



Festo and Grace Kanungha

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Location: Britain



What we do: Supporting and resourcing local churches in their ministry to children and young people, working closely with St Martin's Liskeard

Dear friends,

It is a delight to be able to say that the Kanunghas have been in Tanzania.

The five of us headed out on 28 June. Our mission was to spend time with Festo's family, especially his mum, who is now 90 years old and in the past 12 months has been showing signs of frailty. Mama had yet to meet Hannah, who turned three soon after our return. Praise God that Mama was very pleased to see us and had much to say about how much the boys had grown. She appeared to be in good health and our sisters tell us she was much cheered by our visit.

The boys had a great time at home in Tanzania scrabbling on rocks and enjoying the wild freedom of the village environment. William even slaughtered a chicken for our lunch on our first day! We saw scorpions (alive) and snakes (dead), which brought much joy to them. William also caused a security issue at the airport in the way home when a cow horn he had found was considered suspicious. Thankfully we were permitted to keep it after only a little debate between the two security officers about whether it was ivory or not. Zeph took particular delight in remembering language and spending time with old friends.

Hannah didn't find the trip quite as easy as the boys, but she did enjoy it and made a lasting impact on everyone she met.

Festo and I spent some time going through our belongings in Tanzania, deciding what to bring back to the UK; some sentimental pieces, some books which are still much loved and needed and the pictures that used to adorn our walls. In 2014, we were given a sign that said; "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." It hung on the wall by our dining table in Tanzania and we often considered it as we faced challenges. It is now above our dining table in the UK and will hopefully continue to keep us going during challenging times.

At St John's Seminary, we were greatly encouraged to meet with Stephen Hatch, a fellow CMS mission partner, and see the continuation of projects we had begun. I had been told that the school bus that I worked hard to fundraise for and purchase had been sold, but no, and it was great to see it in use. The nursery and primary school, which started on our veranda nine years ago, is still going strong and in the buildings we built for it, now nicely painted on the outside with animal murals, and a swing in the playground and sports pitch for football and netball.



Fresh, barbecued maize: a treat on the 12-hour bus ride home

Support Festo and Grace Kanungha:
churchmissionsociety.org/kanungha

**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**



For me (Grace), the best part of the trip was reconnecting with the Mothers' Union. This group of faithful and courageous women accepted and loved me for who I was and it was a delight to see them again, remembering the Zumgumza na mtoto mchanga (speak with your baby) programme and singing together at their concerts in the diocese.

We want to thank our friends and supporters who made it possible for us to make this trip to Tanzania and for all of you who held us up in prayer during our time there.

As for our ministry in Liskeard, we are pleased that we continue to develop links and relationships between the church and the community. Our boys attend the local C of E school and we arrived at the same time as a new head teacher who is very open to us exploring ways to support the school community with the love of Christ. We have been able to establish a chaplaincy, which has been fantastic. We pray in the school before the school day weekly and most weeks someone from our team is in school in one role or another. We have also set up a TLG early intervention with this school with members of the congregation coaching children. Excitingly, a teacher who is moving into headship in another school has asked to use our model of church/school relationship in her new school and assist her as she tries to establish that. Please pray for the both the continued work in Liskeard and for this new venture.



One example of this church/school relationship is that the school has referred parents to the church for Kids Matter parenting groups and seen quite a big difference for those families who engage with us. This term one of those parents asked that our Kids Matter group do something in the school to raise the profile of Kids Matter and raise awareness of neurodiversity among our children, so we sold ice-cream after school on a hot day to raise money for the ADHD Foundation. It was an hour of madness with a queue snaking around the entire school, but everyone was in good spirits and many people commented how it really lifted the mood during the Friday afternoon school run. Blessings all round!



Just before heading to Tanzania, I (Grace) went off to a bishops' advisory panel. This was the culmination of a year of intentional discernment after several years of wondering and praying. I was recommended for training at the panel, and I am delighted that Bishop Philip Mounstephen has accepted the recommendation. I shall be an ordinand from September, doing a two-year diploma at St Mellitus (South West) in preparation and training for ordination, continuing on at St Martin's Liskeard for this stage of my training. Prayers appreciated!

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our family as we try to follow God's call on our lives.

With our love,

Festo, Grace, Zeph, William and Hannah



Photos from top to bottom: Hannah with Mama's goats; chilling with our cousins; William eating Daddy's first ugali in 12 months; reconnecting with Mothers' Union



Going further with Church Mission Society

Africa Conference: Friday 7–Sunday 9 October - A weekend residential with opportunity to connect online. This year's theme is Out of Africa: Learning together about mission. Book your place now at churchmissionsociety.org/ac2022

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