

By Nathan L Morrison for Sunday 09/25/2022 All Scripture given is from NASB unless otherwise stated

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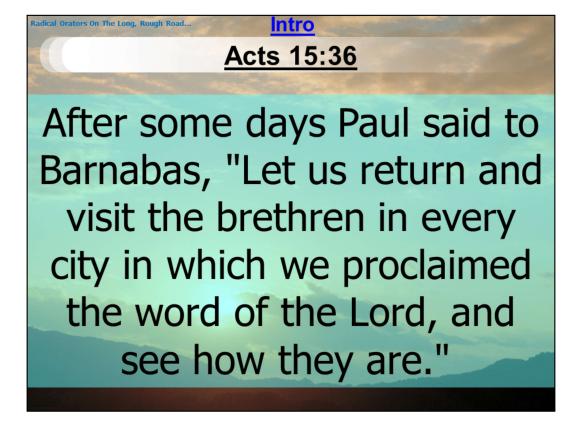
Image: The road from Iringa, Tanzania to the Kilolo church of Christ

Fellow preachers, Ed Smith, Andrew Roberts and Nathan Morrison went to Tanzania (08/31/2022 – 09/13/2022) and met up with local preacher Zuberi Mwakyami. Our mission was to encourage saints and preachers to continue their work, to be autonomous and independent from preacher training/Bible schools and American money.

I bring back Greetings from the Kilolo church of Christ (Iringa), Kizuiani church of Christ (Dar es Salaam), Chanika church of Christ (Dar es Salaam) and the Mwanambaya church of Christ (Dar es Salaam)! I went bearing your greetings as well!

I thank you, the brethren here at Courthouse, for supporting me and helping to fund my first overseas trip, and this, my first overseas preaching mission!

I couldn't have gone without your love and support!



Act 14:26 From there they sailed to Antioch, from which they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had accomplished.

Act 14:27 When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

Act 14:28 And they spent a long time with the disciples.

Paul and Barnabas concluded their 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey by returning to Antioch (where they had started from) and reported to the whole church what God had done through them!

Then after the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15 Paul and Barnabas wanted to go and strengthen the congregations they had started in each of those cities (Acts 15:36).

After the fight over John Mark, they split up and Paul took Silas.

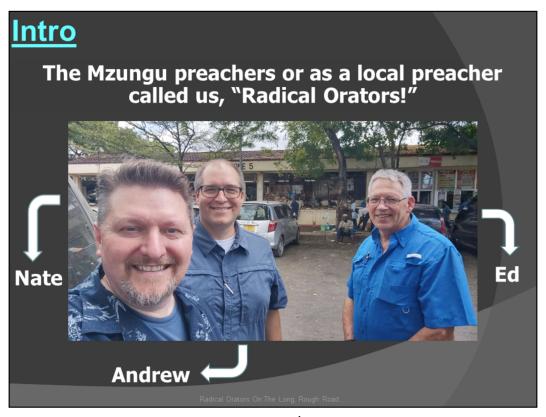
Our mission to Tanzania was like Paul and Silas' on Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey: To check on established congregations and strengthen and encourage them!

We met with multiple congregations and with preachers for study and Q&A



#### Mzungus:

- Swahili for "White man/person"
- Originally meant: "Confused and lost" when used of the European Explorers that came to the African continent for the first time hundreds of years ago!
- We stood out everywhere we went and we were called, "Mzungu" daily: by little children, shop keepers, people passing by on the street, by even the brethren!
- It is not a derogatory word but one of explanation.
- Shop keepers would say, "Come to my shop. I give you Swahili price, not Mzungu price!" They believed if you were a Mzungu or with Mzungus it meant you had money.



Brother Ed Smith from Paris, TN (this was his 5th time to Tanzania)

Brother Andrew Roberts from Tampa, FL (this was his 2<sup>nd</sup> time to Tanzania)

Nate Morrison from Richmond, VA (this was my 1st time to Tanzania)

#### Some obstacles to overcome:

- Preaching and teaching through a translator
- Everywhere we went we stuck out and drew notice
- Language barrier: not just in speech but in idioms, comparisons, and examples (IE: in Iringa the people didn't know what a tornado was. Had to say cyclone and include the speeds of the winds to gain the effect. Andrew found that out!)
- Couldn't drink the water
- · Everything had to be well cooked
- Had to have bottled water with us at all times
- For me, personally, had to avoid cumin (allergic) in an Indian cuisine-influenced area (Had a scare! Ordered what we thought was chicken tenders on a stick but was chicken organs, undercooked but heavily seasoned)
- Had to try to avoid mosquito bites! (taking anti-malaria pills)
- Most places didn't have "Western" amenities and creature comforts we were used to. (IE: Most places the bathroom was a hole in the ground with a squeegee, a bucket of water and a scooper)
- Foreign government and thus, a foreign police force. It was odd to see police forces everywhere carrying AK-47's, some in their hands. If you photographed them or took video you could be fined or imprisoned.
- But we went to preach and teach because there was a need!

Radical Orators On The Long, Rough Road...

Acts 16:9-10

- A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."
- 10. When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Paul's Macedonian Call was to come and preach the gospel.

Our call was to help the established congregations be independent and be strengthened in the gospel!



# <u>Intro</u>

#### THE NEED

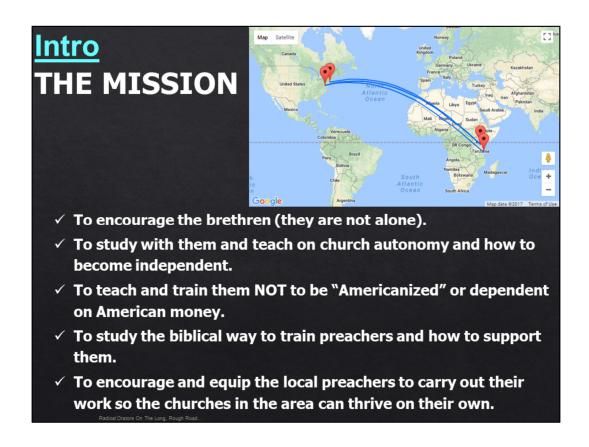
- ✓ Preacher Training Schools give money to support preachers (with strings). As soon as you don't "obey" their standards or staff the support is cut off.
- ✓ Churches became dependent on "American money."
- ✓ Churches became used to NOT supporting the preacher because someone or something else was taking care of that.
- ✓ Congregations & preachers felt adrift and alone.
- ✓ Churches needed to be taught how to be autonomous and independent.
- Churches needed to be taught how to support themselves and their preachers!
- ✓ Older preachers weren't teaching or training other preachers!
- Churches and preachers needed encouragement and to study what the Bible says on these things.

Radical Orators On The Long, Rough Road.

#### The Need:

- Preacher Training Schools give money to support preachers, but it comes with strings. As soon as you don't "obey" their standards or staff the support is cut off.
- Churches became dependent on "American money."
- Churches became used to NOT supporting the preacher because someone or something else was taking care of that.
- With churches and preachers distancing themselves from the Bible Schools and support being cut off, they felt adrift and alone.
- Churches needed to be taught how to be autonomous and independent.
- Churches needed to be taught how to support themselves and their preachers!
- Older preachers don't like to teach or train other preachers because:
  - o The church may like them better
  - They may have to share support
  - o They may lose their support altogether!
- Churches and preachers needed encouragement and to study what the Bible says on these things.





#### The Mission:

- To encourage the brethren and to let them know they are not alone.
- To study with them and teach on church autonomy and how to become independent.
- To teach and train them NOT to be "Americanized" or dependent on American money.
- To study the biblical way to train preachers and how to support them (Paul took Timothy with him and trained him and Titus to be preachers)
- To encourage and equip the local preachers to carry out their work so the churches in the area can thrive on their own.
- Brothers Zuberi and Dihigo are also training young preachers.



- The three of us American preachers flew to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and on Sept 2, 2022 we met up with our translator and guide, local preacher from the Mwanambaya church of Christ, Zuberi Mwakyami.
- Zuberi was a celebrity of sorts: he had been the goalie for the Young Africans football (soccer) Tanzanian team. Over the course of our two week visit he acted as translator, guide and bodyguard!
- We flew out that morning to Iringa, an hour and half flight on a 12-passenger plane, a Cessna Grand Caravan. There were 13 of us, the pilot and 12 passengers!



- In Iringa we met up with the preacher from the Kilolo church of Christ, Charles Mwakalonge, who had requested our visit (Top Left pic, far right). He spoke very good English and also acted as our translator while we were there working with the brethren at Kilolo.
- We also met with our driver, Judah, who hung out with us all day.
- Charles asked us to focus our preaching on Friday afternoon on Faith.
- Then we began "the long, rough road to Kilolo," as Charles says.
  - The sign for the congregation is translated as: "The building of the church of Christ"
  - Ed taught the brethren the story of the Bible, both OT & NT in Hand
     Motions Very effective and picked up quick by the brethren.
  - o Andrew taught on the authority of the Scriptures.
  - o I taught on the One Faith of Ephesians 4.
  - We spent 4 hours with the brethren that first day (25 people, including non-Christians)



- We spent 8 hours with them Saturday Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> and had Q&A after our teachings (30 people, including non-Christians)
  - O Andrew taught on the The Blessing of Walking Together & The Needs of the Preacher
  - o I taught on the One Church from Ephesians 4
  - o Ed taught on Elders
  - One of the interesting questions during the Saturday Q&A was: Why was there no giving at seminar? They asked why the collection basket wasn't passed after each day of preaching and teaching. They were used to other preachers doing that! Andrew deftly handled that question.
  - O This question was asked by a woman who was not a member but who had attended every day of our "seminars."
  - Charles was one of the preachers with a personal story of being left out in the cold by the Bible Colleges there.
  - He asked us there to help answer their questions, to encourage him but also to encourage the new preacher.
  - Charles was moving to Tunduru to start a new work and brother John (pictured far left on bottom right pic) would take up the preaching at Kilolo.

- Some of the women cooked our lunch in a makeshift outdoor kitchen on the edge of the property (Top Right pic).
- Our group in Top Left pic is with brother John (Far Left) and our driver, Judah (between Zuberi and Andrew)
- Opposition: The church faced opposition all three days of our visit from their neighbors (Pictured in Bottom Left pic)
  - O They would shout and argue with members during breaks. They were so adamantly against them being there that they were building a wall.
  - o It wasn't there when we arrived on Friday but by Sunday it was half built!
  - O They spent those three days yelling as we sang hymns and digging the trench for the wall!



- Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup>, our last day with the brethren at Kilolo, we spent 5 hours with them (30 people, including non-Christians)
  - o I taught class on the Exalted nature of Jesus from Acts 2
  - o Ed preached on the Repentance of Judah
  - o Andrew spoke on and served the Lord's Supper
- After services, a woman who had attended with us since Friday, but who was not a member of the Lord's church, had Charles tell us something.
  - O She had visited with them for a couple of months but not consistently.
  - She said after hearing us she would no longer attend her congregation but start coming to Kilolo, and then to show her appreciation for us she presented Ed with a small bag containing three hard boiled eggs (We couldn't eat them so gave them to Charles later). She is pictured with Ed in the Top Right pic.
  - It was a tear-jerking moment!
- I was impressed with how many children were there every day and who were so well behaved through 4, 8, and 5 hours of preaching and teaching. There are 16 of them pictured eating lunch under a tree in the Bottom Right pic!
- Sunday night: A local preacher, David, visited with us at a café. He was polite but spoke in Swahili to Zuberi and Charles
  - We found out later he had asked them, "Why did you bring these American preachers here? Americans cause trouble for the church!"
  - O They explained to him that we were different, independent and not with any of the Bible Schools. He remained a little skeptical.
- The church of Christ at Kilolo sends their greetings! (Pic on left)



#### Dar es Salaam & the Kizuiani church of Christ:

- Monday morning the 5<sup>th</sup> of September we flew from Iringa back to Dar.
- We relaxed a bit and spent time with Moshe, an elder from the Mbagala church of Christ and a Tailor. He measured Andrew and I for shirts and suits (pictured Top Left)
- We had requests from the Kizuiani congregation as to what they wanted lessons on the next day.
- We spent the evening and the next morning preparing lessons on faith, vision and dreams, and the role of godly women in the church.
- Then Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> we were at the Kizuiani church of Christ (31 people)
- We met with the man who invited us to Tanzania in the first place, brother Dihigo Godwin, the preacher at Kizuiani (Will be pictured later!)
- For brothers Ed and Andrew it was a reunion as they had met him before. For me, it was all new!
- We spent the next 3.5 hours teaching and answering questions.
  - o Ed taught on Walking by Faith, Not By Sight
  - Andrew taught on not trusting in visions and dreams from a lesson in Jeremiah called, Jeremiah and Dreamers
  - o I taught on Helpers: The Role of Godly Women in the Church
  - O Two young ladies, Sara and Rosie (Zuberi's daughter) have beautiful singing voices. I took video of some of the hymns.

- Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> began with a Q&A at Kizuiani and we answered questions and taught for about 3 hours (29 people).
  - There were lots of questions about trusting in your dreams or visions, and if a dream comes true does it mean you are a prophet? Andrew handled them all really well! He reminded them that if a dream or vision is from God then there must also be an interpreter!
  - Ed took on questions about evangelizing Muslims and people in denominations.
  - o I handled several questions on the role of women from I Corinthians 14 and Titus 2:3-5.
  - O Then there was only time for two lessons that afternoon, which we were told could be on anything we wanted to present on!
  - Ed taught on Two Trees: Life & Death, with a new translator, Duncan (pictured Top Right)
  - Andrew taught on Shamgar, the Servant of God, with a new translator, Esau (Not pictured)
- Opposition: The church faced opposition the two days we were there.
  - The neighbors across the way loudly played music as we taught and sang hymns.
  - O Tuesday, there was a Muslim man with a prayer book sitting directly in front of the building entrance making gestures as the saints exited the building (Pictured in Bottom Left)
  - O This is just a little of the open hostility the saints there have to contend with.
- The Brethren at the Kizuinai church of Christ greet you!
- Exciting News! That night after our driver dropped us off at the hotel, Emily, the driver, asked us for a Bible! He had been studying with us the last few days!



#### Dar es Salaam & the Chanika church of Christ:

- We had requests from the Chanika congregation as to what they wanted lessons on the next day.
- We spent the evening and the next morning preparing lessons on the theme of "fellowship."
- Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> we were at the Chanika church of Christ (25 people)
- Brother Dihigo Godwin from Kizuiani was there (pictured Top Left) as well as many others we had visited with over the week.
- We spent the next 3 hours teaching and answering questions.
  - O I started it off by teaching on Fellowship With Christ, with Duncan translating for me.
  - Andrew taught on Do We Fellowship Denominations, Or Evangelize Them? With Zuberi translating for him.
  - o Ed taught on Fellowship: With Church Autonomy, with Duncan translating for him.
- After the lessons there was a Q&A:
  - There were lots of questions about the Lord's Supper, specifically, if you should use wine or grape juice. Apparently this was a waiting question for Andrew from when he was there 3 years ago (in Dec 2019).
  - O They asked this question multiple times in various different ways!

- Ed took on the most interesting question here: Is there a difference between sacrifice (offering), contribution, and burnt offering?
- O Concerning the Collection, often called the "Offering" or "Contribution," they wanted to know if they had a chicken or goat, could they offer it up as a burnt offering in the building and be pleasing to God, the church and the preacher?
- This was more of a language barrier concerning those words "offering" and "contribution."
- O Ed told them to sell the chicken (or the eggs) and the goat and bring part of the proceeds from the sale to the church and give that instead.
- They are in the process of building a new building to meet in. The foundation stones are laid right out front and they showed us the blueprints.
- Interestingly, there is a Mustard Tree right out in front of their entrance! (pictured Bottom Left)
- Ed broke open a pod to show the tiny mustard seeds! (pictured Top Right)
- The Brethren at the Chanika church of Christ greet you!



#### Dar es Salaam & the Kizuiani church of Christ:

- We had requests from the Kizuiani congregation for us to conduct a "Preachers' Seminar" and to present whatever we wanted to that would help encourage them in their various work!
- Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> we were back at the Kizuiani church of Christ (20 people and roughly about 13 preachers in attendance!)
- We spent the next 3.5 hours teaching and answering questions.
  - I taught from Ezra 7 on the heart a preacher needs: to be prepared to Study, Obey, and Teach God's Word!
  - Andrew taught on The Needs of the Preacher
  - Ed taught on Types and Shadows from the OT and their fulfillment in the NT.
- After the lessons there was a brief Q&A:
  - O Andrew answered "How can a church correct a preacher?" and "What is the role of a preacher's wife?" The simple answer to that is that it is not an official role in the church but she is a sister in Christ.
  - O The most interesting question was, "Should husbands listen to their wives since Adam got in trouble from listening to Eve?" Andrew also handled that one very well!

- Opposition: The church faced the same loud music opposition as the first two days we were there.
  - o In addition to the loud music blaring, a Muslim man on a bullhorn was right outside loudly shouting for quite a while. Ed caught some of it on video.
- After the seminar, we went to brother Moshe's tailor shop and picked up our ordered clothes! (Pictured Bottom Left & Right)



#### Dar es Salaam: Fish Market

- Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> before the home Bible study, we went shopping and experienced the haggling at the shops and saw the Fish Market!
- Shop keepers would say, "Come to my shop. I give you Swahili price, not Mzungu price!"
- We are pretty sure we paid "Mzungu prices" at least once, maybe more!



# Dar es Salaam & the Kizuiani church of Christ: Brother Dihigo Godwin's House for a Home Bible Study

- Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> after the Fish Market experience we went to brother Dihigo's house for a home Bible Study.
- What an exciting day it was!
- First: two restaurant servers at our hotel that morning asked us for Bibles, Dora and Zura. Dora said she is a Christian. Zura said she is a Muslim but wanted to study with her friend, Dora. (pictured Top Left: Dora on the left, Zura on the right)
- Second: The home Bible Study had 18 people in attendance! We spent nearly 4 hours answering their questions. They asked about 13 questions that took the time!
  - O There were a lot of questions asked and we spent time in great discussion.
  - One of the exciting things that happened was that Emily, our driver (pictured Top Middle, far left), asked a question, "What about children out of wedlock? Are the children in sin?" He asked that because he has a 4 year-old daughter out of wedlock, and he was asking from the point of view of his culture: Fornication to see if a woman can bear children before marrying her. He said we gave him lots to think about.
  - O Brother Godwin's son, Samuel (pictured with his dad and me Bottom Right), asked, "Is it a sin to use a Bible App during services instead of a paper Bible?" Ed handled that one. I added if that was the case I'd be in trouble because that's all I packed with me!

- Many farewells took place here from the brethren at Kizuiani as we wouldn't see most of them again this trip.
- O Brother Duncan (pictured Bottom Left on the left of the two-seater orange couch) in his farewell address to us called us, "Radical Orators" and invited us to come again!
- O The women invited our wives next time saying, "The men and the preachers get encouragement but who encourages us?" They went on to say they would love to see the preachers' wives and to have them teach ladies' classes. Something for all of us there to think about!



## Dar es Salaam & the Mwanambaya church of Christ: Brother Zuberi's house and his new work outside of Dar

- Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> we were at Zuberi's house where he started a congregation recently, the Mwanambaya church of Christ.
- He had been an elder and fellow preacher at the Mbagala church of Christ in Dar but there was a need for a congregation out in his area so he and the elders at Mbagala agreed to let him go and start this.
- We were there to help support him. He has mostly Muslim neighbors and three Muslim women came for the entire time, class and services.
- He told us about his Muslim neighbors:
  - When he moved in and began expanding his home to house the church there, the Muslims threatened violence, stabbings and beatings.
  - He dug a really big well to be able to water those who came.
  - o Muslim neighbors began coming around asking for water.
  - He gave it freely. They tried to pay him but he refused any payment.
  - They asked him why, "After what we have said to you, why would you do this?"
  - o He told them because he was a Christian and that's what Christians do!
  - O They asked him if he thought he was a good man and was better than them. He said, "No. I am just a Christian."
  - O They have left him alone and keep coming to him for water.

- It was an encouraging day: 41 people, including non-Christians, were in attendance, all gathered together under a tarp in his front yard!
  - O There were many visitors! In fact, there were 5 congregations represented under that tarp: Mwanambaya, Kizuiani, Chanika, Mbagala, and Kingugi
  - O The preacher's wife from Chanika, Grace, was there to see us one last time and be part of the ladies' study that took place after services!
  - o Class: Jesus: Lord, Liar, Lunatic (Crazy Man) by Andrew
  - o Services: I preached a lesson called, I Love Barabbas
  - Lord's Supper: Served by Ed
  - o All while Zuberi's chickens ranged free among us!
- The brethren at the Mwanambaya church of Christ greet you!



## Dar es Salaam & the Mwanambaya church of Christ: Brother Zuberi's house and his new work outside of Dar

- After services it was time for pictures with the brethren!
- Top Left: Me with Rosie (Left), Zuberi's daughter, and Sara, her friend (Between us). Sara and Rosie have beautiful singing voices that we encountered at Kizuiani!
- Top Right: Zuberi and his wife, Josefina, with me.
- Zuberi's wife, Josefina, led a ladies' class after services on ways the women can teach the gospel to others in their respective communities.



## Dar es Salaam & the Mwanambaya church of Christ: Brother Zuberi's house and his new work outside of Dar

- We said our goodbyes
- Bottom Left and Middle: We gave Sara a ride home and she wanted final pictures with us.
- Bottom Right: Zuberi's family still at home with him, minus his wife, Josefina, who was teaching the ladies' study outside. Far Left is Grace, a young new convert who Zuberi has sort of adopted.

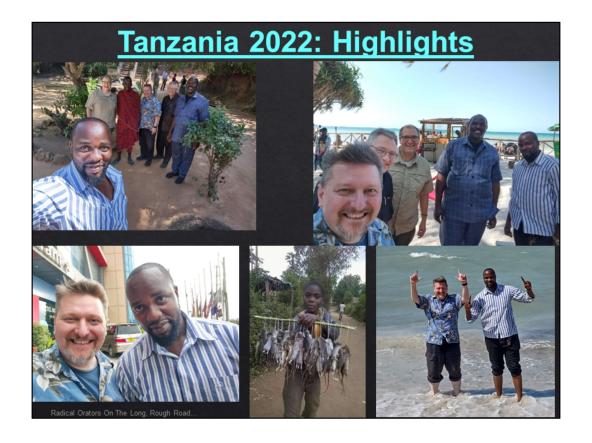


- During the week, Hotel Blue Sapphire cleaning staff asked for Bibles
- Overcoming obstacles like working with a translator for the first time!
- Meeting the brethren in Iringa and the different congregations around Dar!
- Seeing the Indian Ocean, giving me a personal record of touching 4 oceans: Pacific, Atlantic, Arctic, and Indian
- Seeing the chaotic traffic and street vendors; it causes you to appreciate what you have
- Seeing the poverty of the people causes humility because we are so blessed here in the States

- One of our favorite parts of the evening was Ed, Andrew and I would eat dinner together and discuss the day. We talked about our lessons, what worked and what didn't, and talked about the plan for the next day, who would take what question or teach on what topic.
- It was a beneficial time for me and an experience I won't soon forget!



- Top Left: Meeting the brethren at Kilolo and their former preacher, Charles (pictured in forefront)
- Top Right: Me with Judah, our driver in Iringa
- Bottom Left: The young ladies at Kizuiani wanted pictures with me and Andrew!
- Bottom Right: Andrew and I with a brother who we enjoyed visiting with.

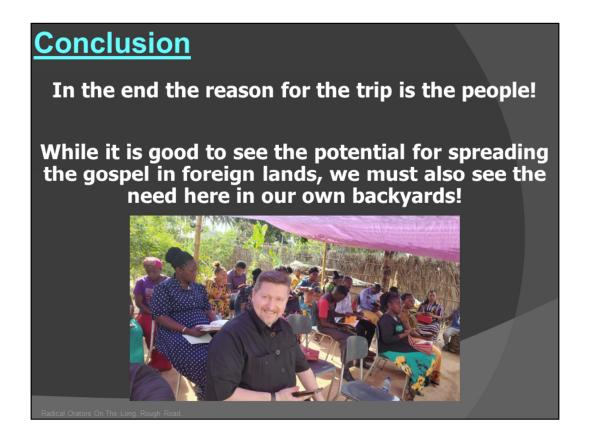


- Top Left: At Mikadi Beach at the Indian Ocean we met a Maasai and he consented to a picture with us (the Maasai are from the north in Kilimanjaro and the Serengeti regions, where Scott preaches)
- Top Right & Bottom Right: Seeing and getting in the Indian Ocean, giving me a personal record of touching 4 oceans: Pacific, Atlantic, Arctic, and Indian
- Bottom Left: We said goodbye to Emily, our driver in Dar
- Bottom Middle: Zuberi took a picture of a boy selling rats, which is a popular food in Southern Tanzania!



- Top Left: Andrew and I in our "GQ moment" showing off our new African-style suits (Friday the 9<sup>th</sup>)
- Top Right: Street vendors that sell their wares in traffic, especially during rush hour!
- Bottom Left: The Market: Street Vendors! Shoes! Coats! Clothing of all kinds!
- Bottom Right: The café we ate at the most while out in the field because Zuberi liked it. He was well-known there!

- Middle: A sign about Tanzanite at the Julius Nyerere Airport.
  - Fun Fact about Tanzanite: Only found in Tanzania
  - Only mined from one mine in Tanzania
  - One man owns the property where that one mine is found!
  - O Zuberi went to his house and met the man to try to convert him and met his 30 wives!
  - O The man invited Zuberi back to talk to his wives because some of them were interested.
  - The man made sure Zuberi knew that no matter how many of them were converted and baptized they would STILL be his wives.
  - Zuberi went back a couple of times but it was no use.



Again, I thank all of you for your generosity in sending me to Tanzania.

We think we made a difference, and should we be able to take them up on their invitation back next year, it would be interesting to see how they've grown!

It was highly encouraging to meet brothers and sisters a world away from a completely different culture teaching and singing the greatest story ever written: The gospel of Jesus Christ!

# Conclusion John 4:34-35

- 34. Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.
- 35. "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.

Jesus was referring to the people about to come out of the Samaritan town the woman at the well had run into.

In a moment they would come out to see and hear Jesus (John 4:39-42).

Jesus was telling His apostles not to judge people by their appearance and to get ready to teach!

There are a lot of teaching opportunities right here in our communities!



# "WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?"

Hear The Gospel (Jn. 5:24; Rom. 10:17)
Believe In Christ (Jn. 3:16-18; Jn. 8:24)

**Repent Of Sins (Lk. 13:3-5; Acts 2:38)** 

**Confess Christ (Mt. 10:32; Rom. 10:10)** 

Be Baptized (Mk. 16:16; Acts 22:16)

Remain Faithful (Jn. 8:31; Rev. 2:10)

#### **FOR THE ERRING SAINT:**

Repent (Acts 8:22), Confess (I Jn. 1:9), Pray (Acts 8:22)