

## **Letter from African Inland Church – Tanzania**

Hi Dear Matt,

It was so good talking to you on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September. I apologize for taking some days before getting back to you again with the suggestions regarding the COVID-19 effects in our communities and church here. My slowness to a quick response I had to make was because of a church meeting that I was attending in Mwanza Tanzania. The meeting took more time than I expected it to complete. However, we had a great time together as church leaders from our different regions we minister here as a church.

From that meeting, we also have had two days' evaluation for our health facilities in the Mara region. For this type of evaluation, we had competent facilitators whom God used. They came from Dar-es-salaam here in Tanzania and stayed with us for five days as we did the evaluation together. We praise God for we had a great time as we saw all that was our blind sports as the Johari Window defines it to be. Thank you for praying with us for these health facilities God has provided. The following paragraphs are the COVID-19 challenge related effects.

Although our government has publicly announced that COVID-19 is no longer a threat in the country, the consequences however are overseen from the lock down which took a few more months than we thought. The COVID-19 effects left some of our churches and the society around them affected and without food security. The lock down came in the time where people had to use their time farming and doing sustainable businesses that help their families to earn some income for their people. Because of this situation, our pastors have also been affected by the challenge as well. The regular offerings decreased as it became irregular causing the church income to go down as well. Our pastors currently need a food relief supplies which can help them sustain their families. Some of their neighborhood families also have been affected by COVID-19 and so need food assistance. Therefore, we will be more than happy if food supplies was to be available to support these pastors and their families, and if enough for their neighbors as well.

Water as it is, still is a need for many people and the villages in our region here. These places still need enough water supplies to help their people as well as for watering their animals. It is very hard to imagine if COVID-19 was to break through these poor regions, many people would easily get affected by

the virus and possibly many would witness deaths because of their poor and unhygienic protective measure present. We thank you for offering the wells into some of the villages which now have enough water supplies that continue to help many people in their regions and vicinities around them. The water supply would really help at expanding the protective measures against the virus and against all other unhygienic transmitted diseases.

Our health centers and the clinics as any other health facilities were upfront and were the victims to have been affected by COVID-19 virus. This is because our health centers as any other health centers were the first stop places for the victims. We took some measures and bought some protective equipment and facilities during the severity of the virus. However, our centers are now at normal for the threats of the virus are minimal. Our doctors and the nurses keep on with the precautions needed and have carefully taken some measures and have worked hard but with more precautions to combat the virus. Although currently there are no obvious virus threats, precautions are still taken by all of our medical employees around our health centers and facilities so that there is no more spread of the virus from either a purposeful or unconscious spreading of the disease if any. We therefore continue to apply all of the protective measures while in hospital even outside the work places. We continue asking that God will keep us safe as well as the people here.

We very much appreciate the prayers and the support you have previously given. We will be more than happy if more support was to be given for our church and people here. What I can see is that the connections we have in the Lord have the Lord's divine purpose in it. We care and do pray also that you all keep safe in him as you continue to pray, support and help the needy people all around the world. Our partnership has grown and really been a blessing to all of us as well as to our neighbors too. May God keep you and bless your families, work and your country! Thank you for your support.

Peter

Bishop. Peter Pharles Kissena  
Africa Inland Church Tanzania  
Mara and Ukerewe Diocese

*May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. (Psalm 67:1; cf. Matthew 28:19)*