



On 9th November 2007 four people left UK for Tanzania, two from Five Talents UK, and two fortunate fellow travellers and supporters, including me.

Although we hardly knew each other and some had never met, from the very first moment we were a team, sharing experiences, praying together, and joking and relaxing in fellowship. Africa was not new to me but Tanzania was. I found the people unbelievably friendly from the hotel staff to the taxi drivers, and those with whom we worked and spent many hours. Our driver, Anjelo Lwila, and vehicle were generously lent to us by the Archbishop of Tanzania, Most Rev. Donald Mtetemela. Immaculate and Pendo in the Mama Bahati Foundation office, became our best friends and advisors during the days we spent in Iringa. They were founts of knowledge, fun to be with and nothing was ever too much trouble for them, from finding somewhere to eat, to buying SIM cards to getting spectacles mended.

My over-riding, emotional, heartfilling feeling about Iringa was the climate, warmth, the red dust, the rocks on which the township is built and the friendliness and smiles of the clients with whom we worked who welcomed us into their lives and homes. Their sheer exuberance of life made them burst into song and dance at the slightest encouragement. Their children loved the contact we made with them and this was made even better by the digital cameras which produce instant pictures in which they can see themselves. I found the visits to their homes and the pride with which they asked us in, very humbling and really very moving when I know how little they have in the material sense and yet how rich they are in every other way compared to the way of life in UK. They are so content, and the loan scheme enabling them to run their own businesses, gives them such self esteem and confidence.

I also noticed there seemed to be little sense of tribalism or friction between different religions (roughly 80% Christian and 20% Muslim). All seemed one in God, and most seemed to believe in God, though perhaps that was because of the people among whom we were working. The people seemed to have pride in themselves, confidence and no chip on the shoulder which I have noticed in other African countries. They seemed pleased to be able to share their country and their lives with us.

Greatest impressions – the Cathedral service on our first day. I know I was not alone in my tears at the moving experience of sharing in the Eucharist in a Swahili service. The singing was amazing. The muezzin (Muslim call to prayer) at 4am and 6am. The Cathedral bells also early on some mornings. The market stalls piled high with colourful fruit. The lack of barriers between black and white people.



The team with Archbishop Donald Mtetemela

The dogs barking at night. Praying together. And in contrast to the daily life in Iringa, the absolute luxury of Ruaha River Lodge where we spent our penultimate night.

It was proof of the bond we had formed that the parting of the ways in Dar Es Salaam was an emotional experience for us all and my thoughts will be with Edd during the next 7 months as he builds his life out there. I am thankful that I can picture where he is living and look forward to the occasional report of how things go for him.

Judy Kuhle, 27 Nov 07