

The history of my lovely Tanzanian family:

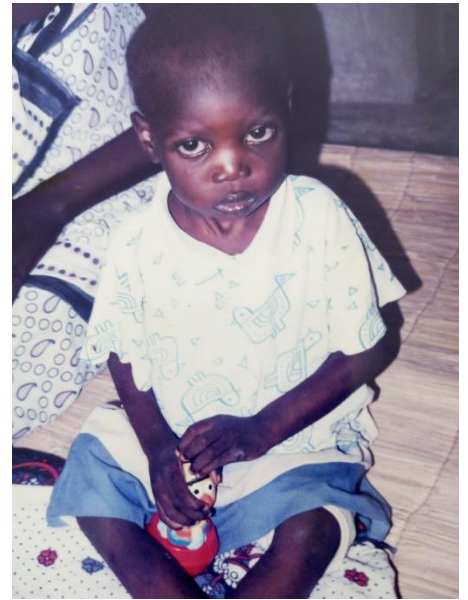
As a single woman I had never dreamed of having children. It was not until much later that I read in Psalm 113: 9 "He settles the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children. Praise the Lord."

I had been in Shinyanga, Tanzania for 15 years when I was confronted with orphans being left due to the HIV/AIDS's Pandemic.

Before taking a child into my care I always asked myself :

" What would Jesus have me do?" The same Jesus who said: Let the children come to me"

In 1997 I received my first HIV orphan. Her name was Mary. She had full-blown AIDS and was very sick. I had been taking care of the mother and Mary before Mama Mary died. At that time no one wanted to touch the body and I ended up washing the body for her burial. She had received Christ before she died and it was a privilege to be part of her Christian burial. No one wanted little Mary who was 2 years old, so I took her home. Mary was finally wanted by an uncle and his family in Dar es Salaam and they did take good care of her. Mary died in 2000.



After Mary I received my child Jacky in 2001. Jacky was deserted by her family. She was one year and 3 months. Her weight was 5.8 kg's. She was unable to sit, turn around. After about 3 months Jacky was a normal happy toddler. She started to speak full sentences soon after that. What a joy she brought to my home!

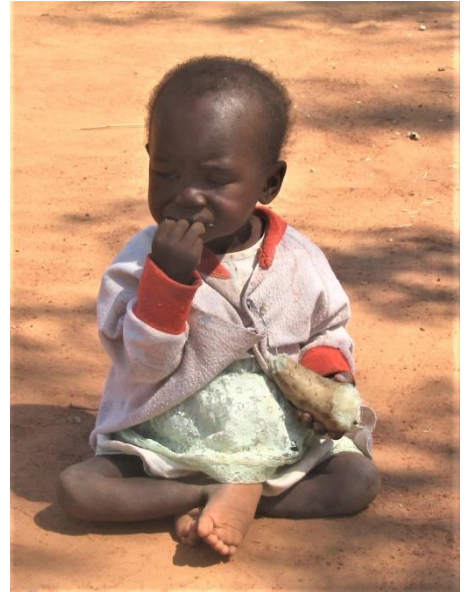


A Tanzanian family wanted to adopt her and she went to live with them for 8 years, during which time she suffered much abuse. At the age of 10 Jacky was returned to me and is doing quite well but needs prayers. She has had many health and psychological issues. She was in Form 4 when she became pregnant with Daniel. (Yes I am a grandma now...and loving it!)

After Jacky went with the Tanzanian family Christina (Kiri), came into my life in 2004. Christina was a year and a half and weighed almost 8 kg's. She could barely stand on her stick legs. Kiri had a huge scar on her leg from being dragged over a nail. She had a

dent in her skull from being tossed against a table but there was more serious abuse as well. Kiri was a very angry child as she was hurt so much. She had rages up till the age of 5. She was not able to talk until after she was 3 years old. When she was 5, she was able to express why she was angry and sad. That day she accepted Jesus in her life and even though she has been a very difficult child, all her rages stopped after she received Jesus. Kiri has finished Form 4 this year and is leaving to go to a veterinary college next month.

When Kiri was about 2 years old I was asked by the people of the Government hospital to take in a deserted baby. I went to see this beautiful baby of 5 months weight:3 kg. He



was left in a garbage pit after he was born. He had been in the hospital ever since. His name: Baraka. He was being fed by patients and a Lutheran church had brought some food and clothes for him. Everything was dirty and the thermos contained spoiled porridge. Baraka had typhoid fever and bronchial pneumonia. It took us about 3 months until he became a healthy and happy and very active baby. All the children I took in had been registered under the children's aid in Tanzania. I was

allowed to give them any name so Baraka became: Baraka James Cost Budde. Baraka is now 17 and finishing his Form 4 this year.

In 2006 I met Ngassa. A boy of almost 10 who had been deserted in the hospital. He has Osteomyelitis, a chronic disease. His was in the bone of his leg and the hospital said they would amputate. His H/B was 6 and his weight about 15 kg's. The Lord opened a way to get him to Kenya where they saved his life and his leg by doing a bone graft. Over the years Ngassa has had many surgeries and still has many emotional struggles. However, he is maturing and is now in university for computer studies.

In 2007 The Government hospital contacted me about another deserted baby. Faraja. By that time, I was 57 and asked the Lord if I really should take on this baby. It was Ngassa who insisted that I should take the baby...





“ You know what they do to a deserted child! He will die!” I went back and took this beautiful and apparently healthy new born baby of 3 kg’s home. Again, I was allowed to name him so he became: Faraja, John Cost Budde. After about 3 months Faraja was not seeking any eye contact and I checked his hearing by clapping and shutting a door. He showed no reaction. I took him to 2 different doctors to have his hearing checked. I was told that he was completely deaf and that there was nothing that could be done.

I did not agree. God is able! I asked for prayers from my church family and we as a family prayed and I pleaded with the Lord that he would heal him as I was concerned that having to deal with a deaf child would absorb much of

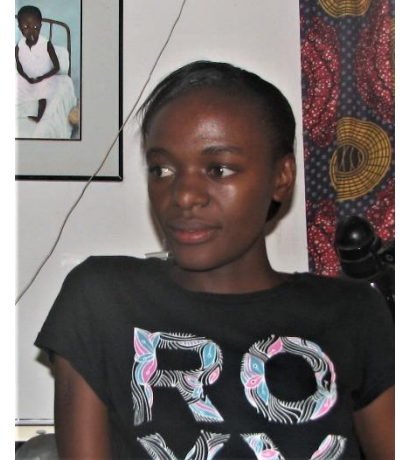
my time and I had the other children. Yes, our God is a great God and He is the great Physician! About 3 weeks later, I entered our house and Faraja turned his head to look at me! When someone else spoke, Faraja turned his head to look at him! What a joy! We praised and thanked the Lord for His mercy and healing power! Faraja is now in Form 2 and he wants to become an engineer.

It was in 2006 I had started to help Mahona Pascal. An albino boy who needed help with his schooling. He had done one year of Secondary school. The person sponsoring him could no longer help him. Mahona was living with a fellow student. His parents had died in a bus crash several years before I met him. He was doing well and he succeeded in being chosen for High school. During his holidays he was still staying with his friend. I came for his graduation. After it was finished he came to me and said:” Mom where do I go now? My friend has moved and I have no where to stay!” I said:” You come home of course!” The surprise and joy on his face I will never forget. This was in 2011. By that time our family had moved to Tabora. At the time Mahona joined us he had a lot of skin cancer. Due to my good friend, doctor Kathrin, Mahona received excellent treatment in Germany. He still needs occasional treatment but he is doing much better! Mahona has finished his BA and Masters in educational development but so far has not been offered a job. Albinism is still a big problem in many countries in Africa. (Look on the WEB for Albinism in



Tanzania) He has applied for a scholarship for a PHD in Canada. He is still waiting for an answer. In the mean time he is serving the Lord in an orphanage in Tabora.

Under the Shinyanga AIDS project we helped many orphans. One of them is Margreth. Her mom was very sick with AIDS. Due to the good care and medicines her mom is still living and is now on ARV's. They were very poor. Margreth finished Form 4 and in 2011 she was accepted in a college in Tabora. She needed a safe place to stay so she also became part of our family. Margreth finished well and is now assistant manager at the orphanage in Tabora. Both she and Mahona visit us occasionally.



That same year I met a young student in town. Mfaume. He is an orphan who has been taking care of himself since his aunt left him at the age of 13. He made it through adult classes and was chosen for Secondary school. He was living in an unfinished hut and



working on roads to make some money for his education and food. He was struggling to make it. My friend, a retired missionary was with me when Mfaume came to ask humbly for about 20.000/- Shillings for fees. (About\$15/- Can) He was so thin and tired looking that both my friend Grace and I decided to help him out and we put him in a boarding school in Tabora. During the holidays he came to stay with us. In the beginning Mfaume often wore a hat as he was coping with many bald spots due to a neglected fungus infection. He is a wonderful young man and always volunteers to help out. He is studying Pharmacy now. He is a real asset and blessing to our family!

We had a few other joined our happy family but due to very poor behavior I had to send them away. Others finished their studies but were never appreciating our home.

Some of them do keep in touch.

This is the story of our happy Tanzanian family. Through the years we have had our challenges but for most of our time our home has been a home of much joy and laughter. I am so blessed! I also have been blessed with incredible support, both spiritually and financially. On top of that I have been blessed with honest and faithful workers at our home. Naomi, my friend and co-worker and my guards: Daniel and James.

I will finish with a picture I love of all the kids while I was on furlough during Covid.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Jacky Baraka Margreth Kiri Mahona Faraja Mfaume

A very big Thank you from myself and also from the kids for your faithful support and prayers! Most of all I thank our great God and Father for his many blessings and giving me the privilege to serve Him and raising these beautiful children!!

This last picture of Naomi with our little grand son Daniel and one with yours truly.

