

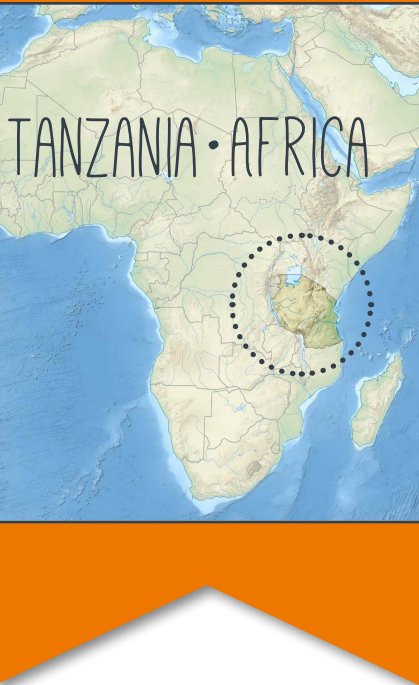


# Spreading the GOSPEL in Tanzania

## SERVING PRIESTS, LAITY, & ORPHANS

By Tom Edwards  
COUNTRY COORDINATOR  
for TANZANIA

Tom is Renewal Ministries' country coordinator for Slovakia, Czech Republic, and Tanzania. Tom began full-time ministry in 1974; it soon evolved into an international outreach of lay Catholic evangelization and mission with an emphasis on preaching and teaching Scripture. Tom and his wife, Pam, live in Florida and have two children, nine grandchildren, and a great-grandson.



Sixty priests joined in the thirty-five year celebration of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Tanzania, which included Mass with Archbishop Beatus Kinyaiya, OFM Cap. Peter Herbeck joined the mission team for the celebration and helped facilitate a special gathering with the priests.

Five team members joined me for our 2016 mission to Tanzania: John Mathe, Jean Thompson, and Paul Hayes from the United States; Peter van Kampen from Canada; and Bohdan Novak from Slovakia. Our USA members were greatly delayed due to complications with the airline. Our journey took four days, culminating in a fourteen-hour bus ride into the interior of Tanzania to reach the city of Ifakara. Peter and Bohdan had arrived a day ahead of us and gave talks at a retreat for twenty-five priests. They rose to the occasion, and the Lord blessed their efforts. Fr. Apollinaris Kiondo, a priest from the Renewal in Moshi, also shared with the priests.

### PRIESTS' RETREAT

John Mathe and I began the trip by joining the priest' retreat, while Jean and Paul remained in Ifakara to begin a pro-life workshop in the morning and to share at a rally that was underway.

The priests' retreat was two hours south of Ifakara. It was only accessible by a natural road and was beyond the reach of electric power lines. I shared about the beginnings of the Charismatic Renewal from the time of Pope John XIII. The priests asked many questions, many of which focused on the gift of tongues, healing, and deliverance. It was obvious that many of them had a negative mindset toward Renewal.

Fr. Aplollinaris and I responded by stressing the teaching by the past and current Holy Fathers regarding the necessity for the shepherds to be involved and to give the Renewal proper guidance and service. In the end, it seemed like most of the twenty-five priests were able to accept that the Renewal is a current of grace for the Church, is in full accordance with sound doctrine, and is worthy of their care.



Jean Thompson's pro-life teaching elicited a powerful response from the 150-plus people who attended each of the pro-life workshops in Ifakara. We left our full set of fetal models with Mr. Kibasa, a former member of Parliament and a biology professor, who will use them well in his pro-life ministry.



### RALLY & PRO-LIFE WORKSHOP

Returning to Ifakara, we had our full team together and gave our attention to the rally and pro-life workshop for the next three days. About 1000 people attended each day. The response was very positive, and the local leaders were very pleased with the first-time efforts in this area.

More than 150 people attended the pro-life workshop each morning, at which Jean did comprehensive teaching on the evils of abortion and the gift of Natural Family Planning. Mr. Kibasa, a former member of Parliament and a career biology professor who we worked with several years ago, translated and assisted us. He has years of experience in pro-life ministry. Mr. Kibasa was delighted when we left him with our full set of fetal models. He will use them well and often.



Before attending Mass on Sunday, we visited an orphanage in a remote region. The children were being well cared for and educated with what were obviously extremely meager provisions in a destitute place. Our team members were moved to share a generous monetary gift with them.

### DODOMA

We then traveled twelve-hours by bus to the capital city of Dodoma for the Grand Jubilee Conference—

### a celebration of 35 years of the CHARISMATIC RENEWAL in Tanzania.

Peter Herbeck joined us for this portion of the mission! About 4000 people from Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya attended. Featured speakers included Peter Cardinal Turkson of Ghana (now serving in Rome), ICCRS President Michele Moran, Peter Herbeck, myself, and others. Jean Thompson also shared her powerful pro-life testimony. Archbishop Beatus Kinyaiya, OFM Cap, celebrated the opening Mass, and Bishop Rogatus Kimaryo, CSSp of Same Diocese, shared a message. Sixty priests were in attendance.

During the final afternoon, Michele Moran, Peter Herbeck, and Cardinal Turkson facilitated a special gathering with the priests—an opportunity to share about the past and present work of the Charismatic Renewal. We presented the video *A New Pentecost*.

A lively time of questions and answers followed, and the event concluded with personal prayer ministry for the priests. Archbishop Kinyaiya extended an invitation to Renewal Ministries to present a future retreat to the bishops of Tanzania and perhaps to many of the priests as well.

### ON THE HORIZON

Renewal Ministries has now conducted seventeen missions to Tanzania in the past sixteen years. We have executed events in fourteen of the thirty-four dioceses. Before departing Dodoma, I discussed possibilities for 2017 with the national Renewal director, including the possibility of reaching out to the dioceses of Shinyanga and Singida.

Interestingly, upon our return to Dar-es-Salaam we stayed at a center where two young bishops also happened to be staying—the bishops of Shinyanga and Singida! We had opportunities to talk to each one of them; one issued us an enthusiastic invitation to come to his diocese next year, and the other voiced an openness to the same. Logistically, this would be a very doable, as the dioceses are only about five hours apart. We will pursue this further and see what happens. ✚



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