



The Anglican Church of Tanzania
Diocese of Shinyanga



Mission, Evangelism, Care Ministry and Education

Report of visit to the Diocese of Shinyanga, Tanzania – 10th to 20th July 2024

by Bridget and Leslie Green

Commissaries and Honorary Lay Canons of Shinyanga Cathedral
and Trustees of Friends of Amani Tanzania

The host for our visit to the Anglican Diocese of Shinyanga was Bishop Johnson Chinyongole. He has been a missionary Bishop in the Diocese since 2018.

Since our first visit to the Diocese in 2019, we have been working with Bishop Johnson and the Care Ministry Team to develop community based projects to support children and families of the disabled.

This year we were delighted to:

- be inducted as Lay Canons of the St Stephen's Cathedral, Shinyanga,
- appreciate the substantial efforts of priests and evangelists to grow the church,
- see the reality of 'church planting' in rural areas,
- be welcomed into the new church communities,
- understand how the church is embracing families of children with disabilities,
- see the initiation of new community based social and economic empowerment projects enabling families of the disabled to support themselves;
- donate six bicycles for the evangelists working in rural areas,
- visit children whose education is being supported by friends in the UK,
- share fun and games with children at Mwadui Anglican Primary School,
- visit children with disabilities at Buhangija Government Primary School, and
- meet the new Care Ministry Coordinator, Rev Emmanuel Tungu who will take over from Rev Canon Stanley Sewando when he leaves the Diocese in October.



Induction as Lay Canons of St Stephen's Cathedral, Shinyanga

In a service lasting over four and a half hours, we were inducted as Lay Canons of the Cathedral, along with two clergy canons, a lay reader and 10 deacons.



Growing congregations and planting new churches

Over the course of three days we were taken to meet new congregations and to see construction of new churches in the Simiyu Region, a geographical area of over 9,000 square miles. Some of the congregations had yet to build a church, meeting under the shade of a baobab tree while engaging one of their members to make mud bricks in readiness for construction to begin.

Some buildings were simple wooden structures, while others already had substantial foundations in place.

Some had started with posts supporting corrugated iron roofing sheets, with walls to follow as funds allow.

Others were firmly established blending in with the natural rocky outcrops.

We heard how one evangelist working in Canon Jessica's deanery had brought 135 people to baptism after just one month of his placement.



Welcomed into Church Communities and embraced by families of the disabled.

Wherever we went we were assured of a warm welcome. Often this included singing and dancing . . . we were encouraged to join in of course.

Whether inside a church building, under a tarpaulin or in the shade of a tree, we enjoyed hearing from the families of the disabled.

We delighted in sharing food with the people – our record was four lunches one day – followed by an evening meal in the courtyard of a church elder!



Economic empowerment projects enabling families of the disabled to support themselves

A crucial part of community development is to educate families of the disabled to learn skills to initiate and run sustainable projects to generate an income to support themselves.

It is important that projects use locally sourced materials and that there is a market for the goods and services. We were introduced to a variety of such projects including making and selling soap*, tie-dying cloth, keeping chickens, and one of the most innovative, making multi-charger circuit boards and repairing local mobile phones.

These projects often go hand in hand with developing Community Microbanks. Families meet together on a regular basis, pay an agreed amount into the microbank and can then borrow funds at a later date to initiate their own projects or pay medical bills.

An important part of the training for the evangelists is to understand how to involve the communities in initiating and running sustainable projects.

***Note:** If you would like to purchase soaps at £1/bar, please contact me as detailed below. All funds go to the families of the disabled.



Bicycles for Evangelists

Bicycles are the main form of transport for those living in the rural areas of Shinyanga Diocese. During our visit we saw just how important bicycles are for carrying water, building materials, sacks of rice and even the family!

A month before our visit, we launched an appeal to raise funds to purchase 45 bicycles for the newly trained evangelists. The bicycles are imported in kit form from India and reinforced to carry heavy loads. They are purchased locally at £80 each*. On arrival we had sufficient funds to purchase six bikes. These were blessed by the Bishop and immediately put to use.

We have since received donations to purchase a further two.

***Note:** If you would like to contribute to the purchase of a bike(s) please see details below.



Children whose education is supported by Friends in the UK

For the past three years, two sisters with albinism – Shija and Lucia – have had their education costs funded by a UK donor. The girls are ‘fostered’ by the parish priest, Canon Reuben and his family at Mwadui. The girls come from a family of 13 children, four with albinism. Their family lives in rural poverty and the girls were not regularly attending their local school which was some miles from their home and difficult to reach during the rainy season.

Shija (15) completed her primary education in 2023 at Mwadui Anglican Primary School. She now attends the Lutheran Secondary School on the mining compound. Lucia (11) is expected to complete her primary education in two years time.

It was lovely to see both girls thriving both at school and in the home environment.

Note: If you are interested in sponsoring the education of a young person with albinism, please get in touch as detailed below.



Fun and games at Mwadui Anglican Primary School

Mwadui Anglican Primary School, formerly owned by the Mwadui Mining Company, began operating in 1998. It is the only Anglican School in the Diocese of Shinyanga.

Today the school has 125 students, most are fee-paying. It consistently leads the district in academic performance. There is a demand for pupils to attend the school from outside the mine and to provide education for more children with albinism. This requires investment to improve the school's dilapidated infrastructure and the purchase of a school bus to collect pupils from a wider area.

It is always a pleasure during our visits to interact with the pupils and staff. We usually make a personal donation of educational materials. This year our games with the pupils focussed on sharing love around the world, using inflatable globes to catch the children's imagination.

Note: The School is seeking to partner a school outside Tanzania. If you know a school which might be interested, please get in touch as detailed below.



Buhangija Primary School

Buhangija is a Government Primary School, principally for children with special needs, including hearing and visual impairments, and albinism. These children board at the school. Sadly some have been abandoned and remain at the school during the holiday period.

Through the Church's Care Ministry Programme, in 2020 FOAT supported the initiation of a vegetable garden at the school to supplement the meagre diet of the children and as an educational tool.

Following the disastrous dormitory fire which killed three young girls in November 2022, FOAT was able to provide emergency financial support for the survivors to replace clothing and school materials lost in the fire and games to help with their mental recuperation.

We are always guaranteed a warm welcome by the children. It is a joy to watch the hearing students signing for those with a hearing impairment and the sighted pupils guiding those with a visual impairment. Of course obligatory gifts of biscuits and games help to brighten their day!



New Care Ministry Coordinator, Rev Emmanuel Tungu

The Rev Canon Stanley Sewando has served in the Diocese of Shinyanga for five years as Diocesan Secretary and Care Ministry Coordinator. For health reasons he will leave Shinyanga Diocese in October to return to the Diocese of Morogoro.

The Rev Emmanuel Tungu, a teacher at the Mission and Evangelism Training College (METIC) and Assistant Priest in the Parish of Ndala will take over the role of Care Ministry Coordinator when Rev Canon Stanley leaves.

Emmanuel is already 'shadowing' Stanley. He brings a wealth of enthusiasm to the role of Care Ministry Coordinator and speaks very good English – always helpful as our knowledge of Swahili is so pitiful.



Support for Care Ministry Projects in the Diocese of Shinyanga

For further information on any of the Care Ministry Projects, please contact Bridget Green:
bridgetg@talktalk.net or telephone 07711 384672

Donations: Name of Account: *Friends of Amani Tanzania*, Account Number: 00036740, Sort Code: 40-52-40.
Please mark donations '**Shinyanga**' Bicycle donations: Please mark '**Bikes**'