



# CROSSING THE SEAS WITH THE CAPRARIS

## Empowering Nationals to Expand the Church in Africa

March 2021

The Samoja family was preparing for years to fulfill the calling God had given them to be missionaries within their own country of Tanzania. After years of preparation in Bible Schools and Missionary Training Institutes, the opportunity arrived for them to work among one of the least reached people groups in Tanzania. Even though the Waalagwa people are surrounded by Christian communities, only .02% of these people profess to being followers of Jesus Christ.



*Eva, Jael, and Esther picture in the announcement of the coming of their little sister in May!*

For the Samojas, their first month of finally doing what God had called them to do years ago did not go as expected. Due to a lack of clean water, among other challenges, they have often been sick. Since there is not good transportation where they live, they have spent countless hours walking to get essentials for living or to meet new people. On multiple

occasions they have had locals come and throw stones at their house and roof. By no means is this what they, or anyone else, would have expected their first month to look like.

But, praise be to God, that amid the obstacles, opposition, and even

persecution - God is providing fruit in a land that was supposedly and seemingly dry—a place that the gospel was not supposed to be able to penetrate. The Samoja family has been regularly meeting with locals from that people group in their home sharing with them about the Word of God.



*John preaching at Haven of Peace Academy Chapel service. Senior school has over 100 students from many different nationalities who have chapel once a week and also meet in discipleship groups which we oversee.*



*The Samoja family working among the Waalagwa people—02% are Christians. Praise God that in only a few months there are some who have responded to the gospel and opened their homes for "secret" services.*

Jesus told his disciples: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" (Matthew 9:37).

It is hard to imagine that the harvest is plentiful among a people group of 57,000 people with only 10 of those professing to believe in Jesus Christ. However, Jesus is clear, it is not the harvest that is lacking, but the workers.





*Our whole family in front of a door in Zanzibar. We have sent one Tanzanian family to do mission work in Zanzibar, an island off the coast of Tanzania. It is a completely Muslim context with multiple local people groups who call the island home. Zanzibar has a lot of Arabic and Indian heritage and connections, these doors being one of them!*

We are excited to be working with families like the Samojas who are immersed in different people groups throughout Tanzania. In 2020 we trained and equipped four families to engage in this type of ministry. They received biblical and theological training, missions training especially concerning Islamic people groups, entrepreneurial training, and agricultural training. We plan to gather these four families for continued training in the month of April. Pray for these families and also the people groups which they work in (Alagwa, Digo, Zaramo, and Swahili of Unguja).

We desire to see a plentiful harvest among these Islamic people groups that do not have a significant gospel witness and it is these families,

these workers, that are making the gospel known in these people groups. Pray for us as we continue to train, empower, and encourage these crosscultural workers and as we seek to raise up more workers like these to go into the plentiful harvest fields. If you would like to know more about how you can get involved in the training of African crosscultural workers going to do mission work in Africa among Unreached People Groups, please reach out to us - [john.caprari@gracem.org](mailto:john.caprari@gracem.org).

Just as God continues to bless and grow our ministry, He is doing the same with our family. Jael is turning four in a few months and continues to amaze us as she grows and learns. The twins, Esther and Eva, turned two in the month of February. It is also hard to believe how fast they are growing, sleeping in their own beds, and communicating more clearly than ever before. Finally, as many of you know, God has blessed us with another girl, who we are expecting to meet in May.



*Our girls, and girls of a Tanzanian family doing mission work in Tanga to reach the Wadigo.*

We are looking forward to being with our family, friends, and ministry partners in the States during our home assignment from July-November. We anticipate with excitement to catch up with many whom we have not seen in years, encourage one another, sharpen one another, hear how God is moving in your context, and share with you the vision of where God is leading our ministry for the upcoming years. We believe now more than ever that God has called us to empower Africans to expand the church in Africa, specifically by training them to bring the gospel to Unreached People Groups.

As always, thank you for your great love, encouragement, and support. We appreciate and need your partnership in this great ministry which God has called us to.

God bless,

John and Naomi Caprari  
Jael, Esther, & Eva



*The Dar es Salaam church now has its own property and tripled the size of its building. This is an appointment of some new leaders in the church.*

