

Dear Family and Friends,

Thank you for carrying us through your prayers...

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." 2 Timothy 2:2 (NIV)

"Dear Marlene... On our first day, it wasn't easy to get started without your presence! Some of our pastors kept asking, 'Is Marlene coming?' And we had to tell them, 'No, we're going to do this without her!' Thank you for trusting us!"

Honestly, standing before the pastors and teaching on my own throughout this week has been a miracle for me! It wasn't easy, especially knowing that I had to do it without your presence, but God has been faithful. He has given me the strength, courage, and wisdom I needed each day. Looking back, I can only thank Him for carrying me through the entire week. It has been a truly humbling and faith-building experience for me. I know you have been praying for this so much, thank you for your prayers."

This honest, encouraging message from Rev. Donald Dutuyi, one of our DFC teachers, truly touched my heart. What is so amazing about his words is the undeniable evidence of God's journey with the DFC Ministry. We see so clearly how He has blessed and mightily used our local teams as they steadily continue with the work. It is a true joy to witness how God is making our own teachers grow in their knowledge of Him and His word, and through them, equipping His servants in the local churches across Tanzania!

Ministry Update from Dodoma

This week, our team completed the first training in a new cycle of three trainings for the Central Diocese of the Africa Inland Church Tanzania (AICT). 29 students attended this training, which was conducted at the Kizoto Church in Dodoma.

Our team consisted of Rev. Yusuph Malahu (Team Leader), Rev. Donald Dutuyi, Rev. Edward Manyilizu, and Rev. Constantine Mkandya (Training Coordinator).

This training went well and was a great encouragement to all. Throughout the week, our students brought forward questions that led to some deep discussions. They looked into hindrances to prayer, examining why Christian fellowship in the churches had been broken, resulting in so much division and conflict. They also had questions about visions and the assurance of salvation. On our final day of teaching, we focused on how to reach Muslims with the Gospel, addressing their questions about Islam. We thank the Lord that by His grace, the team was able to finish all the planned teachings.

We were honored to have Bishop Amos Ngeze and Mwl. Pamba from the Central Diocese joined us for the final day, accompanied by the AICT General Secretary, Rev. Mtebe. Their presence was a gift, and they shared a wonderful message encouraging our students to practically apply everything they had learned within their local churches. The faithful support and encouragement from our top AICT leadership has been a great empowering factor in the growth of the DFC Ministry over the last 5 years. We are thankful for it.

On Saturday, a Children Outreach Program was conducted at the Ipagala Church (located about 8 kilometers from our training center). 60 children attended. Our students spent time enjoying some songs and games with the kids before dividing into small groups to share the Gospel through the Watermelon Story with them.

Prayer Requests for Ifakara

The work continues as our team has now traveled to Ifakara to conduct the final DFC Training of this year for the Diocese of Pwani, which will be for pastors, evangelists, and their spouses.

Please lift up the following requests for our team:

- **The Ifakara Ministry Team:** Pray for Yusuph Malahu (Team Leader), Donald Dutuyi, Emmanuel Nyamalya, and Mariamu Muyanda (Training Coordinator).
- **Safe Travels:** Pray for safe travels for all the students who are on their way to the training.
- **Health & Recovery:** Pray for a good recovery for Rev. Yusuph, who tested positive for malaria and has undergone treatment while continuing with the trainings.
- **Team Unity:** Pray for strength, encouragement, and unity among our team members as they serve in the field.
- **Families Back Home:** Pray for their families back home while they are away serving the Lord.

A Personal Note

On a personal note, this has been a week filled with special milestones for our family. We attended our oldest son, Jacques' wedding to his lovely wife, Taylor in Charleston, and I celebrated my 60th birthday. We are filled with gratitude to God for His mercy and faithfulness through all the seasons of our lives.

Having all of you beside us in this journey is an incredible blessing! Thank you for covering us with your prayers, encouraging us, and supporting the Lord's work through us in so many ways.

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Your partnerships in this work of the Gospel have been a steady joy from the very first day until now, and I'm confident that the One who began a good work among you will keep it growing and keep it moving forward until the day Jesus Christ puts on the final finishing touches."

— **Philippians 1:3-6 (The Message)**

