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JOANNE MOYER

life and ministry in Tanzania

Dear friends,

Last week I was asked to write a short biography which I am currently working on and it reminded me of so many experiences I've had over the years, many of which I hadn't thought of for a long time. When my parents settled in Tatan-da, Tanzania, they began building our house by hand. We made and fired clay bricks, hauled rocks, mixed cement, etc. It was not a quick project by any means!

During that period, our family and several other missionary families lived in grass houses with thatched roofs and mud floors. My mom made them cozy with locally crafted grass mats for the floors. My mom homeschooled us and some of the other missionary families also had teenaged children that we spent time with. My dad made an oven from sun-dried bricks and it did a good job baking bread!

Our first church was built under a large fig tree and was also made of grass. There were no schools in the area back then, so none of the local people could read or write. So as teenagers, we had the privilege of teaching our fellow Tanzanian teens how to read and write! **At that time we never dreamed some of them would later go to Bible school and become the leaders of new churches there in Ufipa!**

After graduating high school we boarded a ship and sailed from Dar es Salaam to New York City. From there we traveled by bus to various Bible colleges. That was very different from the way my husband, Carl and I traveled to Africa years later. Traveling by air is so much faster than by ship!

Reminiscing back to the early days in Tanzania reminded me again of how God works in our lives, even when we don't realize it! And it reminds me of how faithful He is. We can always depend on Him. Our family's verse was and still is Joshua 24:15: As for me and my house, we will serve The Lord.



That was the past, now for the present! In my previous letters, I've told you a little about the new project in Kasanga, near Lake Tanganyika. The Tanzanian missionaries there hired local men to help refurbish the building at the training center. It's a BIG job! I'm happy to report that most of the rooms where the students will sleep are ready. New windows, screens, beds, mosquito nets, etc have been completed. The large classroom was plastered, and tables (picnic style) and desks have been added. The tin roof also needed paint! They like bright colors, so it was painted bright blue!

We've been surprised by how much has already been completed. Due to experiencing heavy rains, we're not quite ready to open the school yet.

Plus it's harvest time for the students now, which means they need to harvest their crops and are unavailable for school! **We're really excited to be involved in training Tanzanian missionaries to help reach their own people through this training center.** This first course will be geared toward men only, but there are plans to provide training for their wives at a later time.

The new Driveway



New Archway into the Dining Area

Leveling the Courtyard



New Furniture

Please pray for wisdom, for God to provide the teachers He wants, and for His help in organizing everything! Getting school underway is a very big challenge, especially in the first few weeks. **Please pray for the Tanzanian pastors who have been trained as instructors and pray for the right students to come!**

I am so thankful for good health and for the opportunity to serve here in Tanzania. Cell phones help me to keep in contact with the folks with whom I minister. Just last evening I chatted with and provided encouragement to Juma Kapufi, whom I taught at the Bible school many years ago.

Thanks so much for remembering me in your prayers! God willing, my next letter will include photos of the new students.



God bless you! My prayer, as always, is that He will get all the glory!

God bless,

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