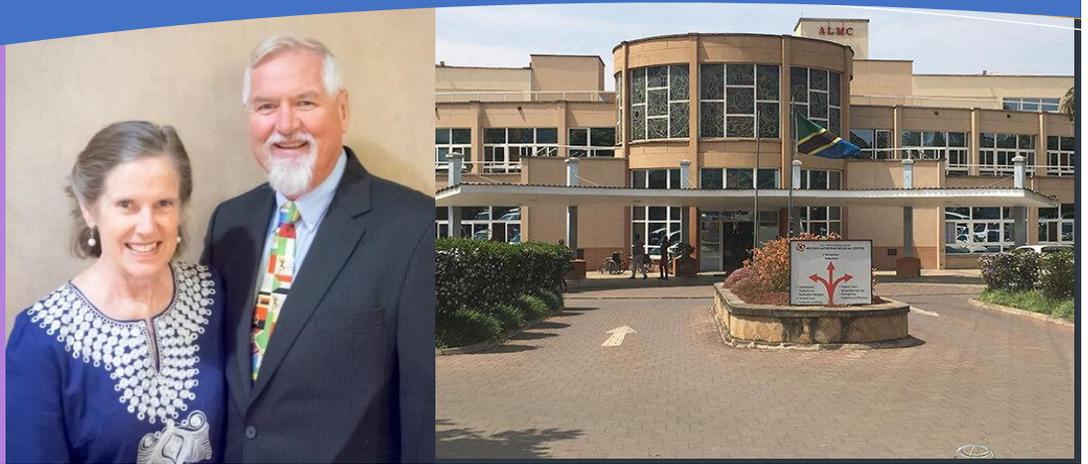


JACOBSON NEWSLETTER

October 2020



Mama George

Dear Friends:

We think of you all often and pray you are well and safe and connected to others and God during this time! We are still in Minnesota and have seen the beauty of three different seasons in one place in one year! We zoom into church services and meetings and work and friends most every day. There are many changes in life as it "used to be", but also many blessings and things for which we are grateful.

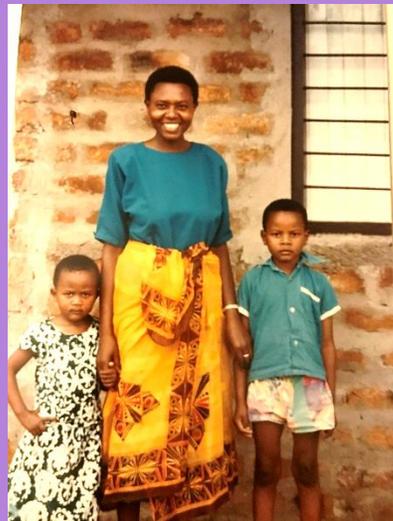
For many years Linda has been involved with several women in our neighborhood to work with a project called the Widows' Might. Recently one of the key members died, and Linda would like to share her story:

I met her over 30 years ago when she was living next door to me in Il Boru. She became active in sewing for the Widow's Might project after her husband was killed in a car accident. Her name was Johanna, but we all knew her as Mama George. She was born in 1965. She was the mother of two young children, George and Anjie.

She took over making the Noah's Arks years ago. She would sew the ark by machine and then make all the animals and people by hand. She even braided the hair on Joan (wife of Noah), and put a beard on Noah. These arks are known by many people in churches and homes around the world.

She saved up her money and with some help, built her own house on her own land in Usa River in 1995. Her two children finished school. George works as a taxi driver. He is married, has 3 children and lives in a house connected to his mom's house. Anjie became a teacher and had one child who died at a young age. Over the years Mama George would come to my gate, bringing arks and sewing to sell. She always asked about my family and each of my children by name. She prayed for them.

In 2015 she discovered a lump in her breast. She sought medical help. The journey to a proper diagnosis and treatment remains long and hard in Tanzania. Finally, after many visits, delays and hesitations, she connected with the Cancer Care Center at KCMC and started her treatment for cancer in 2018. She had chemotherapy there, and a mastectomy at ALMC in March 2019. She went to Ocean Road Cancer Center in Dar Es Salaam for radiation in April and May, just waiting for two months to get her treatment which finally happened in June 2019. This alone is a miracle.





In December 2019 she visited me. She showed me how she stuffed a sock in her bra to take the space of her mastectomy. She was so grateful to God for the healing and all the help. She said that while she was at the radiation center in Dar es Salaam, other patients would ask her to pray for them because they were so amazed that someone who had breast cancer for 5 years was surviving. She would pray and read her Bible with them. She showed me her worn out Bible: the cover had fallen off from use. I gave her some material to make arks and some money to get more material. It was wonderful to see her.



Just before leaving she told me that she had a lump in her remaining breast. My heart just sank. I told her "let's get this early!". She went back to the center in Moshi in January to report this and they did some tests. The results were normal. In February she returned to my house to bring arks and get more material. She said she was having pain in her legs. By March this year, she was becoming weaker and having trouble walking. She had some tests and discovered that the cancer was back and had now spread to her liver. After her great recovery from breast cancer-- this hit very hard. The oncologists in Moshi said she could have palliative care there that would be helpful. She was afraid. But she had great faith.

She continued with treatment throughout August. On 19th August she became suddenly very ill and she died on the 21st at KCMC in Moshi, and was buried on the 25th near her home. The oncologist there described her as " a fighter and a great person".

Johanna is one of the women of Tanzania who have taught me much and continue to be an example of faith, hard work, and a witness to God's love and power. I will miss this sister very much. Thank you for being a part of her story and my story and the story of God's faithfulness.

We are quite homesick for Tanzania. We hear the covid virus is not common there these days and that life, but not the economy, has returned somewhat to normal. We hope to return there in 2021 when it is considered safe to do so.

We thank God for the blessings of faith and community which includes you! Please "stay positive and test negative".

In Christ,
Linda and Mark

