

Glad Tidings

P.O Box 2316, Arusha, Tanzania
www.acc.or.tz

APRIL

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Volume 444

Arusha
Community
Church



LETTER FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

It has long been the hope of many ACC members that we might be obedient to Christ's calling in the Great Commission, Matthew 28:19, 20 to reach some of the 29 unreached groups in Tanzania as can be identified in www.joshuaproject.org. Last year our church made a decision to support two young Tanzanian missionaries working among unreached groups on the coast and in central Tanzania. Council celebrates that our interdenominational body can support workers from one denomination without it dividing us.

The benefits of our support can already be seen from the heart-felt appreciation expressed by these young people as they work in hard areas. Please join me in getting to know them through their testimonies in this month's issue of Glad Tidings - a young married couple and another soon to be married. Council hopes you will be encouraged by your support of Petro and Lucy to reach the Alagwa in central Tanzania, and Matthew to support coastal groups in Kilwa. These are areas where over 99% of the people are Muslims. Matthew took the Kairos course in February to grow his 'world view' on the state of Christianity today and the work remaining. Both have written Council this month and here are their testimonies.

Let us pray for these people whom we support, let us invite them to visit us later this year when convenient, let us consider visiting them in their mission fields at some point, and let us enhance our own awareness of and engagement in Christ's mission through this initiative.

- Erwin Kinsey, ACC Council Member



ACC Mission Statement:

Arusha Community Church seeks to bring Christian praise and witness to God through worship, service and study. The congregation provides opportunity for Christian fellowship, service and witness, community outreach, personal growth and family growth.

Recognizing the close link between worship and culture, Arusha Community Church has an inter-denominational ministry to the international community in Arusha.



TESTIMONY OF PETER AND LUCY AMMY

(Translated from Swahili)



Petro: "I was born in a non-Christian family in 1991. In 2001, I started studying in a kindergarten of the Africa Inland Church Tanzania (AICT). In 2006 I accepted Jesus as the Lord and Savior of my life. 2008 was when I joined secondary school and I graduated in 2012. I was a person who dreamed of studying a lot and going far, aiming to have a good life. That's when I decided to sit down and ask God what he planned for me to be in this life. In 2015, there were opportunities to go to study the Bible. The pastor challenged me and I saw that my heart was at peace regarding the idea of going to Bible college. On the 20/09/2015 I started my studies. By 2019 I finished my Bible college studies and was sent to the field."

Lucy: "I was born in a family of Roman Catholic believers in 1994. I continued to grow up in the Roman Catholic Faith. In 2009 my faith became more personal when I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I was a person with big goals to study and get a good job, but everything I tried to do was unsuccessful. It came to a point where I completely gave up on life. However, one day I decided to ask the Lord what is the purpose of my life? Some guests came to visit our church and encouraged the church to do Missions. When I heard that, I got a lot of peace in my heart and then the door opened to go into Mission work. I got an opportunity to study at a Mission college where I met Petro."

Peter and Lucy pictured above

THE SERVICE WE DO FOR THE WAALAGWA:

"The approach in mission we do among this community of the Alagwa who have mixed Islam with traditional religion is (i) to build relationships with them by collaborating with them in social work such as farming together, participating in their celebrations, (ii) visiting them, knowing their challenges and providing services to them of prayers when they need that service. We also always ask them to give us a chance to read God's Word with them; if they agree we read it with them. (iii) We invite them and eat together with them, so we always show God's love to them in different ways, one-on-one."

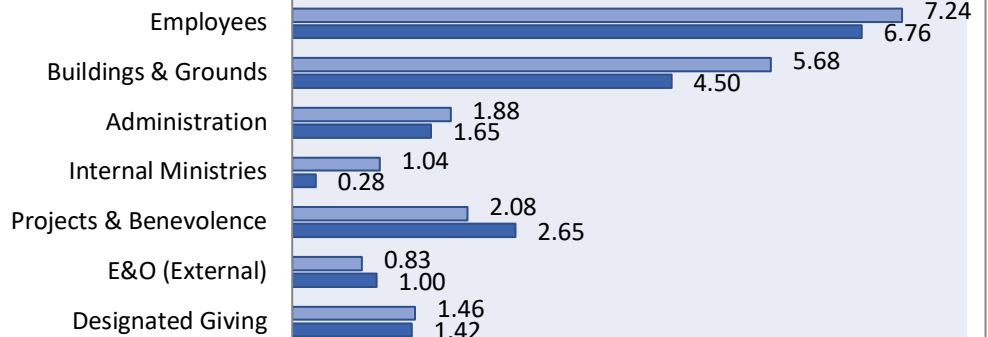
Arusha Community Church 2024 Expenditure through 15 March

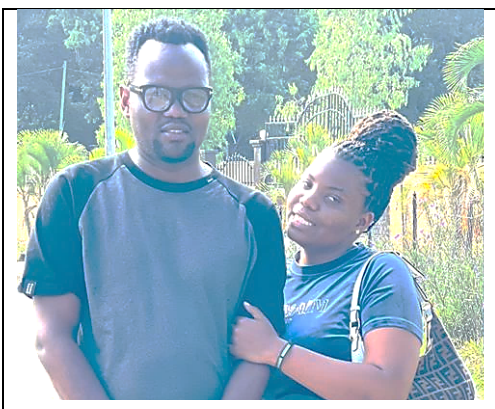
(in TSh millions)

Projected thru 15 Mar: 20.21

Actual thru 15 Mar: 18.26

2024 expenditure through 15 March was TSh 0.87 million lower than the same period last year, and 1.95 million lower than this year's 15 March target; spending is expected to pick up soon.





Matthew and his fiancée pictured above. They plan to get married this year.

TESTIMONY OF MATTHEW NDUDI NKUSSA

(Translated from Swahili)

My name is Matthew Ndudi Nkussa, I come from Pahi-Kondoa in the Rangi tribe who are almost all Muslims. Warangi are found in Kondoa district, Dodoma region, in the middle of Tanzania.

I was born and raised in a Muslim family. My parents were Muslims. My father who died in 2020, had six (6) wives and my mother was the fourth (4) wife before he died in 2006. Throughout my childhood as a Muslim, I followed all the ways of Islamic law. I used to attend what is known as madrasas. I was taught to hate Christianity and to believe that Christianity is a pagan and infidel religion. We were not allowed to have Christian friends or hang out with them in schools and other places. I grew up knowing that Islam is the only true religion and that all people are lost and will go to hell except

Muslims. When I reached the age of fourteen (14), my parents sent me to secondary school which was close to our house, so I lived at home with my father while I was studying. My mother and father divorced when I was about six (6) years old and after that I was taken and raised by my father. When I was at school I had the chance to listen to the gospel, but I really despised all Christians. Many times I used to make fun of my Christian schoolmates; I called them infidels, that is, people who are not civilized and do not know God. Throughout my childhood I was bothered by my ears, they were oozing pus and I couldn't hear well even when I was in class. Most of the time I was studying by myself. While I was preparing for exams to finish secondary education, Jesus had already put in my heart the desire to seek him and know him. I was thinking about the gospel that was being preached while I was at school. I was also very interested in the loving life of Christians, especially the pastors who were coming to teach the subject of the Christian religion at our school.

One day the head of the school announced at the parade that there would be doctors and pastors who will be treating the sick and praying for those with health problems the next day. The doctors and pastors were in the Africa Inland Church Tanzania (AICT). As I was among the people who had health problems, when it came to the second day, I secretly went to the AICT church, because we were not allowed to go to those places. After arriving there, I met a doctor who did an examination on my ears and after doing the examination he said that there are holes in the ears and bacteria that were causing pus to come out of the ears. That problem had been bothering me for fourteen (14) years. He asked me if I would be willing to see some of the pastors who were under the TIMO team and to pray with them about the ear problem. I answered "Yes, I am ready to meet them." Before praying, I was taught some teachings from the Bible and led to a prayer of repentance that I was following the words they were saying. I was ready to be prayed for in the name of Jesus, so I was prayed for. However, the pastors did not believe me that I had truly accepted Jesus as the Lord and Savior of my life, because they knew that I came from a strong Islamic family. My father was Al-Hajj and a sheikh in this religion. But I had made the decision to follow Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

After about a week, I felt healing in my ears, the pus stopped coming out and I started to hear better. The healing made me hold on to Jesus more and to be strong in Christ. I continued to hide the fact that I had received Jesus and that I had been prayed for, but later I received baptism from one of God's servants, the late Pastor Addison Tanner. The news of my belief in Jesus spread throughout the village. My parents got very angry and rejected me as if I was not their child.

I lived in tears, without joy, sad and with great pain in my heart because of being separated from my parents, family, and village. My suffering was because of my faith. My brothers planned to beat me and even kill me unless I agreed to deny Jesus but I did not deny my faith. The family decided to burn my belongings such as the Bible, baptism certificate, clothes and other things. My father kicked me out of the house and told me that I am not his child anymore. He also told my brothers not to welcome me in their homes.

It was a very difficult time for me. During that period, my sister decided to take me to live with her in Arusha, but in 2005 my sister died. The death of my sister made me live in a difficult situation because she was the only one in the family who had decided to help me. However, I did not give up on my new Christian faith. Then the church decided to write me a letter to go to Kolandoto Bible Training School (KBTS) in Shinyanga for a period of six (6) months. While I was in college, I found time to pray and read the Word of God.

After completing the six-month training, I returned to my home church in Pahi Kondoa. I lived in the church area under the pastor and I was given "Bible study" sessions in the middle of the week as well as preaching on Sundays. After one year my church sent me to start a local church in another village.

Throughout that period of suffering and isolation, I learned patience, forgiveness and that God had a great purpose to prepare me for his work for every human being. I served there for six years. After that I joined the Nassa Theological College (NTC) which is under the AICT Church for a period of four (4) years to get more knowledge of the Word of God and to know the Lord Jesus more, so that I can witness to other people about Jesus with courage and understanding of the Word of God.

I thank the Lord Jesus so much that even today I am the only one in our family who was re-born in a Christian family. The Lord has given me peace and hope in my heart. I believe that one day my brothers will also receive the grace of salvation, so I continue without stopping.



←Matthew preaching to Secondary school age youth at the beach on a public holiday.



Promoting fellowship through sports



Matthew pictured above sharing the word of God through his audio Bible to an elderly man who cannot read or write and to the right, visiting with a sick man who has been shunned by his community and living apart from his family.



“AND THEY OVERCAME HIM BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB AND BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY; AND THEY LOVED NOT THEIR LIVES TO THE DEATH”

- REVELATION 12:11

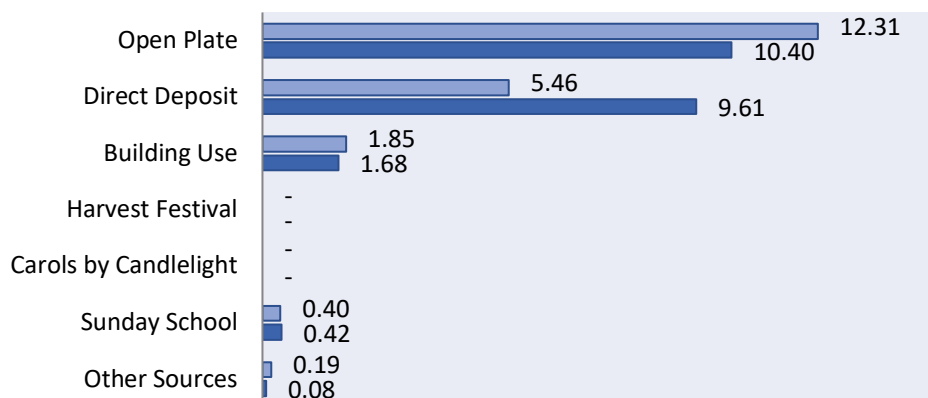
Arusha Community Church 2024 Revenue through 15 March

(in TSh millions)

■ Projected thru 15 Mar: 20.21

■ Actual thru 15 Mar: 22.19

2024 revenue through 15 March was TSh 5.45 million higher than the same period last year, and 1.98 million higher than this year's 15 March target; please continue to assist as able.



TITHES AND OFFERINGS AT ACC:

Your OFFERINGS are important. It is easier for accounting purposes, and without charges, if offerings are deposited directly into our Exim Bank Account (please see details below). While the MPESA number remains available for receiving offerings, please consider making a deposit directly into our bank.

ACC BANK DETAILS:

For anyone who wishes or needs to transfer funds via bank deposit to ACC please find the following details here:

EXIM BANK

TSH:ACCOUNT NUMBER 00 300 23 252

USD:ACCOUNT NUMBER 00 300 35 020

ACC MOBILE MONEY ACCOUNT DETAILS:

For anyone who wishes or needs to transfer funds via mobile money to ACC please find the following details here:

MPESA

M-PESA DEPOSIT NUMBER: +255755992394

NAME: NASIEKU MOLLEL (Church Administrator)


This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and truth. (1 John 3: 16-18).

Matthew (Testimony in page 3-4 above) writes: *"I am so thankful to your church for supporting me with two hundred thousand shillings per month for the work of Kilwa Masoko. I will be so happy if some would like to come to visit me in the work and to see the work face to face for the glory of Christ. Welcome!! Thank you for your prayers and know that I will pray for you, and I love you much. Greet the elders and all the church. Be blessed."*

Peter (Testimony in page 2 above) writes: *"We are very thankful to the Arusha Community Church. Please extend our greetings to the church members. You enable us to be like family to the Alagwa people whom we seek to reach with the gospel. My wife, Lucy, and daughter, Grace, greet you."*

APRIL 2024

	April 7, 2024	April 14, 2024	April 21, 2024	April 28, 2024
Church Calendar	<i>Second Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>
Type of Service	Communion	Morning	Communion	Family
Service Leader	Susan Simonson	Jessica Shayo	Moira Brehony	John Kraft
Preacher	Pastor Lekashu	Oliver O'Brien	Michael Murray	Pastor Stephan Schreul
Music Leader	Sion Miraa	Randy Stubbs	Erwin Kinsey	Megan Ndale
Duty Elder	Irene Mchomvu	Irene Mchomvu	Erwin Kinsey	Wilson Mzirai
Projectionist	Sion Miraa	Nicholaus Emmanuel	Sion Miraa	Haneeif
Sound Tech.	Gerald Sebastian	Tumsifu Mushi	Andrea Thomas	Laurence Menda
Ushers	Cifa Chalo	Lilian Amedeus	Thomas Dester	Debbie Laizer
Flowers	Irene Mchomvu	Rebecca Ndorossy	Gillian	Immaculate Shija
Scriptures	- Acts 4:32-35 - Psalm 133 - 1 John 1:1-2:2 - John 20:19-31	- Acts 3:12-19 - Psalm 4 - 1 John 3:1-7 - Luke 24:36b-48	- Acts 4:5-12 - Psalm 23 - 1 John 3:16-24 - John 10:11-18	- Acts 8:26-40 - Psalm 22:25-31 - 1 John 4:7-21 - John 15:1-8

“I HAVE MADE YOU A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, THAT YOU MIGHT BRING SALVATION TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH” ACTS 13: 47 (NIV)

