



SPREADING THE GOSPEL IN TANZANIA



BY TOM EDWARDS Country Coordinator for Tanzania

Tom Edwards is Renewal Ministries' country coordinator for Czech Republic, Slovakia, 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, Jean Marie, make their home in St. Augustine, Florida.

SINGIDA

Renewal Ministries has completed twenty-one missions in Tanzania. This year, we began in Singida, which is heavily Christianized with a significant Muslim population.

We conducted our events at the invitation of Bishop Edward Elias Mapunda. Two years ago, he began building a new dining hall with the express purpose of making us comfortable. Even though the facility has yet to be completed, we made full use of the building for dining and workshops.

Our team consisted of eight people from the US and seven from Tanzania, along with a dozen singers, dancers, and prayer ministers. We were blessed with mission veterans qualified to teach on a variety of topics with zeal. John Mathe, who contributed much of our videos and photography, said,

"This was my eighteenth Renewal Ministries' mission to Tanzania. I have never before experienced such a profound sense of peace and joy flowing through our team and those who the Holy Spirit placed in our path."

In addition to the events described below, we held a retreat for religious sisters and a healing and deliverance workshop, both of which bore much fruit.

FIRE RALLY

Attendance at our ten-day rally grew by several hundred people each day. Radio advertising specifically invited other denominations, and one Muslim Imam attended a pro-life workshop. After praise and worship, speakers, and prayer ministry, participants were invited to yield their lives to the Word of God. This flowed into an extended time of prayer ministry for healing and deliverance from the bondage that is the consequence of living apart from God. This often resulted in dramatic moments of ministry as people were set free of spiritual chains that flow from the insidious forces associated with witchcraft, sorcery, and sacrifices that have been offered to placate false gods and demonic spirits.

The days concluded with rejoicing, singing, dancing, and final prayers and a blessing. Even though the sun was setting, almost no one left the rally field before the final blessing was pronounced.

PRO-LIFE WORKSHOP

Bishop Mapunda was keenly interested in the Theology of the Body teachings going forth in his diocese, and our pro-life workshop included teaching on Natural Family Planning. We have had the privilege of sharing these powerful teachings in many dioceses in recent years. They are deeply impactful, and the lives of babies are being saved.

Beth Kraner shared these thoughts:

“People hungered for God. Men and women were on their knees praying with all their might, and God responded. He showed his hunger for them is much greater than theirs for Him. Tears streamed down faces as people received the Lord’s love. The Lord freed many people from evil spirits.

“After learning about the baby’s development in the womb, the Lord opened their eyes, minds, and hearts, and they wanted to share what they had learned with others. **When speaking about abortion and displaying the gestational models at a large girls’ secondary school, I saw horror, compassion, and sadness on their faces. God moved their hearts to see the truth that there is a living baby in the womb.**” 📌



YOUNG ADULT WORKSHOP

About fifty people attended our week-long young adult workshop focused on Christian growth and maturity, as well as prayer for baptism in the Holy Spirit. Team member Elizabeth Molbert shared about her experience:

“The words that come to my mind about it are ‘chains broken,’ ‘hearts healed,’ and ‘fires lit.’ We met a girl in a wheelchair named Fortunata. Many of our mission team members felt a connection with her. One day, she shared her story. Her dad passed away when she was young, and her siblings started dying suddenly. Fortunata wasn’t born disabled, but as a young girl, one day she just fell to the ground. Her mom didn’t want a disabled daughter and rejected her. She brought Fortunata to a witch doctor and abused her. Fortunata eventually left the toxic environment, but her heart had experienced much pain and rejection. We poured into her and asked the Lord what He wanted to share with her. We received many Scripture verses for her and prayed with her many times. Sometimes she experienced fire in different parts of her body. I believe God was working toward healing her body. More importantly, He was healing her heart. I saw chains being broken, hope being restored, and healing taking place in her.”

CHILDREN’S REHABILITATION CENTER

We were able to leave a generous monetary gift with the sisters who run the center. Our gift was greatly appreciated and will directly benefit the children.

Jean Marie Edwards reflected on our visit:

“There are some things a heart never gets used to—like seeing the peace and love our Lord brings with his presence. In every encounter we had, there was great hunger and openness to all our God wanted to pour out. In the children’s rehabilitation center, our hearts were filled with his joy and love for these beautiful little ones. **That love flowed freely both to them and from them. Many of them couldn’t walk, so they pulled themselves across the sand. The older ones who could walk pushed others in wheelchairs through the thick sand; even those who had only one leg pushed others. There was great need and suffering there—but also tremendous joy and love that can only come from the Lord.**”

The sisters are doing a heroic job, and it was such a gift to bless them with financial help and prayer. To those who couldn’t go on the mission but generously gave prayers and support—thank you!