

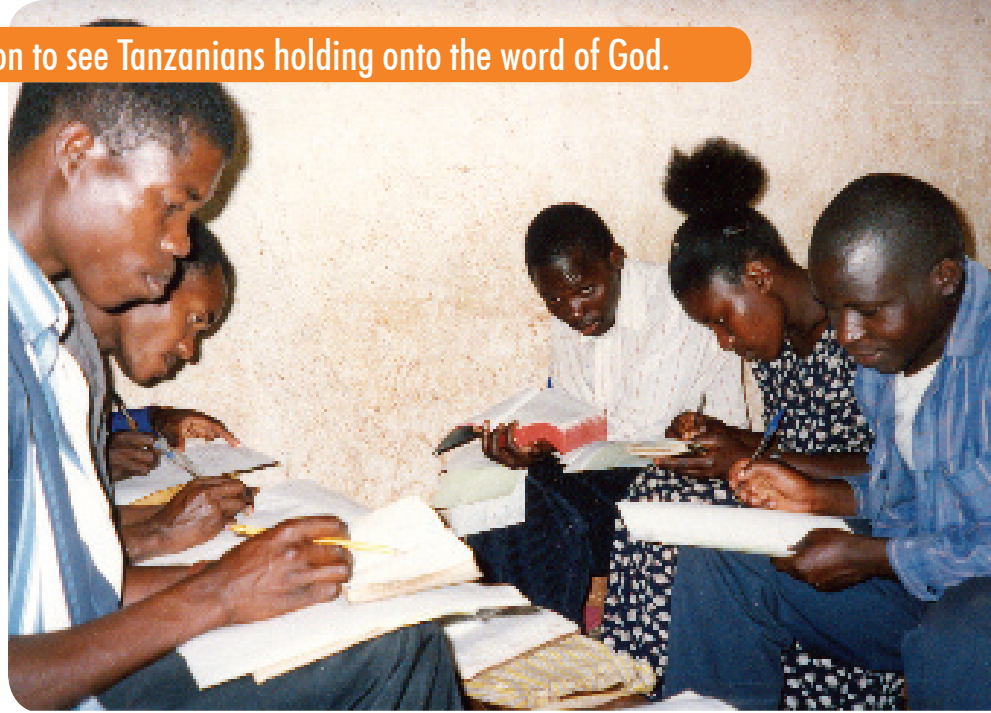
i love my job!

Judith Calf writes about her passion to see Tanzanians holding onto the word of God.

I love teaching. I love opening minds to understand the word of God. I love being with my students and giving them the freedom to ask questions. I love being able to show them more of the world they live in. It is so exciting, so rewarding to be with a group of eager minds – thirsty to find meaning in the Bible which they can read yet is still so alien to them. ‘Understanding the Bible’ and ‘Teaching Salvation’ are my favourite subjects. Oh yes it can be very frustrating and hard going! It is very challenging doing all this in another language, in another culture, in a country of real poverty and limited resources.

Yet what a privilege it is to be invited by the Tanzanian Church: to be welcomed and supported by their Pastors, Evangelists and congregations; to come and join with them in making known the word of God; to strengthen and grow their witness as followers of Jesus. It is indeed a humbling task, an enormous responsibility to ‘teach the word’ in a culture, context and tradition very different but no less valid than my own. It challenges me often to ask why I believe as I do and why I do as I do.

The opportunities for Bible teaching, discipling and evangelism in Tanzania are enormous. In historical terms, the Tanzanian Church is a young church. There are well trained and godly Tanzanian Christians, but they are few and burdened by poverty. Many village churches in rural Tanzania are led by their Evangelists, with limited if any ministry and Bible training. And so there are risks of false teaching, temptation to become ruled by



Students carefully study the Bible at Kagera Technical and Christian Training Centre.

regulations (legalism), uncertainties of how God’s word applies to long held and even modern traditions and practices in church and society. Opening these minds to understand the scriptures is vital to nurture, protect and grow the body of Christ.

After six years of ministry in the cool mountains of Murgwanza at the Kagera Technical and Christian Training Centre, I am moving this year to the tropical heat of the coastal Diocese of Tanga to be attached to St Barnabas’ Bible College, a new area of ministry for CMS-A. In relocating

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Bible Teaching in Tanzania is an open door for proclaiming the word of truth. In primary and secondary schools, in tertiary institutions, in hospitals and the community, there is opportunity to teach and proclaim Christ by word and deed. In village churches there is such a thirst to know what is in the Bible that the possibilities of establishing local Tanzanian Bible Study groups is like a floodgate just waiting to be flung open. Imagine the word of God in the hands of the people of God and what fruit can grow from that! And there still remains the vital task of training and equipping Pastors and Evangelists in the many training centres in Tanzania.

within Tanzania it was hard to choose where to go, because there are so many strategic and exciting opportunities. But I could only choose one. This does of course mean that there are still lots of wonderful ministries that still need co-workers with our Tanzanian brothers and sisters.

I love my job, can you say the same? Mission is at God’s heart, what about yours?



Judith Calf is a Bible teacher in Tanzania.

CMS

Bible Workers – Africa

Do you have a thirst for teaching the Bible - in another language? Do you love seeing people equipped to share the gospel? There are many opportunities across Africa for theologically trained people to teach the Bible.