

Mission to Tanzania

An Update about Rachel teaching and serving overseas



Over Spring Break I had the privilege of traveling with 19 high school students and 2 other leaders to the town of Longido in Tanzania on a short term mission trip. We saw and experienced God working in and around us in amazing ways as we worked with the local Maasai people. We teamed up with local missionaries, pastors, and teachers to encourage the ministries already in place and to share God's love and joy with the Tanzanian children. It was such a blessing to see how God is at work in another part of the world and to be able to lead the high school students from Black Forest Academy on this meaningful and eye-opening trip.

When I was considering helping on a mission trip earlier this year, I was thinking about how I would love to help lead a trip that worked with children particularly through teaching English. As you may know, I've been taking graduate courses on teaching English to students and every day I teach English to my eager German students. I was drawn to this trip to Tanzania because there would be the opportunity to teach English to the children. I could see how this would be the perfect fit for my interests, abilities, and passions. One of the main parts of our trip was teaching English at Longido primary school to around 180 children ages 5- 14.



What I did not realize initially, is that we would be doing a lot of hours of teaching! We quickly realized how we could expand our lessons and teach the Tanzanian children some really fun and interactive lessons in various English topics. One of my **biggest joys** of the entire trip was watching our high school students thrive in the classroom. They brought so much joy, energy, and creativity to teaching the students. I loved being able to equip the students with the resources and tools to help them succeed in the classroom. Every morning we would spend about 4 hours teaching English and Bible lessons to the kids.



Another part of our service was helping to construct tables and chairs for the children to eat their lunch on at school. Lunch is provided, but the children have to eat on the ground. The government is requiring that the school provide tables and benches for lunchtime. We were able to help make that possible!



On Sunday our team was able to go to two different churches for worship. We prepared a skit, song, and short message to share with the people. It was incredible to worship with the local people outside at their church in a way that was different from our churches back home. Many of our high school students reflected on this time saying, "Our God cannot be understood through the eyes of only one culture." We can learn so much about who God is as we see and experience how fellow believers around the world worship Him.

In the afternoons, we would bring all the students together and sing songs, a memory verse, a story from the Bible, and a short testimony of God's faithfulness and goodness. While sitting under the shade of the giant tree in the schoolyard, I loved to look around and see the faces of the high school students and Tanzanian kids as they demonstrated God's love to one another in a real and beautiful way. The trip was a wonderful reminder of God's incredible love and power. Thank you all so much for your prayers. It was so clear to me that our team was supported by the prayers of many! I am so grateful!



Looking Ahead:
It's always difficult to come back from break and jump back into school again. My last day of school is on June 26th, and I am looking forward to being in America this summer from **July 1- August 15**. Before then, I will be moving to a new apartment, participating in end of the year events, and closing out the year with a great group of students. Thank you for your continued prayers. I also wanted to report that I was able to get a used car that I think will be a good fit for me and my needs. God certainly provides! (Although it is stressful to buy a vehicle in another country and language!) I would love to see you this summer. Let me know if there is a time we could get together!

I depend on your generous gifts and support in order to continue teaching and serving kids around the world. Please consider giving a one-time gift or joining my monthly team. Check out my personal giving page by clicking the link:
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