

April 19, 2020

Hello everyone.

This coming week was to be a time of final goodbyes and our departure from Mwanza, Tanzania. However, that plan changed 4 weeks ago when World Renew Canada encouraged us to come back to Canada due to the Covid-19 pandemic. On Monday, March 16th we scrambled to arrange air flights. Our 60-hour journey started Tuesday, March 17th and we arrived in Canada on Thursday, March 19th. We then settled into our house for 14 days of quarantine. We are healthy and happy to be back.

Having less than 24 hours of time to say goodbyes, donate our household items, food items and pack up 4 suitcases ... it was rushed. The most difficult part was not being able to physically say goodbye to our World Renew Tanzania colleagues. When we think of World Renew's partner staff and the many farming communities where we did our training, they would say that, "we just ran away". However, we know differently, and we trust that they will understand the situation. African culture is all about relationships and the realization of not being able to celebrating our 7 years of work and not physically saying goodbye is foreign and difficult for our friends to understand.

We share a recent World Renew Tanzania team picture in this newsletter. Please pray for the team as they continue to support the work of World Renew Tanzania by working from their homes. Pray also for the communities to follow the guidelines for social isolation that the government is calling for. The testing situation for Covid-19 in Tanzania is poor, and many will not have the opportunity to be tested.



We again thank all of you for your encouragement, prayers and financial support throughout our volunteer time in Tanzania. God will continue the work of transformation in Tanzania.

We close out this newsletter with these words of assurance and hope found in Romans 15 vs 13 NIV version, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

God keep you all healthy and safe. Blessings, Phil and Jannetta Vandenberg.