

MY MISSION TRIP TO



TANZANIA



MARCH 2020

By Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

Trip No. 65

ABOUT TANZANIA

Challenges for Prayer

Growth in the mainline Churches has been good but sporadic. Renewal movements in Lutheran, Anglican and Catholic churches bring life to traditional congregations; most of the bishops are evangelical. Some problems that limit further growth in numbers and spirituality are:



a) *Extensive areas where churches have stagnated* and where many potentially open villages remain unreached. The need is great for more evangelists and church planters.

b) *African worship patterns*, choirs and collections combined with Western cultural forms have taken priority over biblical teaching.

c) *AIDS* continues to spread and affect many Tanzania's social fabric and economic structure are deeply affected..

d) The *Pentecostal movement* has flourished in the last 20 years and is the fastest growing segment of Christianity. Pray for continued growth, increased maturity and unity between Pentecostals and other evangelicals - essential if the church is to impact Muslims and animists in the nation.



Photo Article Mark Wiens

Some of the local foods I enjoy



Mandazi (donut)

Black tea

Boiled eggs



Mtori is a banana based soup which originated in the foothills of Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, the chagga land.

INTRODUCTION

With both the Chaplain, Pastor Fabien Bondo, and the Dean of Students, Rev. Luis Esteves, not available for the term, I have had one of the busiest terms since opening KMBC 34 years ago, ... but by God's grace all has been done. In the kindness of God we welcomed seven new full-time students and an additional 4 new missions students, whom I can now love and train for ministry in Africa. At the moment it is study week, the lectures have all been completed, so as the students prepare for their exams I can now go back into East Africa and visit Tanzania for the 5th time which amazingly will also be my 65th mission trip into Africa. At the moment these missionary trips are experiencing the blessing of God, souls are being saved for Eternity, pastors and missionaries are being encouraged, new students are continually coming (10 missions students have applied for April), so I am very encouraged and grateful to God. In addition I have just started a new series in Philippians at St. Olav's in Durban, having finally completed Matthew at the Brethren Assembly after 28 studies, am busy with Psalms at our Thursday evening Bible Study and visited Holy Trinity Imbali on a regular



basis, so life cannot get much better than this. Also I have just finished **John Wesley's** Journal (volume 2) and I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed reading his journal. On the things that struck me the most was to read that he preached almost every day of his life, right up to the time of his death. His great objective in life was:

"to promote as far as I am able, vital practical religion, and by the Grace of God to beget, preserve and increase the life of God in the souls of men."

Every year until he reached the age of 88, he would travel approximately 15000 kilometres on horseback, write thousands of letters and as I said preach every day. At the time of his death he had trained 300 ministers, had welcome 72,000 members in the U.K. sent out 20 fulltime missionaries and furthermore had trained 200 ministers with 44000 members in America ... Statistics which are absolutely mind-blowing to think what one man accomplished for God in his own life, but now in such a very minute way, compared to Wesley, I head up to Tanzania and will preach around Dar es Salaam.

Fred Arnot, a missionary to Central Africa wrote on the 18 September 1881, the following words which I relate to so much.



"I do not feel as if I were in a strange country, or among a strange people, and I can say with my whole heart that I love these African people and long for their conversion. Now is a golden opportunity, God has opened a door and the time is short. It does seem too much to say that scores of true servants of God are needed in this part of Africa."

Over the years the Lord has always sent amazing people to assist me in my work and recently a brother from Cape Town, Gerhard Laniewski, has totally revamped my website. Computers are his world and he is incredibly gifted and therefore he has done the most amazing work imaginable so that my website is not only user friendly, but can be even more greatly used to assist pastors and missionaries in Africa. May I encourage you to visit his work at www.footprintsintoafrica.com.

Enjoy this Journal, embrace the moments, and never forget this prayer of **John Wesley**.



"Lord let me not live to be useless"

WEDNESDAY, 11 MARCH

Today I will fly up to Dar es Salaam so let me make sure that I begin the day by getting into "The Missionary Workshop" as Oswald Chambers used to call it. My Bible readings continued in Exodus, Job, John and I am loving reading through 2nd Corinthians because at the moment I am busy lecturing on it to our 3rd year students. I could then spend time in prayer and I remember especially the BOYA people, another unreached people living in India. It was then time for **Oswald Chambers** to disciple me and this morning he wrote such challenging words.



"If we lose the vision we alone are responsible, and the way we lose the vision is by spiritual leakage. The only way to be obedient to the heavenly vision is to give our Utmost for His Highest."

I never want any spiritual leakage to occur.

I flew out from Pietermaritzburg, connecting out of Johannesburg up to Dar es Salaam. Because of this Corona Virus, I was fully prepared, armed with my hand sanitizer and masks.



There waiting for me were my dear brothers, Pastor Powell and Pastor Moyo, with their warm greeting of "Karibu" (see photo). It felt wonderful to be back in Dar, a boiling pot of cultures of those who have settled there over the centuries. These

settlers include Arabs, Indians and those from all the African countries, all of whom brought their religion and culture with them.



The streets are busy, the traffic is manic, the skyscrapers are towering and the vendors line the sidewalks selling their goods. Slowly we made our way to Kunduchi where I will be based. We found a little "restaurant" on the side of the road, so how better to celebrate being together than with some African tea and a Mandazi.



Photo A Taste of Travel

What a welcome they gave me - it was a little overwhelming, but they were so glad to have me back. The women especially made some Mtori (this is a very nourishing soup with lots of banana, fruit and chicken) which we enjoyed for supper. With the sun beginning to set it was time to unpack, put up my mosquito net and settle into my little home. It is very different from life back home, but then they made me feel so welcome.



It has been a long day of travelling but "BABU" is back in his home. It was quite touching that just as I was about to fall sleep, Powell's son Junior came to say "good night" to Babu. I will now let **John Wesley** close off the day with a reminder which we must never forget - "that money can clog up our spiritual life". He wrote this on the 13 June 1767.

"I was asked to preach the Funeral sermon for William Osgood. He came to London 30 years ago, and from nothing increased more and more until he was worth several thousand pounds. He was a good man and he died in peace. Nevertheless, I believe his money was a great clog to him, and kept him in a poor state all his life, making no advance as he might have done, either in holiness or happiness."

Now I can fall asleep a very happy missionary in Africa.

THURSDAY, 12 MARCH

It was wonderful to wake up this morning and feel the cool breeze blowing off the Indian Ocean. Fantastic to be back in my little room in Kunduchi and there began my day with the Lord. With a joyful heart I went into the "Missionary Workshop". My Bible readings continued in Exodus, Job, John and Corinthians, after which time I could pray. This morning I especially remembered the KOSHTI people in India, another unreached people group who need to hear about Jesus. Then as he has done for the past fifty-three years, **Oswald Chambers** disciplined me and this is what he wrote this morning ... what a challenge.



"The test of ABANDONMENT is always over the neck of natural devotion. Go over it, and God's own abandonment will embrace all those you had to hurt in abandoning. Beware of stopping short of abandonment to God."

I hope I have not hurt too many people in living this lifestyle of abandonment to Jesus ... such a sobering thought, but it does concern me at times. It was terrific to then watch the sun rise over the ocean and to enjoy a good shave, wash and then share a lovely breakfast with Powell of Mandazi and tea. Fully prepared, I went down to the church to lecture for the morning on **"Introduction to the Bible"**. My three talks covered:

1. **The claims of the Bible**
2. **The structure of the Bible**
3. **Survey of the Old Testament Part 1.**



This lady, a converted Muslim

After sharing a good lunch together, there was time for short rest, this oppressive heat is draining. Feeling refreshed I was then able to speak to the leaders of all the branches on the QUALIFICATIONS for leaders from 1 Timothy 3 and 1 Peter 5, and then closed the session after answering their many questions.



The class




My Interpreter



Pastor Powell and a past student, Esaie

After pouring my heart out to these dear people in the five sessions of teaching, it was time for my favourite meal of **MTORI**, and then enjoy some reading.

I started a  biography on **ADONIRAM JUDSON** by Faith Bailey, such an incredible story, but at times very sad to read of all he went through to bring the Bible to Burma.



It has been a great day of ministering God's Word in Tanzania, now let John Wesley again close off the day, this time describing his reading habits ... makes such fascinating reading ... what a man, so incredibly disciplined and passionate for the work. Someone once wrote "readers make leaders", Wesley proved that to be true!

April 1770

"How is it that no horse ever stumbles while I am reading" (History, poetry and philosophy I commonly read on horseback, having other employment at other times). No account can possibly be given but this : because then I throw the reins on his neck. I then set myself to observe; and I aver, that in riding above an hundred thousand miles, I scarce ever remember any horse (except tow, that would fall head over heels any way) to fall, or make a considerable stumble, while I rode with a slack rein."

Now to drift off to sleep ... the most blessed man on the planet!

FRIDAY, 13 MARCH

This morning I woke up very early, everyone was fast asleep but I wanted to go outside and be alone because today is **Jon's birthday** and he would have turned forty. I walked down to the beach with a heavy heart. You will never know how much I miss him!



The last few years of Jon's life were phenomenal and he shared this while preaching in Pietermaritzburg - he had become a man on fire for Christ, with a huge longing to join me in Footprints into Africa and bring the Gospel to Africa. He was busy with his Certificate in Theology, reading every missionary biography he could lay his hands on, preaching around Bedford in England, and at Men's Breakfast meetings.

I shared this with you in my last Journal what Jon wrote to me on 16 April 2012, and his words will forever be imprinted on my heart.

"My dear dad, "I'm going after the lost Dad. I want to be like you a missionary to Africa. In Standard five, I told my teacher I wanted to be a missionary to the Congo, it is close now."



One day I hope to publish his sermons, one of my many tasks still to be done. After a long walk, and with the sun beginning to rise, I went into the "Missionary Workshop" and there spent time with the Lord. I was able to thank God for the privilege of being Jon's dad, but also for the miracle of a new love story that has developed out of a tragedy. Jon's brother Gregg will be marrying Sarah, Jon's widow next month, and together they will have the great joy of raising the twins together, this is truly an incredible story of God's grace in the lives of our family.



My Bible readings continued in Exodus, Job, John and 2 Corinthians after which time I was able to pray. This morning I remembered the TARKHAN people living in India. **Oswald Chambers** was then such a challenge to me when he wrote on super-joy.



"The surf that distresses the ordinary swimmer produces in the surf-rider the super-joy of going clean through it. Apply that to our own circumstances, these very things-tribulation, distress, persecution, produce in us the super-joy; they are not things to fight. We are more than conquerors through Him *in* all these things, not in spite of them, but in the midst of them. The saint never knows the joy of the Lord in spite of tribulation, but *because* of it.

Today I continued with three sessions on **"Introduction to the Bible"** and covered:

1. Survey of the Old Testament Part 2.
2. Survey of the Old Testament Part 3.
3. Survey of the New Testament

After another lovely lunch with the pastors and a short ^{zzzzzz}, I was privileged to give two further talks to all the leaders from the different branches, which was very well attended, the church was packed.

1. The **responsibilities** of a leader
2. The **cost** of being a leader Part 2.

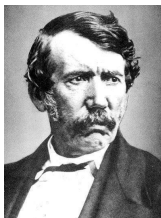
Here is a cameo of life in Kunduchi, enjoy the photos ...



After another two sessions with the leaders, one of the pastors here in Kunduchi kindly invited me to supper, African hospitality at its best!

An African proverb says: "If you want to know the secrets of a man sit down and eat with him".

After another busy, but emotional day for me, I want my hero **David Livingstone** to close off the day. These words were burned into my heart that day when together with two dear friends, Dave and Tim, we buried Jon. These words summarize my own life perfectly, read them carefully...



"I place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the Kingdom of Christ. If anything will advance the interests of the Kingdom, it shall be given away or kept, only as by giving or keeping it I shall most promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes in time and eternity."

Photo My Hero Project

SATURDAY, 14 MARCH

I woke up feeling so incredibly privileged and blessed to be up here in Tanzania teaching the Bible, following in the footsteps of Livingstone and the other pioneer missionaries who sailed out from England, landed in Zanzibar, came across here to Bagamoyo, and from here walked into the interior of Africa. So let me follow them into the "Missionary Workshop" and there begin the day with my devotions. Today my Bible readings continued in Exodus, Job, John and 2 Corinthians after which time I was able to pray. This morning I especially remembered the TANTI people, another unreached people living in India. **Oswald Chambers** then reminded me.



"Am I willing to relinquish my hold on all I possess, my hold on my affections, and on everything, and to be identified with the death of Jesus Christ ... relinuish all and God will make you fit for all that He requires of you."

It was time for a refreshing cold bucket wash, shave and then breakfast with Pastor Powell, again consisting of two Mandazies, a hard boiled egg, and a mug of black tea. We all went back to the church for the final sessions in **"Introduction to the Bible."**

1. **How to interpret the Bible**
2. **Ezra's remarkable testimony in Chapter 7:10**
3. **Summary of the nine sessions**

By God's grace it has gone so well and the church has been truly blessed. After lunch and a short zzzzzzz it was time to meet with the leaders for the final two sessions and I covered:

1. **Ezra the exemplary leader**
2. **Jesus the transforming leader**

Both the morning and evening sessions are now over, they seem to have gone down well, for which I am grateful, because they loved the teaching. Now there is time to devour Wesley's Journal and the biography of Adoniram Judson, enjoy my supper and then off to bed.

I learned so much from all my reading. This was what **John Wesley** wrote concerning his sermons, it was a massive encouragement to me.

During my forty years as a pastor, I spent thousands of hours preparing my sermons and lectures and like Wesley, I still use them today.



Enjoy what he wrote, he was incredible ... such an encouragement to me and my work; more than you can imagine.

Tuesday, September 1, 1778

I went to Tiverton. I was musing here on what I heard a good man say long since, 'once in seven years I burn all my sermons; for it is a shame if I cannot write better sermons now than I did seven years ago.' Whatever others can do, I really cannot. I cannot write a better sermon on the Good Steward than I did seven years ago; I cannot write a better on the Great Assize, than I did twenty years ago; I cannot write a better on the Use of Money, than I did near thirty years ago; nay, I know not that I can write a better on the Circumcision of the Heart, than I did forty-five years ago. Perhaps, indeed, I have read five or six hundred books more than I had then, and may know a little more history, or natural philosophy, than I did; but I am not sensible that this had made any essential addition to my knowledge in divinity. Forty years ago I knew and preached every Christian doctrine which I preach now."

SUNDAY, 15 MARCH

Today I will be preaching at Pastor Dell's church, preaching my lungs out as William Perkins always used to say. It is therefore critical for me to begin the day with the Lord. My Bible readings continued in Exodus, Proverbs, John and we started Galatians, and then it was time to pray.


I have recently re-read  Iain Murray's book, "HEROES", one of whom was Robert Kalley, a missionary to Madeira. Listen to what he wrote in 1834, such a beautiful prayer for me.



Photo Logos Blog

"Lord, Thou knowest all my weaknesses, my folly, my sin, my utter insufficiency. But here I am. Oh, do Thou take me, make me what Thou wilt, send me where Thou pleasest, do with me what Thou seest fit, only let me feel Thou art with



"Service is the overflow of an abounding devotion. To serve God is the deliberate love-gift of a nature that has heard the call of God."

May all my work today truly be a "love gift" to the Lord for all that He has done for me. After my invigorating wash in cold water, a shave and a lovely breakfast I headed off to Pastor Dell's church.



It was a long three and a half hour service, but after I had finished preaching from Acts 26:18 on "The Nominal Christian" there was a lovely response to the Gospel, praise the Lord. After the service the Pastor and a local teacher, Samuel, very kindly took me to lunch in a nearby restaurant and then dropped me off at my little home, such lovely men. Please pray that Samuel will come to KMBC for the Mission's Course.



Back home, two of my past students, Powell and Esaie were waiting for "Babu", so lots of photos were taken and I was able to head back to my room for a little ^{zzzzz} and then give away my cap to Junior, some of my shirts to Jerome, as well as a lovely gift for Powel and his wife. I also gave the biography of Adoniram Judson to my interpreter. It has been a perfect day of ministry in Tanzania so now to enjoy my last sleep here...but it is not easy to sleep in this heat, covered with a mosquito net and repellent

John Wesley wrote the following on 11 August 1765, such a wonderful thought to end a perfect day of preaching in Africa. How true these words are, I have experienced this time and time again ... even today ...



About eight I was so tired, I could hardly stand; but after speaking another hour all my weariness was gone, and I was a lively and strong as at eight in the morning."

MONDAY, 16 MARCH

It has been a wonderful time of ministry up here in Tanzania but sadly the time has come for me to leave and say goodbye to my precious friends, but walking in the places where Livingstone and other early missionaries walked has been exhilarating for me, as has the knowledge that souls have been saved and the Bible taught. So let me go into the "Missionary Workshop" and begin another glorious day in Africa with my devotions.

My Bible readings continued in Exodus, Proverbs, John and Galatians, after which time I could pray and pour out my heart to the Lord in thanksgiving. Today I was also able to pray for the SAHARIYA, one of the many unreached people groups in India. **Oswald Chambers**, in closing my devotions make this comment.



"The final stage in the life of faith is attainment of character."

I cannot tell you how much I have gleaned from reading **John Wesley's** Journal, it has been fantastic. Listen one last time to how he connects doctrine to living.



"Doctrinal conviction provides the foundation for our attempts to determine the best way to live out our Christian commitment in the midst of the varied situations that confront us. And it motivates us to act continually in accordance with our commitment to Christ. Whenever our theological work stops short of this, we have failed to be obedient to our calling as thinking Christians. Indeed our goal must always be to link Christian belief with Christian living."

After breakfast we had the long drive back to the airport through the horrendous Dar es Salaam traffic. But eventually we got there, and I caught the plane down to Johannesburg where I will need to spend the evening before flying out to Pietermaritzburg in the morning. With all the scare of the Corona Virus, things were very stressful, and to see the plane land in Dar es Salaam coming to take me home was unbelievable, you really can't imagine. I kept of remembering **Robert Kalley's** prayer



"Send me where Thou pleasest, do with me what Thou seest fit, ONLY let me feel Thou art with me."

I was so very grateful to touchdown in South Africa ... the thought of being stranded in Kanduchi was nerve wracking. Also I can sort of the abscess which has developed in my tooth ... painful and leading to swelling!



I am also reading 📖 **Stuart Briscoe's** commentary on Romans, perfect for the four-hour flight home. It is the type of book I will sell my bed for, a verse by verse commentary written by a pastor. So many commentaries are purely academic and dry, but not this one. I was especially challenged to read what he wrote concerning the UNREACHED people in our world and how we have done so little to reach them ... "a scandal to the name of Christ and His church." A real challenge as another beautiful day in Africa draws to a close.

"The same emphasis is necessary to those who sit comfortably in Christian pews, untouched by the condition of more than half the world's population which has no knowledge of God's Son. The Apostle's words ring true and clear. How will these people call on the Lord if they don't believe, and isn't their believing dependent on hearing? And surely hearing is related to telling, and the telling is exclusively in the hands of those who sense that Christ has commissioned His people to take the message to the uttermost parts of the earth.

There is a sense in which the unreached populations of our world are a scandal to the name of Christ and His church. In the two millennia which have passed since the Master commissioned His servants, superb efforts have been extended and major victories have been won which have resulted in Christianity becoming a truly universal religion. Yet at the same time it must be clearly understood that so much has not been attempted and so many need to be reached."

My 65th mission trip into Africa is now over, souls have been saved, past students encouraged, fifteen lectures have been given, I preached my heart out, my books are read, and the most stressful time in my life comes to a close ... phew ... it was not an easy time ... someone even said the plane will not be able to land and take us home ...

BUT

My precious friends thank you for your incredible love, prayers and generous financial support for this work. Please, never forget, that I am so very, very grateful to you all. I do hope that my Journals are an encouragement to you. You are all partners and enablers in my work; I am merely God's instrument.

AFRICA

Sadly with all the travel bans in place, we will not be able to welcome and host the ten mission's students who were due to come in April and I have had to cancel my trips to Zambia, the D.R.C. and Uganda ... but a word of encouragement - my little missions' house is currently under construction in the village in Malawi, not far from Jon's borehole. The translation of our Certificate in Theology into Swahili has been completed and printed, and currently the translation into Chichewa is under way.

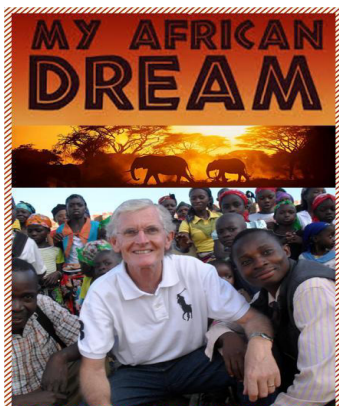


If you would like to share in, or support my work into Africa, I would value your partnership. Perhaps you may like to consider one the followings avenues:

- ☑ Pray for one of the countries and the past students who are working there
- ☑ Sponsor one of these men to come and train
- ☑ Contribute to supply the pastors with resources for their work
- ☑ Contribute towards my missionary trips into Africa
- ☑ General support

I always so enjoy and look forward to your comments and feedback on my Journals.

Yours for Africa,
Warwick



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