

Tabora, 22/09/2017

Gal. 6:9: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." NIV.

In this world full of trouble: conflicts, storms, etc. we might become so overwhelmed with the burdens of watching helpless, suffering people and the endless requests for relief in different forms that we just might want to give up.... I am always remember that the Lord never gave up on any of us and He never gives us more than we can handle. We ourselves might take on more than the Lord expects of us. I believe that God gives each of us a "garden" to work in. If we go outside this garden we will become burned out and be no longer useful in serving Him. May the Lord give each of us wisdom as we divine this "garden" or responsibility He gives each of us.

Dear family and friends,

Warm greetings from me and my family in a very warm Tabora. (35 C. average)

Since my last news letter much has happened and there is much to praise our dear God for:

In June I had my wonderful family together for a whole month as it was their long holiday. Only Mfaume was missing as he had to continue his studies in Pharmacy. He is doing so well and is enjoying it very much. He has a B average. At the moment he is doing field work at our Government Hospital in Tabora. He finds it a challenge but is really enjoying it.

Baraka has grown several inches and is much calmer and cooperative. He did need new shoes as within one year he went from size 38 to 42! Every one of the younger kids is doing so well at school (A, average) Jacky is now in high school and loves it but is struggling. She has a C+ average. Ngassa is now in Form 3 and has been more stable and less mood swings. He is getting C's and some D's.

It was so good to see their interactions and we were able to have some real family time in Mwanza. Ngassa had had surgery on his leg 2 weeks before the others came home. The surgery went well. When he had to go for a check-up we all went to Mwanza. Baraka and Mahona took the bus as I cannot fit all of them in the car. Baraka felt all grown up and thought it was the coolest thing to sit in the bus near the front. Tabora is a small town and has little to offer in reg. to entertainment. Mwanza is a big city with lots to do. I took them to the new cinema in the new mall and they experienced riding an elevator for the first time. We watched despicable me 3 in 3D. It was a good experience and we had lots of laughs. Then we went out for dinner. Charcoal broiled chicken and chips with a soda. The next day we took Ngassa for his check up and then we went to the beach at Lake Victoria. They all had such a great time they were sad to leave. Baraka was thrilled to get on the bus again with Mahona. I think Mahona enjoyed his time with Baraka as much. The two of them had lots of stories to tell when they came home.



After the kids returned home I had the opportunity to visit my family in Holland. It is really amazing to see how my mom continues to improve. Now she is starting to walk again and they were able to remove her Catheter. Her Alzheimer's is progressing slowly and



usually she still knows who we are. My sister can use some prayers as she has terrible back pains and so far the treatment has not relieved her pain. During this trip I connected with my uncle and aunt who I had not seen in years. I also met my cousin, his wife and his daughter. I had not seen him since he was about 7 years old! The trip to and from Holland had its challenges: They did not have me on the list of passengers and it took some time to sort this out. On the way back my connecting flight was not announced and I missed it and had to buy another plane ticket. I also had to go through security in Kenya where I put my watch on the tray....I never got it back....Sigh!!

However God is good and I made it home safely, just in time to pick up my kids from school. How good to see them all again! We had a visiting day with Faraja who was beaming with pride, showing off his results.

The work at Manoleo continues to be a blessing to many people in that community. Even today we were able to help several people with medicine as the dispensary of the Government is once again out of medicine. We see some clients that have suffered for years and never received the proper care. If we need some extra advice I take pictures and send them to Dr. Kathrin in Germany, who is a skin specialist. Again she has been very helpful in giving us the prescriptions for treatment. Even now we are trying to help a man who has suffered from skin disease for over 12 years. He has gone from one hospital to another without results except for going broke on travels and "treatments". We hope and pray that Dr. Kathrin's prescription will have the right effect.

Thomas continues to do a great job but gets a bit discouraged at times. Do pray for him and his family. He is very grateful for the support he is receiving towards the education of his children. A big thank you to all! One of the big obstacles we keep facing is that we still have not gotten an Evangelist who is truly committed to teaching the people about the lord in Tabora. Thomas and I are doing the best we can but we still hope and pray that we will get someone to fill this need. Once we have moved to into the Malumba facility we will be able to do more Evangelization as this will be the churches property. So far we have used the property of the Government which has been great but limits us in what we are allowed to do. We hope to connect the Evangelist who is working at the Ifucha church with the work at Malumba.

The building at Malumba is now ready but we are waiting for the final approval and license from the Government. Please pray for this to come through very soon!



This month we handed out uniforms and school supplies to the orphans at Itonjanda Primary school.

The schools in our villages are having real struggles:

The teachers get a small salary and if they do not have a field to plant and get some food they are living far below the poverty line. The head Mistress of the Itonjanda School gets about \$125/- per month! She does get free housing but the house leaves a lot to be desired. In order to provide food and clothing for yourself you need at least twice this amount. If you have a family things are about impossible unless you can harvest some maize and beans. There are 450 kids and 9 teachers.

Yesterday only 7 came to work. Many live in town and it takes them at least one hour to get there.

They also have to pay for transportation. The head mistress is responsible for the results of the students and is afraid she will lose her job if the kids fail. This year she paid about \$30/- out of her own salary to hire an extra teacher to help the kids in standard 7.

Many families do not support education for their kids...after all they managed to survive without any education! Many parents do not know how to read or write. Also the believe is that girls do not need any education as they will get married and stay home to take care of the children. Many girls in these villages get married off at an early age: 12 years of age is not uncommon.

Malnourished/sick child



Due to the ongoing problems of alcoholism and HIV/AIDS, we still see an increase of orphans and little ones who are malnourished, have physical problems and have no school uniforms or foot wear. Kids without any shoes or slippers end up with Hook worm.

The headmistress showed me the only books she has are 4 very old Kiswahili books for teaching the standard 3. She asked me for 2 books of each topic for standards 4,5,6 and 7. This will cost about 500,000/- The Government is not giving a lot of support to these village schools so they have to make do with what they get. Many classrooms have only a few desks for the kids. This means that many have to sit on the floor.

They are so grateful for the support we give to some of the neediest kids. Do pray for improvement and that these people may realize that God loves them and has not forgotten them.



Also pray or rains! This year many countries are affected by drought. Tanzania is amongst these countries and many people do not have enough food.

These are the latest news items from Tabora. Thanks so much for all your prayers and loving support. May the Lord bless each of you! I do not take your support for granted and so many people do receive the help they need.

Yours in Christ, Happy Hanneke, Thomas and kids.

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