

October 2016

## NEW TRAINING COURSES

We have started two training courses this year. We have our regular on site Church Planter training course which started at the end of August. We have 6 families. They are an exceptional group and we expect great ministry from them.



We also started a Church planter off-site training course in Mwisi, Tabora Region. This is an area with the Nyamwezi tribe. They are 1.4 million people. Outside of towns there are not very many churches. We want to train these people to reach out into the rural areas and plant churches. We are training 18 people there. Our missionary and national staff are rotating to teach this course.



### MUSLIM- persecution

*(Please don't reprint this- Names and places have been changed to protect them)*

We now have friends who are Muslim background believers. That means that they were Muslim, but have received Jesus and are following Him. It has been interesting to learn about the hard life that these new believers have, but encouraging to see their resolve to stick to following Jesus. In one Muslim background believer's group, they have 200, and they can't meet on Sunday's for worship, because they are followed. So, they meet on Saturday's for worship and fellowship. They also have Bible Studies throughout the

week.

One of our friends, Aaliyah, has seen one of her friends shot dead just for being a Christian, and in just the last month two of her friends have been beaten up, one of them was stoned, but saved by a group of others. She herself had hot coffee thrown on her, and she was called a devil. Then she heard that a group of Muslim men were looking for her and they plan to hang her in a tree as a criminal!! She said that if they hang her, she will be with Jesus sooner. Also this week, her own uncle told her never to come to visit them again, or something bad would happen to her.

So, she and other Muslim background believers continue to wear the hijab when they travel in Muslim areas so that they won't be recognized. When you see a woman dressed in all black with only her eyes showing, she may be a Christian!!

Pray for Aaliyah and other Muslim background believers. Pray for their protection.

## **HIV/AIDS SEMINAR**

In Bagamoyo District, four out of every ten people are HIV positive. The church unfortunately teaches that HIV/AIDS is God's curse on people. So, they are shunned like a Leper was in Jesus' day.

We have recently learned that in Muslim community here, they believe that a "real" Muslim can't get HIV. So in the Mosque they are shunned to.

So, 4 out of every 10 people are shunned by the Church and the Mosque. I have been wanting to wake up the church in that area to this reality. Most people here are afraid of HIV because they don't understand it.

I didn't have much success with the traditional church, but I planned a Seminar with our church planters and their pastor friends. Even one Bishop came. It was a fantastic seminar. A Christian Doctor, Dr. Safiness, came and explained about HIV/AIDS and then I shared with them from Scripture, and also we discussed the community impact, as well as the personal cost for the Aids sufferer. We are realized that we had a great opportunity to show the Love of Jesus to those who are been shunned.

We have started a ministry plan, and each one is praying for God to lead them to lonely, hurting people. I trained them in listening skills so that they could know how to listen and show empathy. We will meet again next month to see how it has gone. We appreciate those who helped us pay for this seminar, and would appreciate your prayers for this ministry.

## Judy's mom health issues

Judy is in the US right now. Her mom has been having age related problems and Judy needed to make this personal trip to help her. She will return to Tanzania in early November. Don't worry about me. I know how to find food, and I will be on the road a lot visiting Church Planters.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED PRAYER AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THIS MINISTRY TO EMPOWER TANZANIAN CHURCH PLANTERS.

BLESSINGS,

GARY AND JUDY WOODS