

HOPE ADDICTION PRISON MINISTRY

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TANZANIA MISSION

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2014

OBJECTIVE:

To follow up the June 2014 trip and the introductory 12 Steps of AA program presented to medical and church leaders and to begin implementing Twelve Step Meetings in the Churches and community.

BACKGROUND:

The introduction to medical and church leaders in Dar Es Salaam led to the conclusion that the 12 Step Program of EMOTIONS ANONYMOUS (EA) would be the most attractive in gaining individuals interest and participation. This because people could identify with "*emotional difficulties*" in their everyday lives and would be more apt to participate in the program than they would be to admit and identify to an alcoholic, drug, or other more embarrassing addictions. History showed that once an individual understood why he or she reacted emotionally as they did, they may find that alcohol or drugs were part of the problem. History also shows that most people attending EA were in fact alcohol or drug addicts or suffered from other major addictions.

The choice of the EA program as the major vehicle to the introduction and implementation required the editing of the EA Book and then translating English to the Kiswahili language since no literature or materials existed in that language. It then required the printing, assembling, and distribution of the books. A

"Meeting Procedure" was included which would enable anyone to start and run a meeting and insured that all meetings followed the same procedure and rules. Once these preparations were completed, meetings with interested groups and individuals were scheduled to take place on this September trip.

The major driving force in establishing interest and participation in the introductory training meetings was the Anglican Bishop of Dar Es Salaam, Bishop Mokiwa Valentino, who not only scheduled two day introductory training programs with 50 of his Clergy, but also did the same with the Anglican Secondary Church School of 130 students, the Church School Directors and their 20 Teachers and Staff, The woman leaders of the Diocesan Church, and some 20 Evangelical Ministers of Dar Es Salaam. The Bishop not only personally attended and fully participated, but acted as my translator. He had also arranged a meeting with the Director General of Prisons for Tanzania who attempted to schedule the Twelve Step Programs into prisons which unfortunately was not able to be accomplished on this trip due to a timing problem. However, the entire success of this trip can be attributed to the energy of the Bishop and his support and enthusiasm.

THE TRAINING CONFERENCES:

Twelve days were devoted to ADDICTION TRAINING CONFERENCES. The purpose was to introduce the concept that addiction was ***MORE THAN SUBSTANCE ABUSE WITH ALCOHOL OR DRUGS***, but could include any activity or process used to ***"hide pain"*** and to ***"feel good"***. The issue is not so much what we are doing, but "WHY"? What is causing me to use drugs or alcohol, to gamble, to indulge in uncontrolled eating, to exercise or run every day? The Twelve Steps of Recovery of Alcoholics Anonymous and the power of God help us to find the answers. The 12 Step Program of Emotions Anonymous version was used as the recovery program in Tanzania because it dealt with all emotions which most everyone can relate. During the process of practicing and using the program, the individual will find the *causes* of the addiction they are experiencing.

At each conference, the EA Booklets were distributed with the intent and hope that each leader attending would return to their home area and introduce and begin weekly Twelve Step Meetings. The attractiveness of this program is the lack of the need for money, infrastructure, buildings, and all the *"requirements and*

needs" to initiate most programs. ALL THAT IS NEEDED IS FOR SOMEONE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO BEGIN THE MEETINGS AND FOR PEOPLE TO ATTEND.

The following is a list of training conferences conducted and the number of attendee's:

1. The Anglican Diocese of Dar Es Salaam: The Bishop along with his 50 Clergy Priests and some staff. Two days.



Bishop Mokiwa Valentino



Clergy Training

2. The Anglican Secondary School: The Director, staff, and 25 Teachers. One Day.



Headmasters and Teacher Training



3. The Anglican Primary School: 130 Students.



Students discuss addiction, causes, and what can be done about it.

4. A community group of 25 active drug and alcohol addicts. One day.



Drug Addicts from the community attending Addiction 12 Step Training

5. The Anglican Women's Service Group (Mother's Union): 20 Women Lay Leaders. Two Days.



Mothers Union Training



Mike with attendee John

6. Evangelical Ministers: 25 individuals, two days of training.

I was also invited to address one church congregation.

Will all this work and help in the recovery of Tanzania from drugs, alcohol, HIV/AIDS, and all the personal relationship problems as the result of addiction and addictive behavior? Only God knows and in the end, only HE can make it happen. I am just His messenger but only HE can motivate the person to make the choice to change their life. ***PLEASE PRAY THAT THE PEOPLE OF DAR ES SAALM OPEN THEIR MINDS AND HEARTS TO FIND A NEW WAY OF LIFE OUT OF ADDICTION and PRAY FOR ALL THOSE LEADERS WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO LEARN AND CARRY RECOVERY PROGRAMS TO THEIR FOLLOWERS.***

WHAT IS NEXT?

The "Plan" is to follow up to see what happens in the churches and the community and to try and complete the implementation of 12 Step Programs into the Prison System. If this and follow up can be arranged, the next trip would occur in early 2015 with the additional expansion thru the city of Dar Es Salaam. The population of Dar is 5 million so we are just at the very tip of the iceberg. Pray for the success of these initial pilot programs.

FUNDING NEED:

The initial funding for the translation and small printing needs of the EA Books was met and allowed us to distribute 200 books to leaders to begin the start of meetings. The only books now available are in the hands of leaders. If they are successful, each leader would need an estimated 25 books which translates into 5,000 books JUST FOR THE GROUPS WE INITIALLY TARGETED. As expansion occurs, the numbers increase geometrically as does the need for funding. Contact has been established with a donor who is a publisher and we are seeking his support to produce at least 5,000 books with hopes of a possible 10,000. So far, no commitment has been received. If the pilot programs are successful, then a case can be made to the medical and government officials for funding support. The final option is for private and individual funding. If the expansion takes place,

the need for a staff of at least three Tanzanians is needed to monitor the expansion and coordinate contacts and book distribution. If and when this happens, small salary considerations will be needed. This is the "longer term" outlook but a reality. The city of Dar Es Salaam's population of 5 million is 5 times the size of the entire country of Belize, is larger than many of the states in the US including Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Minnesota, and about 60% of the size of New Jersey and New York City. This is a huge target of humanity that presently is ripe with alcohol, drugs, HIV/AIDS, and crime resulting from the addictive behavior. Thus, the funding need and support is also huge. Therefore, any grants and financial support from both organizations and individuals will be welcomed and needed. Pray for that to happen. Any contacts you can offer to assist is also needed and appreciated.

Thank you for your initial support for this project. Additional information can be obtained by contacting me at mdzs@aol.com (843-290-6373). A WEB site is also in the works which will provide additional information.

God's Blessings!!

IN HIS SERVICE,
MIKE