



Heather Johnstone

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Location: Tanzania



What I do: Helping to empower the most disadvantaged women and children in Mara through the Rehema Project.

Dear friends,

We were blessed to have a team of five gap year students from the UK and Germany support Rehema Cafe four times a week for almost three months from January to April. The team from Christian charity Go Make a Difference in Tanzania were, as my friend put it, full of the exuberance of youth, and they really bonded well with the Rehema ladies. They had a lot of fun together and the team visited the homes of a few of the women and shared meals, songs, and stories with them. They also put in a regular appearance at our weekly prayer meetings at my house. We were sad to see them go.

Praise/Prayer point: Give thanks for the gap year team's time in Musoma and pray for them as they move on to their next undertakings in life.

I was fortunate enough to attend the CMS people in mission conference in Naivasha, Kenya, recently. It was a privilege to meet and worship together with colleagues from all over the continent of Africa as well as staff from our Nairobi and Oxford offices. It was particularly inspiring to hear the stories of those working in conflict zones, in areas longing for peace, like DR Congo, Sudan and South Sudan. Bisoke Balikenga and Bishop Martin Gordon (DR Congo), Bishop Hassan James (Sudan) and Sam Malish (South Sudan) are just a few inspiring people in mission, following Jesus to the edges so that more people can experience their world made new. If you're interested in reading the stories of how they, and others, are bringing the gospel to the edges please follow this link: <https://churchmissionsociety.org/about/people/people-in-mission/#africa>

Praise/Prayer point: Give thanks for the conference and our many inspiring colleagues. Please pray for all of those serving in mission, and especially those in conflict areas.

I was asked to preach at my local village church last weekend. Inspired by our Bible studies at the CMS conference, I spoke about God of Hope. I told a story of an Armenian father who in the aftermath of the terrible earthquake in 1988, where at least 25,000 people lost their lives, remembered the promise he'd made to his son "No matter what, I'll always be there for you." He searched frantically through the rubble at his son's school for 38 hours and miraculously found him, still alive. His son said that he never gave up hope because of the promise his father had made him. The point of the story I shared was to emphasise the good news that God has made the same promise to us in John 14:3. After the service, Jose, the choir master, came and asked me if the story was true because he wanted to write a song about it. I look forward to hearing the hope-filled song based on this story and Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust



Rehema cafe team with Go Make a Difference in Tanzania gap year team.

Support Heather Johnstone:
churchmissionsociety.org/johnstone

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



in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit”, being sung in church sometime soon.

Praise point: Give thanks for Jose and all those who serve in the church at Mkiringo.

Last weekend was also a challenging time as two of those close to us were involved in road traffic accidents.

On Saturday afternoon, Cesi’s teenage son, who was delivering a bucket of milk on his bicycle, was cut off by a car halfway down a very steep hill. He was thrown over the handlebars and lost consciousness when he landed on the road. He was admitted to the local clinic and later transferred to the main government hospital (the only hospital in Musoma with an x-ray machine). He was kept in for a few days as the concern was that he had internal injuries, but he has since been given a clean bill of health and returned home.

Then on Sunday afternoon, not long after I’d returned home from church, news reached me that Jeska, one of the Rehema women, had been involved in a hit and run while she was using the pedestrian crossing at our local village centre. She was flung to the side of the road and left barely conscious. Luckily a motorbike driver recognised her and ran to tell one of our seamstresses, Jane, who works in nearby premises. Jane rushed Jeska to hospital and spent many hours with her as she received treatment. There were concerns around Jeska’s spinal health, and worries about internal injuries, but thankfully after a couple of days observation and tests, she has returned home.

Praise/Prayer point: Praise the Lord both are progressing well despite their injuries and bruises, and we pray for their ongoing recovery.

A timely reminder that when we experience situations that seem hopeless or problems that seem insurmountable, we can take comfort in the knowledge that our father is the God of Hope. And we can come to him with every need, concern, or worry we have, and no matter how small or large our issue, he knows what is going on in our lives and he provides for us.

Bwana asifiwe.

In other news, another one of our very talented seamstresses, Ericka, had a baby girl a few weeks ago. Her name is Abigail, and it was a joy to visit her and welcome her to the Rehema family.

Prayer point: Please pray for good health for Abigail.

My work and residence permits expire on 23 May 2024, and I have started the process of applying for a two-year renewal. I’m not anticipating any problems, but please do pray that these permits are approved without any problems.

Mungu akuwabariki.

May God bless you all.

Heather



Photos from top to bottom: Heather at a CMS conference with Rachel (Kenya), Janet (Mozambique) and Janie (Uganda); staff and customers at Rehema having fun; baby Abigail with her proud mum Ericka; visiting Grace and Modester at their home.



Going further with Church Mission Society

Stories from the edges: Find out how God is meeting people on the edges around the world through CMS people in mission. Go to churchmissionsociety.org/stories

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