church.

Masimba. We travelled briefly to Masimba which is a small village about 30 minutes from Urughu. It has a local AIC church but not much was known about it or its activities. However we met the pastor and lead elder the following day and agreed that Pastor Julius would visit them and they would seek to work together. The AIC church does reach out to the village and though small has a heart for mission. Before any TAG church can be considered Pastor Julius needs to have worked with the AIC church and done outreach in the area. Progress in the village can be reviewed in a year’s time and a decision taken as to our missional

strategy. The village is located in an agriculturally rich area with many farms with livestock and crops and has a small centre with a few shops and a milling machine. The village is spread out due to its farming nature but it is clear that it is a reasonably prosperous area. There is a lot of spiritual darkness amongst the Sukuma tribe in that district with much idol worship and witchcraft. We went to one small community which had a shrine for animal sacrifices but young men were reluctant to converse with us and would not talk about their witchcraft practices. They were suspicious as to our motives and the witch doctor hid behind the women probably sensing that her power had been neutralised for a time. We prayed against the evil forces once we had left the place. Whilst outreach will continue in the village we will not increase efforts until Urughu and Ulyangombe churches become stronger.

Ushoru. We visited the village early one morning – its distance from Urughu is no more than 30 minutes. It is quite spread out but does have a small centre and a prison, school and catholic church. Pastor Julius is discussing going into the prison to do outreach. He has started a small church that meets in the school led by someone from the Urughu church. At the end of the village where the houses become even more spread out we stopped and then drove off track for a short while before stopping at a very well built and prosperous farm. We went inside and started talking with three women – wives of a Muslim man, Omary Yusufu. A while later the husband came and we started talking with him and his wives about Jesus and the gospel. Once they understood they all made a commitment to follow Jesus and turn away from their current life. What rejoicing there was in our hearts and in heaven. We gave them a Bible, showed them where to read and how to read it and encouraged them in their faith. The man asked about his three wives – what should he do. Deo said that he must not divorce them and should continue to care for them and that it was fine for him to go with his wives to the village church in the school. The pastor will visit them and start to disciple them in the Way. We noticed a small mosque alongside the road but currently there is no church building. But it is encouraging that a church meets in the school.

General. All the churches we worked with are from the TAG group (Tanzania Assemblies of God). In terms of mission strategy a number of challenges present themselves. One is the balance that needs to be struck between evangelism to gain new Christians and discipleship of existing and new Christians to build up the church to be self-reproducing. As churches grow they need larger buildings (Old Kiomboi, Tegero, Kidaru) or new buildings (Ulyangombe, Ushoru). In many of the villages there is a very high proportion of children and young people but nothing is being done to attract them or train them in Biblical values. This suggests the importance of recruiting workers who are trained in these areas and the need to restyle church meetings to be radically altered. Both of these suggestions are radical as there are few children and youth workers in Tanzania and it will be a huge task to change the cultural traditions of churches. But failure in these areas is likely to lead to a lost generation as has happened in many western countries.

Requirements which seem sensible to insist upon before a new church building is constructed are availability of free local labour and the availability of a trained pastor.



Without these the construction costs will be too high and there will not be a leader for the church.

Where there is more than one church in a village (Kidaru, Tegero, Masimba) it is important for pastors to work together for a long period before proposing that a new church building be built. This will allow us to conserve our resources and avoid competition between church denominations. In Kidaru the church building is of a poor construction standard compared with the other churches which Pastor Anderson says is the reason why the church is not growing as people don't want to join it because they don't want to contribute to the building fund. However people prefer the missional activity of the TAG church and its desire to grow rather than stagnate as is the situation in the other churches. The church building in Tegero is small and full to capacity although growth is happening. There is a larger Lutheran church in the village, and although it is not missional, it will be worth Deo training members before any decision is made to construct a new building. In Masimba an AIC church has already been planted so it seems more sensible for Pastors Julius and Samuel to work together in the first instance.

We need to be very clear which churches will become Hub churches. It is clear that Old Kiomboi is already a Hub as it has already planted a church in a village called Mary. But I am not aware of other villages that Pastor Kitusi is planning to reach out to. Urughu is clearly a Hub church and has opportunities to reach out to Masimba and Ushoru with a church in Ulyangombe just started. The Mwandalya church could become a Hub church reaching out to Nyahaa and other nearby villages although we haven't yet visited them.

I have carried out an analysis of need in the Singida villages we have visited. My findings are as follows:

Village	Area of Need				
	Discipleship of Christians	Outreach and Training in Evangelism	Construction of Church Building	Training of Pastor	Children's and Youth Worker
Mwandalya/ Nyahaa	√	√	X	√	√
Kidaru	√	√	?	√	√
Tegero	√	√	√	√	X
Old Kiomboi	X	X	√ (extension)	X	√
Urughu	X	X	X	X	X
Ulyangombe	√	√	√	X	√
Masimba	X	X	X	X	X
Ushoru	X	X	√	X	X

√ Action required

X No action required

## **Pastor Deo**

Pastor Deo is doing a wonderful work in Singida, supported by Hope for Tanzania, as well as carrying out work in his church in Mwanza, which his wife Neema pastors when he is away, and in the Bukoba region where his church has planted a few churches. He continues to give the impression of a driven man who likes to be busy on the field away from the confines of Mwanza. He wants to construct his own house in Mwanza which Neema and the children are looking forward to moving into. Their rented house is too small with Prosper having to share a room with his older sisters. The team found Deo to be hugely gifted, full of ideas and energy and a wonderful example of a missionary working for the increase of God's kingdom. Deo has registered a construction company but is looking for an office from which to administer it. His plan is to provide the oversight of a construction project by becoming the main contractor with sub-contractors carrying out the work. In return he would take 10% commission from the contract value. I was unable to ascertain whether this business model would work. Since September 2017, Deo has worked about 65% of his time in Singida mission/church construction so our support of him is key. He supplements this income with a low level of additional income from other people but has not been able to significantly boost this support though I emphasised the importance of so doing as our support is time limited.

## **Oasis of Victory Ministry**

Alex and I spoke at the conference which was being held in Dar es Salaam by Pastor Stephen for pastors within the OAVM movement who come from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Mozambique. The sessions were long and, though the talks were interpreted into English, it was hard to maintain interest and involvement. We believe our talks were appreciated and a welcome was extended to us to attend next year's conference starting November 6. There is no doubt that pastors are passionate for the Lord's work but are struggling with issues like youth unemployment, how to engage strongly with their local communities and how to embrace new ideas for "doing church" so that it becomes relevant to young people. I have the feeling that churches need to organise themselves very differently if they are to become effective in spreading the gospel and seeing God's kingdom grow. The OAVM church building in Dar remains unaltered from 2 years ago as funding has been tight. Outreach to the local Muslim community is tough and at present not yielding much gain.

Stephen, and his wife Esnat remain very committed to OAVM and spend much time travelling to encourage and train pastors. Construction of their Bible School has halted due to lack of funds with only one and a half classrooms having been completed (unchanged from last year). This prevents it being used to run any courses. The first cohort of students has completed the year-long course which was held at the Dar OAVM church. One problem Stephen and Esnat encountered was that whilst 40 pastors/leaders enrolled and started the course only 15 graduated as they couldn't afford the TSh15,000 monthly fees which covered costs of course materials, accommodation and food. So this is a major issue with the long term viability of the school and suggests that a 'sponsor a pastor scheme' be started. Electricity has now been delivered to nearby the Mlandizi site. Pastor David has returned to Kenya for visa reasons whilst his family continue to live on site. Stephen remains very

positive about the outreach that the fledgling church could have in the surrounding area which is predominately Muslim and without a school. But funding is important for construction of the college buildings, support of a resident pastor and subsidy of fees for pastors who cannot afford them.

I spoke with Pastor David from Uganda about the needs of his church and local community which are predominately lack of jobs and income for the youth. He wants to run training courses for church members and youth from the community in sewing, welding, construction and has applied to Tools with a Mission (UK charity) for a shipment of tools but hasn't the £620 fee for shipping. He asked if we could help.

I also met with a pastor from Mozambique who has similar needs for youth training and has a desperate need for Portuguese Bibles. We made a donation last year for Bibles which he greatly appreciated.

### **Other Matters**

Eric Temu, Renalda's son, is at home having failed his A'levels in 2017. He still wants to be a pilot and has a place at University but no loan for student fees. I advised Renalda to try and persuade him to re-take his exams and avoid a costly enrolment at University followed by dropping out of the course if he finds it too difficult. Eric still doesn't know why he failed. Also I suggested he set his heart on something more realistic.

Felix had a cataract operation in May and has recovered well. However, he has aged since 2017. Naomi struggles with walking and has a lot of pain in her feet and legs.

I met up with Mkapa, Moses Paulo's son, who wants sponsorship for a diploma in logistics and procurement as he has not been successful to get a loan. I politely said "no" as we have helped his father a lot over the years and he needs now to support his family. I met with Irene Paulo in Dar where she is just commencing a degree in political science and international relations. We encouraged her to stand strong in her Christian faith, read the Bible each day and form a group of friends who are passionate both for the Lord and for making a change in Tanzanian society. Better to try and change the society with God than without him.

We visited the church that Ibrahim is a member of, Dar Pentecostal Church, which offers a very different and excellent model to reach the youth of the city. It was a lightbulb moment for Alex and showed him that it is possible to change the style of church to make it attractive to young people.

We also met Shamsa who has now completed her accountancy degree and graduates in December. She is volunteering at Red Cross until such time as she can get a job in the accountancy field. We talked about her obtaining a chartered accountancy qualification which she is open to that once she has found suitable employment.

### **Personal Reflections**

It was a mission trip that I intentionally made tough so that the team could all experience the life of a missionary. We had no rest days although there were shorter periods when we

were able to relax. For me it was one of the best team experiences that I have been part of. The team members were great and full of support for each other. Everyone was spiritually strong and full of faith, courage and expectancy that God would use them and that we would see Him working. We were not disappointed as we saw miracles of healing, miracles of new birth and many people who had progressed in their spiritual walk with the Lord since last year's visit. Each team member was fully focussed on the spiritual battle and work that we were committed to and participated in it. It was a wonderful time when we were able to set aside distractions and run the race without hindrances. We were spurred on by the selfless example of Pastor Deo who was an incredible example to us.

To see the harvest gathered in by the Holy Spirit, people extremely open to the gospel and so willing to move from darkness to light was an inspiration to us all. We felt small under the amazing starry sky of God's creation and yet God heard our prayers and worked in a powerful way. It was an exceptional experience to be part of the first church meeting in a village where 15 months ago there had been no witness for the Lord. I was amazed by the huge numbers of children and young people and challenged about what we should do to reach them with the gospel. I was challenged about the traditional way of doing church in Tanzania and whether it brings people into God's kingdom or drives them away.

The harvest field is ripe and we did some harvesting but truly the workers are few, the need for Bibles is huge and imaginative ways of reaching the lost in the differing demagogical groups need to be used. There are huge needs in the work we are involved in in Singida and Dar, beyond what Hope for Tanzania can satisfy. We need the help and resources that only God can move people to provide. We need prayer to reveal God's strategy for these areas so that we use our resources in the most focussed way to have maximum spiritual impact.