



By Tom Edwards  
COUNTRY COORDINATOR  
for TANZANIA

Tom is Renewal Ministries' country coordinator for Tanzania, Slovakia, and Czech Republic. 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 lives in Florida and, with his late wife Pam, has two children, nine grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

## noteworthy MISSION NEWS

Renewal Ministries' mission team member Celeste Martin accepted an assignment to teach English to seminarians in Vietnam.

She left in mid-September and will spend a year there.

Celeste left for Vietnam immediately after returning home from a mission with Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw in Papua New Guinea.

Celeste has gone on multiple mission trips with Peter Thompson and the Greenhaws to Africa and has attended the last several Renewal Ministries' Gatherings. She is also a former English teacher.

We are excited and grateful that Celeste has answered the Lord's call to serve the Church in Vietnam!

# Spreading the GOSPEL in Tanzania

*This marked Renewal Ministries' seventeenth consecutive year in Tanzania. Bishop Liberatus Sangu invited us to present the first Renewal events in Shinyanga, which has a population of 100,000. We conducted an outdoor rally of several days on the cathedral's grounds. We also conducted workshops for laity, a priests' retreat, and a sisters' retreat.*

We were blessed with a team of fifteen people from the USA, Canada, Slovakia, and Tanzania. We had the perfect mix of clergy, religious, and laity—a team with a multitude of talents, eager for the task at hand. Bishop Liberatus greeted us warmly upon arrival. He was involved with the Renewal as a parish priest and was overjoyed that we accepted his invitation.

Very dark forces have dominated in Shinyanga for many years, making it difficult to evangelize. Over 300 older women were murdered in recent years for being suspected witch doctors. Some Christians led this misguided campaign, which the bishop and clergy are now trying to correct. Bishop Liberatus told us a village in his diocese is the known epicenter of witchcraft in Tanzania. No bishop has dared to visit this village in fifty years. Bishop Liberatus received many warnings that he would be murdered if he traveled there. However, after prayer and fasting, he visited the village for three days. Amazingly, villagers rejoiced! The church there was awakened, and he was presented with a very large gift—several head of cattle.

When the bishop held our fetal models for the pro-life workshops, he was shocked at their life-like appearance and feel. He had never seen such visual aids (abortion is rampant and no formal pro-life teaching exists there), and he was delighted. He blessed the models, and that blessing carried into the pro-life workshops, which were well attended by both men and women—all receiving the teaching with great zeal.

The story of the Charismatic Renewal's launch in Shinyanga is one of struggle. A couple from Dar es Salaam moved to Shinyanga in 2003 and presented a Life in the Spirit Seminar. Out of that, a small prayer group began to flourish.

However, the prayer group was not well received by the clergy of the time, and they were forbidden to meet on church property, although the cathedral is a large complex with very good meeting facilities. When the couple who began the prayer group moved away, the group dwindled down to one married couple, who continued to meet and pray by themselves. Thankfully, a few more people were eventually drawn in. With the arrival of Bishop Liberatus two years ago, a glimmer of hope began to shine.

I met Bishop Liberatus last year as we were exiting Tanzania. The bishop personally gave what I discerned as a very strong and sincere invitation (almost a plea) to bring a team to Shinyanga. That became the springboard for our 2017 outreach, which also succeeded due to excellent organizational groundwork in Shinyanga.

## PRIESTS' RETREAT

At Bishop Liberatus' request, thirty-six priests attended a Life in the Spirit Seminar in May. Upon our arrival in July, twenty-two priests returned for a follow-up retreat, with several teachings presented over three days. The priests were receptive, amiable, and open to prayer ministry!





## PRO-LIFE WORKSHOP

Men and women attended the pro-life workshop in nearly equal numbers (which isn't typical). The participants had an intense hunger and knew the need for these teachings. The diocese has never had any pro-life movement or education. Secular forces sponsored by Western governments have come in like a flood and established pro-abortion clinics that are administering many kinds of contraceptive devices (often with no education given to the recipients regarding side-effects).

Jean Marie Thompson led the pro-life workshop, with the assistance of Nancy Van Ryswyck and Bohdan Novak. They provided in-depth teaching, with three hour sessions each morning for five days.

### Testimonies from our team

*"They have no pro-life groups and were ready to devour all the information we presented. We had lively discussions, and participants took pages and pages of detailed notes. They continually expressed their deep gratitude for the teachings. It was beautiful to see the Holy Spirit bring them such joy and truth through His Word. May He continue to bless them in this way!"* —Jean Marie

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*"I spoke to one man a word of prophesy that God was calling him to serve men who are bound by the sin of impurity and women who are considering abortion. I had a strong sense that God was going to protect him at every step and send him people. He was surprised, but he accepted it. He took a bicycle and went home. On his way home, a motorcycle crashed into him—his wheels were broken, and it seemed he should have died. But he was not harmed. The man on the motorbike gave him money to get his bike fixed. He came back, praising God for His faithfulness. Later that evening, he spoke and prayed with a woman who was going to abort her child, and she decided to give birth to her child. Alleluia! God is faithful!"* —Bohdan

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*"Without your team, many parts of Tanzania could not have been reached by the Word of God. God bless and keep you strong!"* —Louisa (from Tanzania)



## SISTER'S RETREAT

Our team included two religious sisters whose great love is ministering to other sisters and sharing with them about the fullness of life in the Holy Spirit. Sr. Ana Chiara's testimony tells the story:

**“**We conducted a three-day retreat for eighteen religious sisters. We taught about God's love, sin, salvation, the Holy Spirit's gifts, inner healing, deliverance, and forgiveness. The sisters received teaching on baptism of the Holy Spirit and were prayed over to receive this empowerment.

They testified to the love of God; some even experienced physical healing. Several sisters received the gift of tongues, and all were very happy they came. God is working in their hearts.

When I said they were created for holiness and deep union with Jesus Christ, I saw the eyes of one sister burning with holy desire. That was the highlight of my experience. **”**



## WATER MINISTRIES

Team member John Mathe has traveled to Tanzania with us at least a dozen times. John, once in the well-drilling business, has a heart for people who lack clean water and has led several projects to help people obtain it. John has been investigating the difficult situation that exists in Shinyanga—an area where severe drought is followed by flooding. Before our departure, John was in contact with a Maryknoll priest who served many years in Tanzania and developed a method that uses windmills to extract clean water out of dry river beds. John and Bohdan traveled to an area and spent time with Fr. Dim, who has knowledge about the process.

John writes:

*"I was able to journey on behalf of Water Ministries, Inc. to a remote area to make plans for a new water system. The rivers there dry up for half the year. There is a great need for wind-powered systems to bring fresh water to the thirty villages there. Clean fresh water can be found in many of the river beds."*

John found a woman digging down into the sand, as many in this area do each day. Often, they carry buckets of water several miles. John returned with a lot of solid information about installing the much-needed systems. The equipment that extracts the water from the sand and the windmills are expensive, but John has people and organizations ready to help.

Thank you for your support! May God continue to bless you and the people of Tanzania!