

FOAT Supporting Care Ministry in the Diocese of Shinyanga

Report of Visit by FOAT Trustees, Bridget & Leslie Green 12th to 21st July 2025

A Globe, Onions, Bicycles



and sharing a lot of love

Why a Globe?

Sharing love around the world.

Whether talking to and playing with children, visiting families of the disabled in the community, addressing a church congregation, playing 'pass the ball' at a party or discussing biblical teaching with evangelists in a classroom setting, an inflatable globe provides a useful tool to illustrate how we can all participate in sharing God's love.



Onions?

An auction of offertory gifts.

It is customary for any offertory 'gifts in kind' (fruit, vegetables, eggs, goats etc) to be auctioned at the end of the service. On our first Sunday at Ndala Parish, I bid for two bags of onions. At first, I was not sure how or when I was going to gift these.

Resembling a globe in shape, I decided the onions could be



donated in pairs to families of the disabled. It was explained to the families that one onion was to be kept for their own use and the other to be given to another family with an invitation to come and join the group, thereby sharing God's love.

Evangelism at work

During the course of the week we visited eight new groups of families of the disabled, scattered across the rural Diocese. Some were meeting in new churches, others still meeting under the shade of a tree or an awning, and one in a cotton warehouse!

Moslem converts at Dyana Local Church – the two Moslem men (at the rear of the picture), both with physical disabilities, have experienced Christian love through the group meetings and will shortly be baptised.



Bicycles?

Thanks to the generosity of friends in the UK, we were pleased to present a further 10 bikes for evangelists during our visit. These were duly blessed by Bishop Johnson at the end of the Eucharist in the Cathedral on Sunday 20th July.

Some were then given to evangelists working in rural areas who had already planted new churches. The others will be issued very soon.

Since the bike appeal was launched in 2024, 25 bikes have been presented, of the 72 needed.



Evangelists

The six-month evangelism training programme established in 2023 has so far trained over 50 men and women to work in the community. This, combined with the care ministry programme, is reaching out to many hitherto unknown families of the disabled, transforming their lives spiritually, economically, mentally, socially and physically.

Some of the evangelists are now studying on a two-year theology training programme recently established at Ndala.

We were welcomed by the students with a programme of song, dance and drama. We were delighted by a song written specially for us by way of a thank you for the bicycles. The drama, performed in pantomime style, delivered a serious safeguarding message, highlighting abuse by a man towards his wife (played by a man) when she was in labour!



Let there be light . . .

Nikolaus is a delightful 15 year-old boy who has received support from FOAT and the Care Ministry team for his physical needs; he was fitted with leg calipers earlier this year and his former primary school gave him a tricycle which he uses daily to make the 1km journey to and from school. When we visited him it was already dark (7pm), he was struggling to do his homework using the only family torch!

And there was light . . .

We were pleased to donate solar panel, transformer and five bulbs.



Mwadui Anglican Primary School

Despite the many challenges it faces, not least from the Mining Company now charging for water, electricity and housing for staff, Mwadui Anglican Primary retains its position among the top five primary schools in the area.

It gave us great pleasure to present the school with posters, a collection of reading books and educational games, thanks to a private donation from a friend in the UK.

The School is keen to welcome more children with disabilities (like Lucia) and to become a fully inclusive school. To do this it needs to improve transport services, and to mobilise funds to purchase a new minibus.

I was invited to lead a seminar for parents, to consider responsibilities both as parents and Children of God. How can we work together for the benefit of our own children and those with special needs? >

Fun, games, dancing and a party

At almost all our community visits we were welcomed with singing and dancing. We were encouraged to join in. What better way to share God's love for one another?

After the Sunday Service on 20th July, we hosted a party for local families of the disabled. The explosion of love was palpable ❤️

We introduced young people to each other, talked about feelings and encouraged new friendships.



Parent-teacher working parties, educational sponsorship scheme, bursary fund, appeals to former children/parents, lobbying local organisations, fundraising targets, child fostering, partnerships with overseas schools – just some of the ideas from the seminar.



Continuing to Share Love around the World

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Friends for your continued 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.

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:

Bridget Green, FOAT Trustee, Lay Canon and Commissary to the Bishop of Shinyanga
bridgetg@talktalk.net Tel: 07711 384672

Name of Account: Friends of Amani Tanzania
Account Number: 00036740
Sort Code: 40-52-40

*"Anything you did for one of the least of these my brothers,
you did it to me"*

Matthew 25, v40