
Joanne Moyer.....

Life and Ministry in Tanzania

SLP 934, Iringa, Tanzania, East Africa • joanne.moyer@gmail.com

December 2016

Good morning from beautiful Tanzania! The rains have started so the grass is turning green. It's warm and sunny—not the same where most of you are, I hear! I have a cup of Masumbo coffee (we grow it here) in a Christmas mug plus Christmas music is playing—altogether a nice day. I hope yours is too and that you have time to appreciate the beauty around you and to thank God for the gift of His Son whose birth we remember this month.

Early in November I was sitting in a class of future Tanzanian missionaries who we were hosting at Masumbo campus. When you read that I bet you're thinking of a group of Westerners but these candidates were all Africans from Tanzania, Kenya, and Nigeria whom God has called to go to unreached parts of our country. One of the speakers was the Anglican Archbishop from Iringa who has an amazing story of God's faithfulness to him and some of the struggles he's had during his many years of ministry. We invite him for all our seminars and workshops because he always tells it like it is and we know his message will help prepare leaders for their own ministries. He teaches that it's not a church denomination but only God's call that counts! These folks have to raise their own support, learn to be self-sustaining, and work to feed their families in an environment where they are "foreigners." As you can imagine, it is a big challenge.

From November 20-25, Dan, Tina, and I traveled 1,200 miles round-trip for a two-day Pastoral Spiritual Renewal workshop with the pastors we worked alongside for so many years. One hundred leaders from 33 congregations gathered for two full days of Dan and Tina's teaching (4 nights sleeping at the church) and the response was very encouraging. Towards the end of the workshop, the delegates divided up into groups of two to confess and repent to one another as seen in James 5:16, *"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be*



Bibi Naomi, Bibi Natalie, and Bibi Stella



A special gift from a pastor's wife - fried and ready to eat!

healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” It was a blessed sight to see 50 groups of men and women setting a new direction for their lives and the future of their congregations.

One of the most powerful testimonies was a prominent leader who stood up to testify and confess to the whole group, “I’m sorry that I’ve contributed to blocking the blessing of God on the church. For 25 years I’ve been serving you good food from a filthy plate and I need to repent and ask your forgiveness!” A great reminder that revival starts when each one of us is willing to repent and seek a righteous path before God and man.

Recently, I’ve been thinking about the blessing you’ve been in ways you’ve possibly never realized—as you support me here in Tanzania I am able to pass on that support to people I meet who have great needs! I love to be able to do that. Because of your help, I have been able to help buy house plots, as well as construct houses for 2 widows, 2 single moms, and 2 pastors over the past 12 months. I have also been able to help with transport (3 motorcycles, 1 bicycle) for pastors giving them more freedom to go farther to minister to others. I have also been able to help in the partial funding of 4 marriage workshops that we have hosted here at Masumbo! I want you to know that your support goes a long way and impacts hundreds of people here in Tanzania. The projects I mentioned are practical, but have eternal value, as God’s love and care is then shown to others, and it encourages His people.

In Tanzanian culture it’s customary for widows to be accompanied by friends whenever they travel. I was so blessed to have my two friends, Mama Kennedy and Mama Job, travel with me to Tatanda to have Thanksgiving with 25 other ladies I’ve known most of my life! We had chicken, beef, fish, beans, eggs, and plenty of ugali and rice—just like the pilgrims, I’m sure :-). Dan was supervising a beautiful 4’ decorative brick wall being built around our cemetery at the mission station.

I’ve been able to use my new guestroom twice in the past few months for Heather Ryan (Pennsylvania) and my cousin Sue Deming (California). It is such a blessing to receive friends here. I hope some of you can come visit!

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and I wish you a blessed New Year in 2017!

Joanne Moyer



My Christmas orchid



Thanksgiving at Tatanda



A Tatanda Village Thanksgiving
