



Hanging with the staff team and some of their praise & worship team

Where to start? There are so many stories from my time here. Let me share a few:

The first day we took a bus out to Shinyanga, a small city almost three hours out from Mwanza. Here many young people have no hope of going on to bigger things, as there are no jobs and many have not even completed school. I was able to take part in a workshop where they were teaching the kids how to make liquid soap so they have this skill, and can try to earn some money for their family. The day after they would each receive some small bottles of the soap to sell as a means of getting started. For these kids this is all they have, there are no other opportunities. I was able to share my testimony, and encourage them to get to know a God that loves them, and the staff come alongside them each week to do what they can to bring life to these kids.



Back at their office they host two groups of young women, some in the morning and some in the afternoon, to learn either tailoring or computer skills. They call it "Hope for the Hopeless Girls". This is the reality for these girls who have very tough stories. I was able to hear one story about a 15 year old girl whose parents divorced when she was 5, and she ended up living with her mom. Her mom could not afford to pay the school fees so she had to stop going to school. At age 13 she began to prostitute herself to earn money, and she became pregnant, so she thought about killing herself. She ended up having the baby and made a connection with YFC, where she began to learn tailoring, and was ministered to by the staff. She committed her life to God and now, because of the staff and volunteers coming alongside, and her new skill, she has hope for her future. This story is just one of many similar stories of these girls who are in desperate situations. I was so impressed by this program as it is a huge commitment of time and limited resources to these girls who come every weekday for six months so that they have this skill well in hand. I was able to share my testimony to these girls as well, and a few shared afterwards that they were encouraged that they could come to know God for themselves despite their past. Please pray for the many young women who come through the doors of the YFC office, that they would find hope.



On Tuesday we drove to a village an hour from the city where they have built a new skills training centre, funded by an organization in the US. They will also be building two classrooms to start a school with help from the YFC Foundation. This village is a mix of anything from very primitive life to some who are a little better off. As we walked I saw maize plants that were already brown even though they are just about to start their dry season, and rice fields with dry ground. I met a family next door to their centre who had 11 kids and their only sustenance comes from what they can grow themselves. The nearest school is too far for any kids in this area to walk to, so they stay home and help do chores and tend the land. I can't imagine what it would be like to live in such conditions. Zaburi, the National Director, shared their big vision of their desired impact in this community, but there is a huge wall of having no resources that stands in the way. Costs of \$10,000USD just to get electricity to their building, plus needing to find a way to get water and a bathroom built. Big dreams that they are believing God for.



The new YFC Training Centre



Children living next door to the YFC Centre.

The lack of resources continued to be revealed as the day progressed. On the drive home it started to rain hard. Zaburi turned on his windshield wipers and the one wiper fell off. He didn't flinch, but after a minute he was able to pull over to the side of the road. I tried to roll up my "power" window, but he needed to reach across to pull it up by hand to get it mostly closed. Thankfully the rain did not last long and we carried on back to the office. We went for dinner, walking by street kids asking me for money. We sat down and he shared that if they could not come up with their annual rent by August, they would need to move to their centre (something they want to eventually do, but it is not ready). I asked about whether churches support them, and he said no, they actually ask YFC to buy things for them. They assume since they belong to an international organization, they must have money. He shared that there are months when, if they don't have funds, the staff don't get paid, including himself. When they do get paid, it is only about \$100 to \$200USD per month. Here he is, the National Director, a 32 year old young man, hugely devoting his life to the ministry and dreaming big, sacrificing greatly to do so. I was so humbled. This is the story of many staff in Africa, who give their lives and rely deeply on the Lord to see God-given dreams come true, all for the sake of hundreds of young people

coming to know hope in their lives. After dinner I took him to the grocery store and loaded him up with big bags of flour and rice and some other basics, and he was so grateful. It has been very hard as I want to help everyone, but can't, so I have been trusting the Lord to lead me in this and pray He will be the great provider for so many people who are in great need.



Zaburi - YFC Tanzania National Director

I have spent a lot of time here sharing my story, encouraging and giving what I can, and trust that fruit will come of it. I will also be looking towards whether God will open a door of opportunity to send a container of supplies to the ministry, such as tables and chairs for their new centre, or fabric and sewing supplies for their program with young women. Please pray with us as we move forward and ask the Lord for big things.

If your heart is moved to do so, perhaps you could consider making a gift towards this ministry. You can do so through this link <https://yfc.org/donate/> Click on "Give to Staff or Nations". In the "Select the Individual/Project You Would Like to Support..." tab, type in Tanzania and you will see their account come up. Click on it and you will be guided through. Donations will be in US dollars and you will not receive a tax receipt for Canadian purposes. If you give and are ok with it, please let me know so that I can let Zaburi know what is coming and from who.

Thank you for your prayers and partnership with me that allow me to be here. I will be heading to Burundi tomorrow for my last week, and will try to report again later next week. Blessings to you.

Dave



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