



Friends of Amani Tanzania
in partnership with
The Anglican Diocese of Shinyanga, Tanzania



Sharing love around the World through Care Ministry

in support of people with disabilities



**Report of visit to Shinyanga Diocese by FOAT Trustees, Bridget and Leslie Green
July 2026**

Our 12-day visit to Shinyanga focussed on reviewing Care Ministry projects already supported by FOAT in the Diocese, gaining a better understanding of the challenges faced by people with disabilities and identifying the focus for care ministry over the next 18 months.

We were actively listening, encouraging, appreciating, playing, singing, dancing, presenting, teaching, learning, discussing, initiating, questioning, challenging, caring and **SHARING A LOT OF LOVE.**

Listening to the challenges faced by people with disabilities.



Encouraging i) the evangelists in their studies and the presentation of bicycles to assist them in their work, and

ii) church communities to develop support groups for families of the disabled.

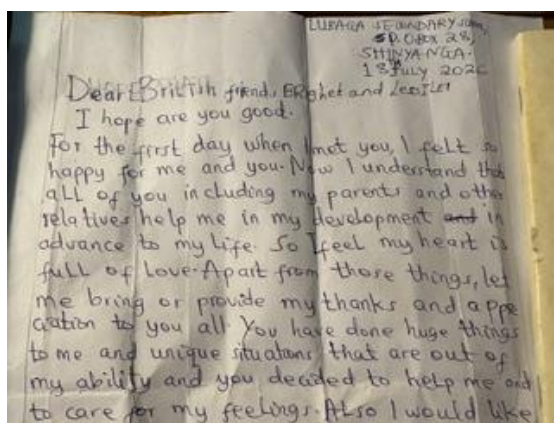
This church group meets under awnings. They have purchased the land and hope to begin construction of a church building soon.



Appreciating young people with disabilities supported by FOAT.

Samuel (25) and Nikolaus
Shija (16) and Lucia (14)

This is an extract from a letter from Nikolaus (15) who has received medical treatment and leg callipers funded by FOAT.



Singing, Dancing and Playing

Wherever we went, we were always welcomed with singing and dancing. We were encouraged to join in!

Children and adults alike enjoyed playing with the globe. In fact, I used it as an introduction at all our meetings; it was guaranteed to put smiles on faces.



Presenting, Teaching and Learning

We were delighted to present the books to **Mwadui Anglican Primary School**, purchased with funds raised by Earley St Peter's School.

Finding the UK and Tanzania on the globe and estimating the distance between the two countries formed the basis of a geography lesson during our visit.

Buhangija School holds a special place in our hearts. It is an inclusive primary school for children with albinism, hearing and visual impairments. We were delighted to see the revival of the garden, funded by FOAT. It means the children now enjoy fruit and vegetables twice a day with their meals.



Talking, Discussing and Understanding - The role of the Mothers Union (MU) in Care Ministry

We met members of the MU at four or five of the church communities we visited. All the members paid subscriptions which they used to purchase small gifts to take on home/community visits to hospitals, prisons, special schools and those in need in the community. This links well with Care Ministry and support for families of the disabled.

With some groups we explored i) the MU taking the lead on fundraising from outside the church community to help families of the disabled, and ii) initiating projects for income generation with families of the disabled. Suggestions included cooking and selling meals, cakes, beading and handicrafts. Some groups had already started small agricultural initiatives, but these are not ideal for people with albinism who need to keep out of the sun.



After understanding the importance of self-reliance, the Maswa MU (below) decided to fundraise for bicycles to help the two girls with albinism get to school.



Questioning and Challenging

A request for help - Solwa Medical Centre

The Diocese has been severely let down! A Government-Diocese partnership agreed in 2022 for the operation of a much-needed medical centre at Solwa has not come to fruition. The Diocese now plans to establish and run a self-funded health centre but requires circa £55,000 to initiate this. If you are able to make a contribution, or know of a potential funding organisation, please get in touch.



Initiating projects for self-sufficiency

The Story of Nikolaus' mother: initiating the journey towards self-sufficiency

Nikolaus, a teenager with physical disabilities has been supported by FOAT to meet his medical needs. Nikolaus' mother had no means of earning an income, struggled to put food on the table or fund Nikolaus' school needs. A young widow Margaret, learnt tailoring and is now running her own business in Shinyanga and was willing to share her skills with Mama Nikolaus. All that was needed was to purchase a sewing machine and materials to learn with.

We are delighted to report that, thanks to an appeal launched a few days before our visit, FOAT was able to purchase the sewing machine and materials and see Mama Nikolaus set up with Margaret, her teacher and future business partner.



Caring, Sharing and a LOT of LOVE



'A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you.'

John 13: 34

From giving onions to church members as a gift to share, to sharing biscuits and balls with children and adults alike, our message was always to encourage people to show love for one another.

Love can be demonstrated in many ways. By working in partnership with the Care Ministry Team, FOAT's focus is to reinforce the message of love and empowerment – educating and empowering communities to help themselves.



Continuing to Share Love around the World

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Friends for your support for Care Ministry in the Shinyanga Diocese. Without your help, many of the community development projects to support families of the disabled would not have been possible.

Donations for Care Ministry facilitate projects for education and medical support to improve the lives of some of the most disadvantaged in the community and encourage self-sustainability.

If you would like to make a regular or ad-hoc donation, FOAT bank details can be found below (please mark your donation 'Shinyanga') or you might like to get in touch with me:

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