

# Tanzanian Testimony



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LORIEN KNAPP

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Dear Friends,

August has been a fruitful month and I praise God for His faithful presence and the comfort of the Holy Spirit strengthening me in ministry. Like many missionaries and ministers, I find that there is always more work to be done than there is time in the day. I think we each serve in the tension between our calling to care for others and the spiritual discipline of taking care to renew ourselves, in the same ways Jesus did in his ministry.

After these first six months in Mwanza, committed to relationship building, I am now beginning to understand more clearly what may be some of the fruitful ways to invest my gifts and abilities as an Engineer. I am beginning to feel the excitement and anticipation of those particular kinds of problem-solving opportunities that fill Engineers with enthusiasm. As I reflect on my experience in community development I know that the TCRC community must take ownership of all projects and resources...but relationships will be the foundation for any successful project so care must be extended to ensure proper preparation of the foundation.

August also brought a new staff member and colleague to TCRC, James Lubadanja. James, who graduated from Nassa Theological College in July, has already been a fantastic blessing to the boys and staff. His call to TCRC is a direct answer to prayer. Several new programs for Spiritual Growth have been put in place and we are working diligently to minister to the boys as a team. Having men of integrity, like James and other teachers leading the boys, is critical so that they can likewise grow into responsible loving men. Praise God for this new addition to the ministry! Please pray that James will continue to transition well into his role at TCRC.

## PRAYER CONCERNS:

- ✓ **Praise God for giving me strength each day!**
- ✓ **Praise God for His ability to change hearts, and reach to the broken and wounded including the children at TCRC, and those who are living in the streets.**
- ✓ **Please pray for language learning to accelerate so that I can minister in the heart language of these children.**
- ✓ **Please pray for financial doors to be opened so that I can have transportation. Also pray for a reliable vehicle to be available for this ministry.**
- ✓ **Pray that more teachers can begin to understand the struggles of the children, so that love can overflow.**
- ✓ **Pray for continued wisdom and discernment in all of my relationships and interactions!!!**

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Your financial gifts are a blessing to me, and to the children of Mwanza. As an accountable servant of Jesus for your generous support, I thought I would take a moment this month to talk about finances, and let you know how your gifts have been used during my time in Tanzania.

- 1) You have been supporting me personally so that I have housing, food, and medicine if I am sick.
- 2) You have provided money for public transportation so that I don't have to walk quite as long each day. My commute to TCRC on foot would take 1.5 hours, but with public transport I am only walking for 35 min.
- 3) You have been providing food for children who are living in the streets. Approximately 50 cents can buy a meal for a child. You provide at least one meal for about 80 children in the streets each week.
- 4) You have been providing medicine and health care for sick children. I always carry a First Aid kit with me so I can bandage up the wounds, or provide other simple medications for sick children. You are also covering the occasional hospital visit for extremely sick children I find in the streets.
- 5) You are providing occasional transport to return children to be with their families. Many children wish to leave the streets and return home, but need someone to mediate between them and parents because they are afraid to return alone. Some of these children live far away, and this process of family reconciliation can be a bit costly, about \$50 per case.

I have been praying daily about transportation because I recognize that having a vehicle could open many new doors for ministry and allow me to use my time more effectively. Here, on the equator, the sun sets around 6:30 and it becomes dangerous to travel on public transport after dark. In order to minister to the Secondary School boys I must remain at TCRC late into the day because they don't return to the campus until evening. This obviously makes my current daily travel a challenge. It would be such a great help to have a car. I could then be involved in evening activities at TCRC and a car would open up doors for further street ministry, ministry to the families of the children, and transport of materials for projects. The following "project account" has been set up if you are interested in contributing to my vehicle fund.

[Vehicle Project ID # - 037850-010](#)

**If you wish to offer financial support, mail check to:  
AIM: Finance PO Box 178 Pearl River NY 10965**

Checks should be made payable to AIM in order to be tax-deductible. Include a note stating my name, and the money will be credited to my account. Also note if this is for a project, or for general funding. Your support and encouragement is appreciated.

## MISSION TRIPS???

In my involvement with Youth Ministry at my home church in Indiana, I saw that one of the most influential activities in the lives of the youth was their participation in mission trips. These trips were life-changing for several kids. Mission trips send us to the world with a specific agenda; sharing the Love of our Savior and offering hope to the lost. When we wear this identity of love, people see His light shining from us and they are encouraged... we in turn are strengthened because loving others feeds our own spirit. In surprising ways, we find Jesus among the poor and they also minister to us.

Many at TCRC are aware that I go to the streets to visit the children living in its burrows. Several TCRC boys asked me if they could join me in encouraging the children who were still living in that bad condition. Their requests struck a spiritual cord within me... In the youth world, I believe that one of the best people to minister to a teenager is another teenager... who else has the edge in that culture? Especially in Street Ministry... a boy who has lived in the street can offer a profound message to those who have not yet escaped that life. So I agreed that this could be a good opportunity of growth for both the TCRC boys, and for the children in the streets, and for me as a friend of both.

The first time I took a group with me, the boys learned many things. We came across a mother who was living in the street with two small children, a 2 and 4 year old. We asked about her story. One day her husband deserted her and took everything but the children. She was left with no work or way to care for her family, and her extended family did not live in Mwanza. No person wanted to hire her because she had these two babies to care for. As the boys huddled around this mama listening to her sad story, one boy turned to me and said "I am really not suffering after all, this woman is suffering..." That boy sat and prayed over this mama and her children, and preached a sermon of hope.

I see that for some boys the memories of the street have faded and they have forgotten the extent to which they once suffered... life at TCRC has become commonplace. The number of children coming to me each day saying: "I want this, I need that..." is overwhelming. My hope for these children is that they come to understand that material possessions alone can never satisfy them...it is only the work of God within them that can truly feed them. I see that as the boys return to the streets as ministers, they are remembering to be grateful for each thing God has given to them. Maybe they are starting to recognize His blessings. As we go to the streets, I am not the one preaching... the boys are offering biblical counsel, praying with the children, and encouraging them... I like to think that I am merely facilitating the opportunity.

My prayer is that our community interactions will speak to the hearts of the boys, so that they will develop strong spiritual roots, and a passion to minister to those who still do not know the joy we share in God's family.



"I will make you fishers of men"...Cleaning fish at TCRC for lunch!

A TCRC teacher came to me for many months wanting to understand more about the situation of Vulnerable Children. After many sobering discussions, he asked if I could take him with me to the streets so he could understand better.

I gathered a group of some of his students, TCRC boys, and we went together to minister to the children. We took bread to pass out, and spent about 4 hours walking around visiting with the children. This was an amazing opportunity for a teacher to be ministered to by his students as they took him by the hand to show where they had come from. This teacher blessed these boys by caring for them and trying to understand them. They also blessed him as they ministered to the children we met in the streets.

Please pray that more teachers will try to understand the vulnerable children, and love them sincerely.



*John 15: 9*

*"Just as the Father has loved me, I have also loved you, abide in My Love."*