

Tanzanian Testimony



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Dear Friends,

It has been an exhausting month, but also a time of great encouragement. God has poured such tremendous blessings on us in our time of need, and His provision has been sufficient. I know it is a result of all of the prayer being lifted on our behalf. I want to offer my warmest gratitude to each of you. You have taken this journey with us, and your partnership has been one of familial compassion and concern. Your love for the TCRC boys is true. Since the fire we have experienced both physical and spiritual blessings. Each has been a reminder of how God works wonders in all situations.

Physically we have had quite a bit of change; the repairs are nearly complete on our Dormitory. Shoes, clothing, and bed sheets have been replaced. We continue walking in faith, knowing that God will provide for the remainder of our needs.

Spiritually it has been a roller coaster. Several boys have undergone an overwhelming transformation this month. These new believers are on FIRE with the SPIRIT, and each day they are growing more loving and contagious with this new faith. As other boys witness the changes in the new Christians they are craving that same joy, and they are being pushed within their hearts to seek a relationship with our Lord.

This is a time of the year when we celebrate so many of the blessings in our life. Thanksgiving reminds us to be gracious for all the provisions which have been given to us. Christmas, which approaches quickly, reminds us of the greatest gift that has been given...our Savior. I am so glad that the changes we are seeing at TCRC come at such a juncture, when we are preparing to celebrate the arrival of the King. God is certainly at work in our midst, and it is exciting to see His plan as it unfolds before us.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- ✓ **Praise God for the many way he has blessed us in the wake of the fire's devastation. Please continue to pray for the remaining details of our recovery.**
- ✓ **Praise God for the many Spiritual changes we are seeing in the boys. May the seeds grow strong roots.**
- ✓ **Please pray for financial doors to be opened for the needs of ministry here in Mwanza, as inflation affects many economic activities.**
- ✓ **Pray for continued wisdom and discernment in all of my relationships and interactions.**

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 (vehicle project ID is 037850-010), or for general funding. Your support and encouragement is appreciated!

Mission Callout

Tanzania Mission Trip: summer of 2009
Host: 1st Presbyterian Church, Anderson Indiana
(Members from other churches are Welcome!)

DATE: 3 weeks during the month of June

Exact dates pending

If you are interested in more information, let me know and I will connect you with the Team Leader.

Help Comes From All Directions!!!

As fire recovery continues we have been blessed in so many ways. All of your financial and prayer support has been an amazing encouragement to us. Not only have we been supported from overseas. There have been many in our own community who have reached out to help us in our time of need. We attribute this help to all of the prayer being lifted on our behalf.

A woman in the area learned of our fire and brought a huge bag of clothing for our older boys. Several church groups donated sacs of flour and sugar. We have had so many visitors coming to offer their encouragement. Teams of people have come to assist in our reconstruction process.

Another great encouragement has been watching how our boys have stepped up to the challenge placed before them. They have taken ownership, and have participated in all aspects of the reconstruction process. As many kids are on school break now, they have dedicated their time to building, painting, and tending to our community.



Local missionary, Heather Hildebrandt, offers to mend torn clothing for all of the children at TCRC. This is a huge blessing of motherly love.

The older boys help to put on our new roof!!!



A New TCRC Baby

It was a normal street ministry outing, going to pass out bread to the children and offer some encouragement. I was joined by 5 older boys who have demonstrated great compassion towards those in the streets. We stopped at one location and were met by a large group of children. Most of the kids were familiar faces, but there was a new boy in the crowd, and he was very small. He didn't know his age or much personal information, but his 8 year old sister was with him and helped us understand their story. The boy, Anatoli, was only 4 years old. He and his sister were spending most of their time in the streets, often sleeping there rather than returning to the harsh environment of home. Their parents would send them to the streets to beg for money. Depending on the success of their begging, they were often met with a severe beating back at home.

The TCRC boys and I had a meeting to decide what to do with these children. As we talked, Anatoli fell asleep in my lap. Because he was so young we did not feel good about leaving him to sleep in the streets. We thought about taking him to TCRC, but decided instead to escort the two kids back to their home to talk with the parents. The children agreed, and we set off on our adventure. The home was in an area of town where there was no electricity. We began our ascent up a mountainside, in complete darkness. One of the boys carried the sleeping child, as his sister led us up to the top. We found their home at the highest point on the mountain, overlooking the lighted city... a sky filled with stars overhead.

We met with the parents, and found they were quite intoxicated. They were using a local alcohol which is so potent that it actually burns the lips and mouth upon contact. They were also under the influence of some sort of drugs. As the children entered the home, the parents acknowledged the family relationship but were not very happy to see the children. It turned out the kids had not been home for two nights and the parents were angry to learn that they did not have a great sum of money to offer from begging. The story that the kids gave us was corroborated by the parents, making the situation seem even more desperate. We had hoped that maybe the children had been exaggerating, but their story had been true. The boys offered counsel to the parents as best they could under the conditions. As we left, both children were crying but the parents assured us they would not beat the kids. We climbed back down the mountainside with heavy hearts.

A few nights later I found Anatoli in the streets again, only this time he was alone. He explained that his sister had been beaten too badly and was unable to leave the house. He decided to come to town on his own and his plan was not to return to his family because he was too scared. I decided to take him to TCRC, and he agreed happily to the prospect of escaping the streets. The boys at TCRC welcomed Anatoli with open arms...literally. They took turns holding him and carrying him around, offering to share what few possessions they had so that he could have a good life at the center. Boys offered to give him clothes, assistance with bathing and washing clothes, and a bed to share. It was a moving experience to see the TCRC community embrace this new boy.

Anatoli has been doing very well at the center, and we are busy trying to help him grow in the light. He comes to the prayer services and is learning a bit about discipline from loving adults. As the youngest member of our

community, he has been welcomed warmly. It is a challenge however for the previous TCRC baby, as he has lost his position of being the youngest. Anatoli's presence is an opportunity for growth, as our other young ones learn new responsibilities as older siblings.

Please keep this new member of our family in your prayers. It is hard to believe that children so young are put into situations which cause them to live in the streets, but we know God has plans for all of these children. Pray that they will grow in His light and love.



WEEKEND OUTING

After the fire, final exams, and all of the other stresses that have been growing this month, we decided that the boys needed a break away from the center. Our prayer team, football team, and several others piled into the TCRC truck for a weekend of fun. We traveled to Bulima, home of Nassa Theological College, and a Christian boarding school called Simba Wa Yuda (Lion of Judah). We enjoyed a nice football match, which ended in a tie... and several lovely worship services. Our time together ended as we shared the Lord's Supper. The time away was a great break for the kids, and many of the boys were impacted spiritually by their encounters with the other children from the school. Praise God for how he continues to grow our Boys at every opportunity.



Mark 9: 37

"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me, but the one who sent me."

Mark 9: 42

"And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck."