



CROSSING THE SEAS WITH THE CAPRARIS

Empowering Nationals to Expand the Church in Africa

August 2021

What comes to mind when you hear the word Zanzibar? Many might have some kind of recollection of it being a country somewhere out in the Indian Ocean. Others might think of a beautiful island with pristine beaches. Others may think of an island which is spiritually oppressed by Islam all the while being populated with hundreds of thousands of wonderful people who need to hear about the news of their Savior. That's what comes to our mind when we think of Zanzibar.

From the first time we visited Zanzibar in 2017 we knew we had to do something there. The moment one walks off the ferry one can observe Muslims dressed in their cultural attire (hijab and kanzu) and can marvel at the Arabic architecture that lines the streets of Stone Town. By the grace of God

and His divine plan, four years later our ministry has spread to the island of Zanzibar which is known as Unguja by the locals.

After planting a church in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Meshack and Anna Mzaliwa felt the call to move to this unknown island, which neither of them had ever visited before, and minister to the people there who live a different lifestyle and have a different worldview. This, of course, is no easy task. In their short time there, they have been successful in establishing good relationships with the community around them and have been intentionally reading the Scriptures with some who seem engaged. This new territory also comes with new challenges not experienced in the big city atmosphere of Dar es Salaam. Those from the mainland mov-



Ice cream with friends and partners in ministry!

ing to Zanzibar do not get treated fairly, and often times get denied services like renting property, which the Mzaliwa family has experienced. By God's grace, Meshack has been able to find a small piece of property to rent to put his milk cows on to provide for his family and ministry. Please pray for this family as they continue to adapt to this new culture, sustain themselves on the island, and share with boldness the news of Jesus Christ with the islanders.

We tell you this story because we want you to know about the Mzaliwas in Zanzibar and pray for them. We also tell you their story because we do not intend for the Mzaliwas to be the only African family to have a story like this. In fact, there are three other families who have engaged in a similar ministry, crossing the boundaries of their home culture and going to a fully Islamic culture on the other side of the country. Just as Paul had a burden to reach the regions beyond, so do these families, and we pray many more African families have this same call in the coming years.



We set up these Tanzanian cross-cultural workers with a small scale business project to help sustain their lives and ministry. Pray for the Mzaliwa family on Zanzibar who will have a small milk cow business!





A door in Zanzibar! This island is filled with Arabic, Indian, and Swahili culture!

iting Eastport, New York, and traveling out West to visit supporting churches and individuals who have partnered with us in this ministry. Please pray for our family as we travel cross country. Lord willing, we intend to return to Tanzania by the end of the year and begin the process of mobilizing these Africans for mission work. This will involve moving closer to the facility we intend to use for training. Please pray for our family, especially the children, as we make this move, and consider making a contribution towards our moving expenses.

Now to the important stuff—since children were mentioned, we better give an update. God blessed us with our fourth daughter, Junia Salama Caprari, who was born on May 14, 2021, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. She is now three months old and loves watching her sisters. The older three girls—Jael, Esther, and Eva—have really enjoyed spending time with their grandparents and eating more ice cream in the first week of their time in the States than their whole lives combined.



Naomi, Anna Mzaliwa (the Tanzanian family mentioned in the letter living in Zanzibar) and her newborn daughter



The streets of Zanzibar where we now have a Tanzanian living, working, and doing missions work!

Our mission when we first went to Tanzania was this: Empowering Nationals to Expand the Church in Africa. This is still our mission today as we equip and send out these African families to cross cultures and reach the most unreached people of Tanzania who are scattered throughout these Islamic communities mainly along the coast of the country. While we are home in the USA for a few more months, we are sharing about what God has been doing and what He is calling us to continue doing upon our return to Tanzania: to raise up African missionaries to reach Islamic Unreached People Groups in Africa. Please read the letter from GMI Executive Director, Jeremy Clark, which explains more about this project and what we need from you, the Body of Christ in the States, to make this happen. Thank you for partnering with us in this ministry.

We have enjoyed visiting supporters and partners in ministry in West Michigan. Now we are looking forward to vis-

We truly do covet your prayers and appreciate your partnership in our ministry. We truly believe that nothing good happens in our ministry outside of the help of the Holy Spirit. Thank you to all who have been following our journey during these last five years. As we enter our second term as missionaries in Tanzania, we are even more excited and confident about what God has for us to do and what He has in store for this ministry. May God bless you as we do mission together.

John and Naomi Caprari

