

Tabora, 10/5/2018

Dear friends,

Finally, once again an update from Tanzania. I am so grateful for each day I get in this hot country, for the work God has given me and for all my wonderful kids.



Since my return to Tanzania I have been more busy than usual. In June I had my friend Kathrin come for a short term. She is a Dermatologist and she is not only very helpful in taking care of the patients we get with skin diseases but also has a gift of teaching us. This was a great time for myself as well as for Thomas as we were able to see and recognize different skin problems. This has helped quite a few patients even after she went back to Germany. If we cannot figure out the problem I send her a picture and other information of the patient and often Dr. Kathrin is able to give us good advice as to how to deal with the problem. The day before she arrived I went to pick up my kids for their one-month holiday. They were happy to receive "aunt Kathrin". At the end of her stay she treated us to a short stay at a lovely resort at Lake Victoria in Mwanza. What a treat!!

This is a picture of Kathrin with one of our clients she has helped several times over the years she has come to help us. This man now has breast cancer. He really enjoys her visits.

After she left I had to take the kids back to their boarding school.

A few weeks later I had to drive all the way to the boarding school in Kahama because Jacky became ill and they were not able to help her. I had taken her to Tabora but even here there is no proper medical care. This meant that I had to drive to Mwanza...a 10-hour drive one way, and then back to Kahama and then to Tabora. I had to do this twice within 4 weeks. Jacky has problems with her spine and she has stomach ulcers. She is on medicine and has been given exercises for her back problem. As she was not doing these her back problem caused her to get numbness in her legs. She has been given a good talking to about doing her exercises and she is on some medicine to restore her nerves.

In our small office in Malumba we often get patients who have waited too long to get medical help. We often have to give them a referral to a big hospital. I.e.: This year we have had 5 cancer patients for who the treatment is now too late. We still refer them but when the cancer has already spread the situation is really sad. Many cannot afford the treatment so they go home....

Even though we might not be able to give these people physical help, we can give them some spiritual help. Like today, when we had Amina, an elderly woman come to our office. She was brought by her son. Two years ago, she went to the Cancer clinic in Dar es Salaam where they told her that the cancer had already spread but they advised her to undergo Radio therapy. Her family refused this treatment and took her home. Now after 2 years she was brought to our office in the hope we could give some help.

She is very thin and has a large tumor in her breast. She has pain just about everywhere, she has heart problems and her feet are swollen. She was given some Panadol for the pain. In spite of this she still has some physical strength but she was looking very hopeless. I made a call to some Doctors in Mwanza but they told me that it really sounded like she is beyond any treatment.

Amina is a Muslim lady and I started to talk with her about trusting God. She told me that she believes in God. I read her the 23rd Psalm. I explained that almost everyone is looking for eternal life on this earth but that does not happen. Then I talked with her and her son about God's promises in the Psalm...He will go with us through the dark valley. We will come out either on earth or in heaven where we will find a table with plenty of food

and drink. I then explained to her about trusting “Issa”, Jesus. Her eyes lit up and her son said:” Recently I became a Christian and my name is now Petro”. He was so happy we told her about Jesus. WOW! He had tried for some time. After our talk we prayed for her and her son and Thomas prescribed her Tramadol, a pain reliever. They were leaving with some gladness. Sometimes it is hard to see people suffer so much and not being able to afford all the care we usually can get in our countries.

God is so good and He is still a God of miracles! The little boy, Sayi, who had become paralyzed after falling out of a tree is now able to stand with the help of a walker. The Doctors had told us that he would never walk again! He is the orphaned child who is staying at the same orphanage where Ngassa went to boarding school.



Most of my kids are doing well but two weeks ago I met with a crisis when Christina (Kiri) refused to get out of bed and did not want to return to school. She became very difficult and stubborn. That afternoon I found an open jar with fertilizer for my plants and a spoon in it. I was quite worried and went to the Social Services and explained to them the situation. Four ladies came with me to our home. By that time Kiri had barricaded her room by pushing her bed against the door and no one could get in. After about one hour she came out and one of the ladies tried to talk with her. They let her know that she has to go to school and Kiri said that she would.... The lady thought she had gotten through. After that I had to take all these women to their homes all over town. Sigh! The following morning, I had Faraja ready to go but Kiri stayed in her bed. I went to her room and told her that I love her very much but now I was saying good bye to her as I we leaving in 30 minutes. The ladies from Social Services would come and take her somewhere else. Ten minutes later she was about ready to go with us! Later I found out that she had told Jacky that she was coming a few days late to school! I left Kiri at her school and went with Jacky and Faraja to Mwanza for their medical problems: Jacky’s back and Faraja needs his testicles put in his bags as they do not stay down. I had broken my tooth and needed to go to the dentist. Three days later I had dropped off the kids at their schools and went home. I must admit that I was quite tired after all this.

Baraka has finished his Primary school and has calmed down quite a bit. He is more cooperative and friendlier. Next year he will start Fom 1!

Mahona left to return to his university in Mwanza for his final year. However, he came back today after scoring 28 out of 30 on a presentation. Now the teachers are all busy and won’t be teaching classes for a couple of weeks! It is great to have him home but I wish that he could continue sooner with his studies. This delay is hard on all the students.



Mfaume hopes to finish his studies in Physics so he can return to finish his Pharmaceutical studies.

Ngassa just had his graduation as he is about to finish his final year of his Secondary school. Pray he will finish well!

Faraja is now in grade 5. He is as cute as ever. He gets upset if he gets a B instead of an A!

Margareth works at the orphanage just outside of Tabora. She is in a position of leadership and she gets along with the other workers and the 30 little ones love her. She comes home on her days off and is a great help when she is at home.

Ngassa and I at his graduation

I know that many have been concerned about my lovely house worker/friend, Naomi. Naomi has acid reflux. Her valve between her esophagus and her stomach does not close. She has high blood pressure and she has stomach ulcers. She has been given the proper treatment and is on medicines to control her blood pressure and to heal her ulcers.

Also, Thomas, my co-worker has had many challenges and needs continued prayers. His only brother is very ill and refuses treatment. There are Government regulations which force Thomas to pay for his brother's upkeep and fix the hut this man is living in. This means that Thomas needs to go to this village, 200 km away, on a regular basis. He is so grateful for the support of his sons who are in their last year of university.

In the meantime I have tried to use the money my pastor left me to build a home for my kids. Two years ago I bought the plot (which has already doubled in value), and have started to build a wall around it. This week they will install a gate. It is very exciting to see how it is coming along. Mfaume is keeping an eye on the progress. Building in Tanzania is quite a bit cheaper than in our countries. The drawings had to be done by an architect and had to be approved by the municipality. This cost me about \$800/- Canadian! The wall, including the gate will cost about \$10,000/-. After the wall has been built I hope to continue next year by putting up a small building for the older boys to help them to live independent.



These are my latest adventures. Thanks for all your prayers and financial support.

I also hope that everyone has a great Thanks Giving!!! Ours is begin June, after our harvest!

May the Lord bless each one of you!!

Happy Hanneke and kids

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