

IGOAugust
2023

Rich and Rhonda Hanssen - Missionaries to TANZANIA

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." James 1:27

P.O. BOX 746, NJOMBE, TANZANIA, EAST AFRICA

"How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?" 1 Thessalonians 3:9

**THANK
YOU!!**

We love and appreciate you all so very much! Your love, prayers, and financial support are enabling us to bring the Love of Jesus to Tanzania! Because of you we are raising up children and staff that will Make Jesus Famous!

This is our prayer for each of you:

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better."

Ephesians 1:17

**We have been back for just over 2 years
& the Lord is doing great things!**



Irene & Janeti

Irene and Janeti on their way to school in the morning. They leave at 6:30 am and get home at 4:00. Before leaving they come to Baba & Mama's house for us to lay hands on them and pray for them! Irene is in 5th grade and Janeti is in 1st.



On Sundays we have "Sunrise Church" for the girls and we have Bible Study in the evening Monday - Thursday. The girls love learning from the Bible. They have learned many Bible verses and Irene can find her way around the Bible like a pro!

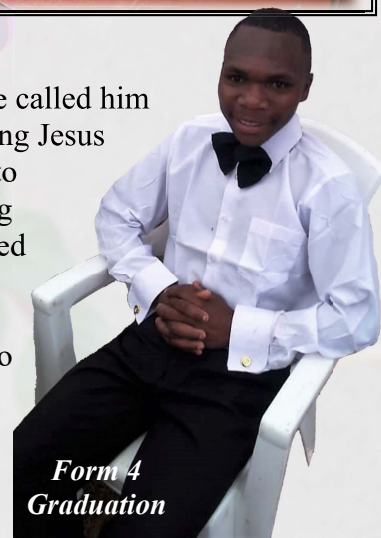
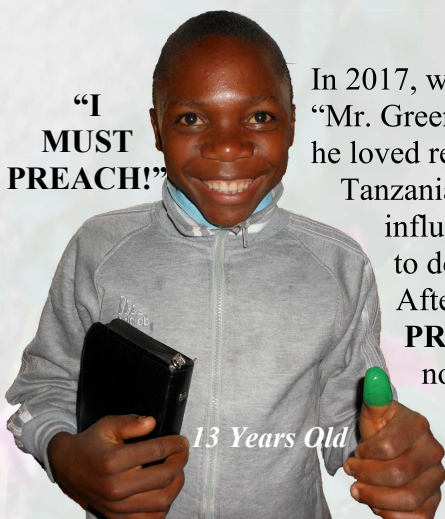


YONA MGAYA

In 2017, when he was 12 years old, Yona gave his heart to Jesus! We called him "Mr. Green Thumb Preacher Man." From the time he began following Jesus he loved reading and studying the Word of God. When we returned to Tanzania in 2021 we talked to Yona about his future. He was being influenced by many people and was unsure about what he wanted to do. We asked him, "What does Jesus want you to do?" After thinking for a couple of minutes he said this, **"I MUST PREACH!"** He then said, "I do not know my mother and I do not know who my father was, but I know that God has a plan for me."

13 Years Old

More about Yona on the next page.



*Form 4
Graduation*



THE SPIRIT-FILLED FIRE BIBLE



Before coming to Tanzania we attempted to purchase Swahili Fire Bibles - unfortunately they were out of print. These are Study Bibles created for Pastors who have little or no resources. While in Iringa (5 hours from Sunrise) shopping we saw a Bible Book Store. We went in, began looking around, and to our surprise we saw several Fire Bibles! We asked if they had more available. They did, so we bought a case. We have given them out to local pastors and also to Yona for his Secondary School graduation gift. This will help him prepare for Bible College.



Staff Appreciation Day at the Hillside Restaurant



We had a special day that we showed our

thanks to our Sunrise Staff. The highlight of the day was going out for pizza and french fries! Irene & Janet were off from school so they joined us for this special time.

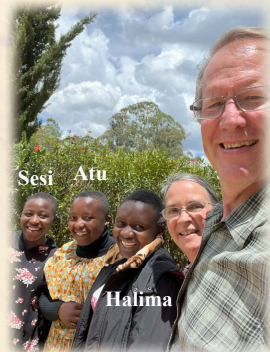


Irene celebrated her 10th birthday with a chocolate cake made by Mama. Rhonda makes birthday cakes for kids and staff. The icing is always very thin or else it will be "too sweet." Birthdays are

special because God made each of us special.

Student Recognition Day at the Hillside Restaurant

We had a special day to recognize the hard work of our students. They enjoyed pizza, french fries, and lots of laughter! Halima, Sesi, & Atu are all doing well at Agnes Trust Secondary School. Hosea will begin pursuing a Bachelor degree



THANK YOU!

Your support has enabled us to buy a new, custom made, wood burning stove (Jiko). Wood goes in the L top door, the R top is the oven.



MORE ABOUT YONA MGAYA - "The Preacher"



Yona is on fire for Jesus! His Bible knowledge is amazing! We have given him a Swahili Fire Bible and an English Bible and he studies them every chance that he has!

On September 4th we will take him to Dodoma, Tanzania to the Tanzania Assemblies of God (TAG) Bible College where he will study to get a degree in Biblical Studies.

The Lord sent us here to raise up children and staff that will go out into this nation and Make Jesus Famous - Yona is already doing this!



in Law in October. Frank & Nickson are in Form 6 and will go to University next year. Ima is in his 2nd year of Auto Mechanic Training. Akwirino is at Utengule Coffee Lodge doing an internship for Hotel Management.



RHONDA'S MOTHER - FAYETTE BOWMAN GOES TO BE WITH JESUS

On June 8, 2023, Rhonda's mother, Fayette Bowman, fell asleep and woke up in the presence of Jesus, her Savior.

Rhonda's mom was her role model. It's where she learned to love and care for her family first as God has ordained. Fayette was a pastor's wife for 38 years. She was a faithful, loving, persevering, wonderful woman of God, wonderful wife, and wonderful mother.

Due to her rapidly declining health, we left Sunrise on Monday, June 5, and 63 hours later we arrived on June 7th at 7:30 pm at Fayette's home in Wilson, NC. She was heavily medicated and was sleeping very soundly when we arrived. Rhonda held her hands and rubbed her arms and spoke so sweetly to her, sharing words of love and care from her heart. Even though she was heavily sedated, Rhonda's mom roused enough to say very quietly, but very clearly, "I

love you ." What a gift from God to make it there on time to hear these most precious words! So thankful to the Lord, His goodness does run after us. Fayette went home to Jesus the next morning. Though she is dearly missed, we rejoice that she is with Jesus!

"For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life."

2 Corinthians 5:4

The Uhekule Village Chief and leaders of our 5 sub-villages came with many gifts to express their condolences.



Gifts Included: potatoes, wheat, dried corn, avocados, cabbage, salt, beans, & money



Sunrise staff gives Mama a kanga & wrap

Since returning to Sunrise we have experienced a wonderful side of the Tanzanian culture. When someone dies they celebrate that person's life by giving gifts to the family. Rhonda has been no exception!



BEE INVASION

In 2016, just after arriving at Sunrise we were outside and we heard a loud buzzing in the distance. Suddenly the Sunrise children said, "lay on the ground." We did and almost immediately a swarm of bees passed over us. Since then we have had this happen many times without a problem, until last month.



Colony 2

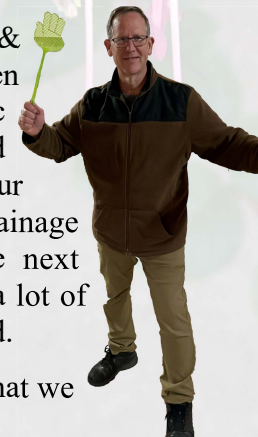
(Enlarge this picture to get better look)

As we sat on our front porch eating our lunch & enjoying the sun we heard the buzzing sound. We stayed in our chairs thinking that they would pass by, but they did not! The bees swarmed in our front yard forcing us to go in the house and "batten down the hatches".

Over the next several hours 15 bees got in our house – note the bee crusher! Rich was taking them out 1 by 1, then it happened, one of them staged a sneak attack and stung Rhonda, the spotter. The enemy paid the ultimate price for stinging Rhonda's hand! Rhonda was fine, said she could hardly feel it – tough missionary woman, says Rich!

We called a "bee man" & he came and put the queen and the swarm in a plastic bag along with a second colony from the side of our house that were in a drainage junction box. For the next couple of days we had a lot of angry bees flying around.

We are relieved to say that we won the war, 15 to 1!



Celebrating 40 Years



On September 24th we will celebrate 40 years of marriage! The Lord has been so good to us! So many of you are part of our "story." We began our life together with a limited commitment to Jesus but God had great plans for us. In 1987, about 4 ½ years into our marriage, we were set on fire by the Holy Spirit and now for 36 years we have been loving and serving our great God with all of our hearts. We love Jesus, we love each other, and we love each of you!



As a result of the recent 10 year census we now have an address. We don't use it for mail or any other purpose.

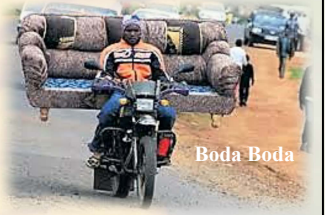


Kind of a detailed license plate for a building.

CHALLENGES



- The laws for Children's Homes in Tanzania have undergone major changes. We are working to ensure facility & staff compliance and also navigating the legal process for getting new children.
- Two of our staff are getting married so we suddenly only have two staff now. Finding staff is a major challenge. We have recently set up interviews with 4 potential staff members. The process includes helping to set up and pay for their transportation (buses, taxis, & boda boda). One interviewee is coming from over 5 hours away. We pick them up at the Njombe bus station, bring them to Sunrise, interview them, and they spend the night. We normally make the hiring decision the same day. The next day the process is repeated for them to return home.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for us as we:

- Look for, interview, hire, and train new staff
- Move forward to add children to the Sunrise Family
- Strive to be effective in discipling our children & staff into a deep and growing relationship with Jesus
- Share the love and the Gospel of Jesus Christ with everyone we come in contact with
- Spend our lives to Make Jesus Famous



setting our land ablaze. We watched the smoke from a distance but there was nothing we could do about it. Almost all of our trees were burned. We sold what was left for 500,000 shillings (\$205). In another 3 to 5 years we could have sold the trees for 6,000,000 shillings (\$2,500).

TREE INVESTMENT UP IN SMOKE

Sunrise has 72 acres of farm land. We used a large part of it to plant pine and eucalyptus trees as an investment for the future. Someone making mkaa (charcoal) started a fire which spread across a river and jumped our fire breaks,



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTNER WITH US PLEASE COMPLETE, CLIP, & MAIL THIS FORM



Missionary Commitment Form

For the support of Rich & Rhonda Hanssen

Ministering to the Orphans & People of Tanzania

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