



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE



July 6, 2022

SEASON OF PENTECOST

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UCJCI 42nd SYNOD THEME – Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE (Health, Opportunity, Peace, Evangelism)

REPORT ON MISSION TRIP TO RUVUMA, TANZANIA MAY 2022



A main street in Songea

By the Tanzania Mission Team

The team which traveled to Tanzania consisted of Bishop PJ Lawrence, Mr. Andrew Rollins, Mrs. Debreca Rollins, and Mr. Michael Bowerman. It left Cayman on 18th May for a ten-day mission trip.



The journey was long and tedious – about 36 hours. They left Grand Cayman for Miami, then to Istanbul, on to Dar es Salaam and finally to Songea, the capital city of the District of Ruvuma in southern Tanzania.

The team was hosted by the Anglican Diocese of Ruvuma under the leadership of Bishop Raphael Haule, the diocesan bishop. They found the people of Ruvuma warm, friendly, and appreciative of their visit. During the formal introduction at the Ruvuma diocesan office, they were welcomed by the bishop and the diocesan leadership and by singing and dancing by the Mothers' Union - something which accompanied them in all the places they visited.

While there, they visited many churches and communities in rural Ruvuma. PJ and Mike preached in the two cathedrals of

the diocese, PJ on the first Sunday at the Holy Cross Cathedral in Liuli and Mike on each of the Sundays at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Songea and Holy Cross. The team also provided training and sought to identify and meet some of the practical needs of the diocese. All the preaching and teaching were done through interpretation into Swahili, the local language, and God provided some excellent translators.



Welcomed by the Mother's Union

It was a very informative experience in which they learned a lot about African culture, history, and social and family life. Tanzania is a developing country, and Ruvuma is one of its poorer districts. Because the soil is very fertile, there is no shortage of food or clean water. However, a lack of access to proper healthcare and education and a lack of employment opportunities are matters of concern. The pastors they met were very committed to their call and ministry but are challenged by low salaries, and many have to support themselves with side businesses such as farming.



Songea's market

Over the first weekend, PJ, Andrew, and Debreca were taken to an area about 100 miles west of Songea, located on Lake Nyasa, where the Holy Cross Cathedral is located, while Mike remained in the Songea area as he was to preach back-to-back there on Sunday. He was given a tour of the town and district by one of his interpreters, Canon John Midelo.

PJ was asked to conduct a confirmation service at St John's Church on that first Saturday. Ninety candidates were confirmed in the presence of a congregation of 700 members. The following day, he was formally inducted as the Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Ruvuma by Bishop Raphael at Holy Cross. It was, indeed, a moving experience for him. During the service, Debreca performed a liturgical dance to the great delight of the worshippers.



Following the service, PJ, Andrew and Debreca visited a small hospital adjacent to the cathedral run by the church, St. Anne's, to ascertain its needs, and Mike was also given a tour the following Sunday. This hospital serves the poor and needy in rural Ruvuma. It serves an average of 150 patients per month and has maternity, female, children, and male wards. It also treats about 160 -180 outpatients per month. The hospital has 64 employees, of which 48 are medical personnel and 16 non-medical workers.

There are trained and experienced medical doctors. To run the hospital, they need approximately US\$4000 per month and another US\$600 for medication. Currently, they can only meet 50% of the cost of salaries and medication. Another need identified by the team was for Bibles, hymn books, and Christian literature. The team was able to provide funds to purchase 400 Bibles for the churches, while a donation from a church in St. Vincent and the Grenadines was given as a 'seed' for a Christian library for the diocese.



After the service, Andrew engaged the men in discussions about their role in the church and encouraged them to form a men's fellowship to build brotherhood and address their physical, spiritual, and emotional needs.

To date, 478 men across the diocese have registered to join it. Meanwhile, Debreca engaged the women in a session where they discussed their spiritual, emotional, and economic needs. They explored practical efforts to empower women across the diocese and ideas for projects to improve their socio-economic status.



During the week, the team conducted training in different Bible-related subjects, with about 25 church leaders attending the training programme. A primary purpose was to equip the leadership so that they, in turn, could train others in their parishes, in line with 1 Timothy 2:2. Mike conducted ten seminars on witness and evangelism to encourage programmes for evangelistic action and another three specifically addressing Christian leadership issues. PJ provided training in biblical teaching from the Old Testament, New Testament, and Church History from the perspective of their own historical



Andrew discusses the formation of a men's fellowship

experiences. Andrew did a seminar on project management to assist the pastors in their planning as they sought to empower their people and improve their living conditions. He used biblical models of successful planning and implementation with examples like Noah's Ark.

Andrew and Debreca's main focus was exploring opportunities for helping the diocese meet the practical needs of vulnerable people, especially the children of Ruvuma. They hosted a dinner for the children in one of the churches close to Songea, where approximately four hundred attended a praise and worship session, followed by a meal. A fund was set up to meet some immediate needs for the children and other vulnerable members of the community. In addition, Andrew and Debreca continue to work with Bishop Raphael to determine how best they can help meet some of the other needs that were identified, including the possibility of building a school.



Money to buy new Bibles is presented to a pastor by the bishop



The participants of the workshops, with PJ and Mike

PJ and the Rollins had to leave on the Friday, but Mike remained until the following Monday. The team feels that their mission trip was rewarding and fulfilling, providing many opportunities for collaboration in training and mission outreach, which they hope and pray they can continue.



Church leaders at work during a seminar

FCA Cayman Sports Symposium

*By Mrs. Yolanda Whitaker
Appointed Country Director for the Cayman Islands
Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)*



The children enjoying worship time and dinner

It very much recognized that this was God's mission and doing. God's provision and guidance brought the team together and provided the wisdom in planning, the resources to execute the plan, and a measure of health and stamina to undertake it by faith and hope.

"To God be the glory, great things he has done!"
The Tanzania Mission Team May - 2022

The FCA Cayman Sports Symposium held on June 25, 2022, was a tremendous blessing. While we aimed for the moon, we landed among the stars. All participants, including our MLA Ms. Heather Bodden, supported the mission and vision of our local Sports Ministry Movement in collaboration with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Organization.

Throughout the week we had the opportunity to meet with several Pastors, Coaches, and other like-minded organizations, which proved to be a great success. We also traveled to Cayman Brac to meet with a group of Pastors and Coaches, filled with excitement and gratitude for their inclusion in the week's activities.

We have a lot of small and big activities to plan for later this year and 2023. As we prepare to move forward, we seek volunteers to join and contribute to this ministry any way they can. Those interested to learn more, please, contact us through the Savannah United Church or the Council Office.

I wish to express special thanks to Rev. Euthman Wray and Ms. Camille Watt for their encouragement and support throughout the visit of Brother Dan Bishop, VP of FCA Caribbean.



A token of appreciation presented by Ms. Camille Watt on the behalf of Savannah United Church.



Luncheon with the Cayman Brac Coaches.



Visit to the John Gray High School.



UCJCI July – September 2022 Focus

Responding

5th Sunday in Pentecost

Responding: A Call to Compassion

Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Col.1:1-14; Lk. 10:25-37

The Samaritan who helped the wounded traveler was commended for showing mercy and lifted up as an example to be followed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 9 (Saturday)

Lay Leaders Certificate Course Training– 9:00 am-2:00 pm via Zoom

July 10 (Sunday) 5th Sunday after Pentecost

July 10-15 (Sunday - Friday)

Children's Camp – Prospect Youth Centre



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

July 10, 2022
Mr. Michael Bowerman

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