




1

It's complicated!



- Work Permit approved September 2020 (Dept Labour)
- Applied Residence Permit (Dept Immigration)
- Charity certificate required
- OR reapply WP different class

2

Covid-19 in Tanzania ?

- **Former President John Pombe Magufuli**
- **Covid denier**
- **Sharing information about Covid illegal**
- **Discredited testing kits**
- **Refused vaccines**
- **Did he die of Covid-19?**



The call in action

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Covid-19 in Tanzania?

- **New President Samia Suluhu Hasan (former Vice President)**
- **Research into Covid**
- **Introduced measures**
- **Lifted ban on media**
- **State visit to Kenya - positive**



The call in action

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“Our country has no religion, but the constitution has given room for people to believe in different faiths. I dare to say that in East Africa, Tanzania is the only country which continues to be strongly united despite ideological disparities” President Samia Suluhu

CHURCH
MISSION
SOCIETY



The call in action

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Word for the year

Patient-Endurance

CHURCH
MISSION
SOCIETY



The call in action

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ὑπομονή (hypomone)

1. the capacity to hold out or bear up in the face of difficulty, patience, endurance, fortitude, steadfastness, perseverance.
2. the act or state of patient waiting for someone or something; expectation.



The call in action

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ὑπομένω (hypomeno)

1. to stay in a place beyond an expected point of time, remain/stay (behind), while others go away.
2. to maintain a belief or course of action in the face of opposition, stand one's ground, hold out, endure, remain instead of fleeing.
3. to wait for with persistence, wait for someone.



The call in action

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Rehema Team



The call in action

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Café reopened 29 January 2021



The call in action



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Service with a smile

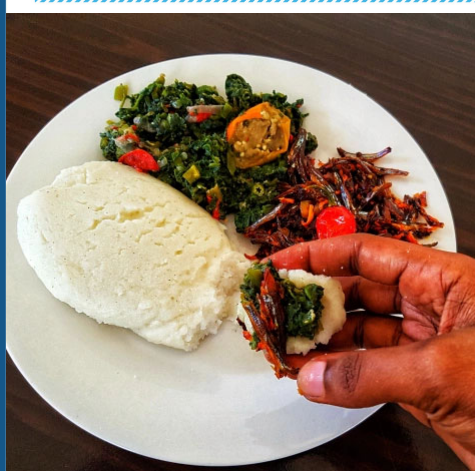


The call in action



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Market food outlet reopens May



The call in action



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A small investment



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Rehema Assistance



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Rehema Assistance



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The call in action

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Christmas 2020



The call in action

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Rehema Sponsorships

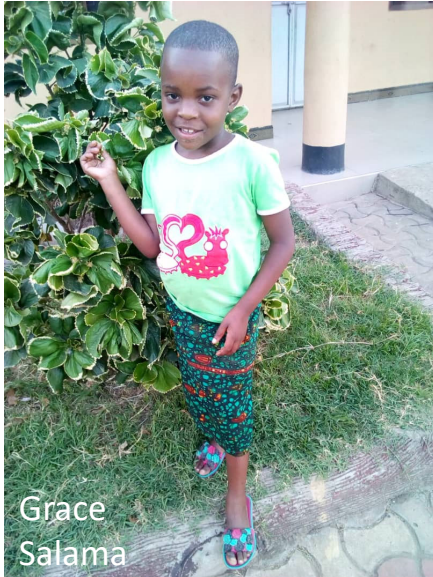


The call in action



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Rehema Sponsorships



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Rest in Peace Josie



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Bishop's Discretionary Fund

- 1). Buying a coffin and transportation from Shirati Mortuary an old poor lady
- 2). Fuel contribution to the Late Bishop John Adiema to enable him go to Bugando Referral Hospital in Mwanza.
- 3). Roofing of Guta parish church. The walls were brought down twice by heavy storm
- 4) Contribution towards Medical treatment of Rev. Canon John Awino's son
- 5). Contribution towards Medical treatment to Rev. Alpha Lugolei's wife.
- 6). Contribution towards the construction of a foundation of Rev. Mgini's house
- 7). Contribution made to Mother's Union members at Bitaraguru parish church
- 8). Medical treatment to Rev. Samson Obuya from Rorya Diocese
- 9). Contribution made to the wife of late Bishop John Adiema towards her transportation from Arusha to come and participate in her husband's burial
- 10). Contribution to strengthen Nyasura church choir to compose songs to alert people on Covid-19 symptoms and safety protocols.



The call in action

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Bishop's Discretionary Fund

- 11). Medical treatment towards Rev. Opudo's motorcycle accident
- 12). Support to purchase 4 hymn books at Tairo parish church for men's choir
- 13). Contribution to strengthen choir at Buhemba parish
- 14). Transport for the widow of the Late Rev Patroba Ndira
- 15). Gifts to to motivate Bible verses quiz winners
- 16). Contribution towards Medical treatment of the retired Bishop Nyamubi
- 17). Transportation support Rev. Opudo's daughter
- 18). Contribution to a disabled old lady at Nyehanga parish
- 19). Medical attention to Rev. Stephen Oketch's son
- 20) Transportation for Regina Beno
- 21). Support for food to an old childless lady at St. Peter's



The call in action

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**CHURCH
MISSION
SOCIETY**

The call in action





Most of you know, at the end of my home assignment in the UK I travelled to SA for 3 weeks holiday before I went to Tanzania. This was March 2020. The reasons for not returning to Tanzania are something of a COVID sandwich – initially I could not return because South Africa went into lock down as the global pandemic started to spread across the world. In October I was able to travel but have been unable to return as my paperwork has not yet been approved. It's complicated.

The final part of my sandwich is the Covid situation in Tanzania. Towards the end of last year, I started to hear more and more whispers about corona being present in the country, but because it was illegal to share information about the virus, I would just get the stock reply from Tanzanian friends that there is no corona virus in Tanzania. I have an American friend in Mwanza, and she told me in confidence that many people had covid type symptoms, but the hospitals had no way of testing. There are increased cases of people with respiratory problems and increased deaths diagnosed as pneumonia, influenza, or even malaria. She also advised that I do not return to Tanzania without first getting a vaccine.

President John Magufuli, covid-19 denier claimed that Tanzania has been Covid free since he led 3 days of national prayer against the virus in June 2020.

New government regulation decreed that sharing information about Covid was illegal. (other banned topics include protests, sexuality, personal privacy, public security, public safety, and religion).

Tanzania stopped reporting data to WHO at the end of April after President Magufuli publicly discredited testing kits and returned them to China. He also refused vaccines saying they are dangerous and prefers instead to try natural remedies.

The facts started to stack up against the Magufuli government denials and at the end of February 21 same high-profile deaths brought the focus back to corona virus. At the funeral Magufuli, still not acknowledging covid, urged the nation to participate in three days of prayer for unspecified "respiratory" illnesses that had become a challenge to the country.

Less than 3 weeks later Magufuli died. He was 61 years old. The official stance is that he died of a heart attack, but it is widely believed that he succumbed to covid-19.

According to the Tanzanian constitution, the Vice President will succeed the President if the president dies in office. The Vice President was Samia Suluhu Hasan. Ms Hasan or Mama Samia as she is known brings quite a few 'firsts' with her. She is the first Zanibari President, the first Muslim President, the first female President – not only in Tanzania, but the whole of East Africa. So, Mama Samia has big shoes to fill, and a lot to prove, but so far, she has impressed. She appointed a task force to investigate the virus, and you will note from the picture on the right, she is wearing a mask. This was at a recent meeting with Tanzanian elders.

She has introduced new checks and measures at the borders – Negative PCR tests are mandatory when entering the country, visitors from high-risk areas with known variants such as UK, SA, India, etc will have to quarantine at a government facility for 2 weeks. Probably standard requirement for most of the world, but a paradigm shift for Tanzania.

I need to take a balanced approach, but I think at this stage it would be unwise for me to return to Tanzania without having had my vaccine. I have registered to get my vaccine in SA, but I have no idea how long it will take to get to the top of the queue.

I'll include this slide here, because I mentioned Samia Suluhu is a muslim – some of my supporters have asked if this will affect our ability to work in mission. Of course it is early days, but I don't believe it will. She was quoted recently as saying "Our country has no religion, but the constitution has given room for people to believe in different faiths. I dare to say that in East Africa, Tanzania is the only country which continues to be strongly united despite ideological disparities"

I had a call with Ali Bateman, CMS CEO a couple of weeks ago and after our chat he referred me to a blog by Ian Paul a Theologian and author, who says 2021 is the year of Patient-Endurance.

Ian Paul says the word on everyone's lips is 'resilience'. There is an important term that carries many of the same ideas as resilience and which has particular importance in the Christian context.

Of course, waiting doesn't mean sitting idly by until my paperwork is sorted. I have been involved with CMS and The Rehema Project remotely, and I have also kept myself busy in South Africa whilst waiting for the opportunity to return to Tanzania by volunteering for a fantastic project called LADLES OF LOVE.

I'll give you an update on Rehema and then Ladles.

As you know we had to close the Rehema project due to the global pandemic. All our customers returned to their home countries. A few have returned, and after conducting a survey poll with those customers we re-opened at the end of January.

Here is a picture of Anna serving a favourite – coffee milkshakes a few weeks ago. The lady in the pic on the left is a friend from Denmark who is based at a Lutheran Mission about 40 minutes outside Musoma.

Unfortunately, the reality is that there are very few customers in town, so our opening must be limited in terms of number of days, number of employees and we are also offering a reduced menu.

The women are frustrated that we are only opening 2 days a week, but we must be practical, and our income must cover our costs.

Also, unfortunately, at least 50% of the customers who returned are leaving again. All of them are from Wycliffe Bible Translators who have experienced endless red tape in getting their work and residence permits approved and the organisation has taken the decision to relocate their operation in Kigali, Rwanda. A great loss for businesses, employees and people in Musoma!

My hairdresser in Mwanza contacted me recently and said that the log jam of outstanding Work and Residence Permits should be cleared now that the new President, Samia Suluhu is in power. Time will tell of course, but it is too late for the many who have already left the country.

Our other enterprise – selling nutritious and affordable food to the stall holders in the local markets is about to start up again at the end of this month. We have been closed for such a long time that our costs to start again are quite high (well, relatively speaking), but I'm delighted we are starting up again. We will be employing between 4 and 7 women in this venture which will be located at a timber market. Your prayers around this would be greatly appreciated.

Last year, through generous donors, we were able to give each women a small investment to start a small business, but times are tough and now a few months further on, the reality is that very few succeeded. Many opted to use the money they received to cover their immediate needs or to repay debt. The economic effect of the pandemic is (arguably) far more devastating for these women than the actual virus itself as their health has been unaffected, but their ability to earn an income and provide for their families has contracted significantly.

Nevertheless, we (Rehema Assistance) have been quite productive and have achieved a lot despite everything.

- We built a house for a young woman who was the victim of domestic abuse. Her husband used to regularly beat her and their children. She is now out of that toxic environment and she and the children are safe in their new home. The husband is living elsewhere with a second wife.
- We built toilets for the church community at a nearby village.
- Carpenters made an additional 10 desks and 30 chairs for the nursery school at Nyambeshi.

- We enabled the church in the village of Mkiringo to finish concreting their floor and buy chairs to use instead of using makeshift benches made from branches of trees that had been tied together.
- We gave everyone involved with Rehema or working for me at home a Christmas gift of a kanga, 1kg of meat, 5kg rice, and some vegetables so no-one would go without at Christmas time.
- We continue to assist several women with 40kg corn meal every month.
- We have sponsored girls to attend school. A massive thank you to everyone at All Saints for your support. Eva Francis has just done an internship/placement at the municipality and is now back at college for the final three months of her course. This truly is a live changing opportunity for her, so thank you very much.
- We have helped women when they are sick or bereaved.

I am ever so grateful to everyone who donated because I appreciate times are tough.

I had a donation of 5million shillings (£1,200) and asked the Bishop to distribute the money through his BDF. The number of people and communities he has been able to help is impressive. Very humbling.

I have kept myself busy in South Africa whilst waiting for the opportunity to return to Tanzania and have been volunteering for a fantastic project called LADLES OF LOVE.

Danny Diliberto, the founder, was determined to create a new kind of soup kitchen powered by love and offering comfort to fellow humans who have temporarily lost their way, which is something I fully subscribe to.

Prior to lockdown Ladles was serving soup and sandwiches to 200 needy people in Cape Town every week. As the need has multiplied due to the economic fallout caused by the global pandemic the project has grown exponentially and is now working with more than 110 NGOs (who each support a further 250 beneficiaries of their own) and supply food to numerous soup kitchens and shelters. They have served over 14 million meals since lockdown started in March 2020.

Ladles is completely volunteer run and women make up more than 80% of the volunteers. I am privileged to have played a small part in this great project, making sandwiches and boiled eggs twice a week, and driving for them three times a week.