

# THRIVE TANZANIA

**I am about to do something new.  
See, I have already begun!  
Is. 43:19**

## 2024 RECAP When You Raise Your Hand, You'll Eventually Get Called On.



HERE I AM. SEND ME. In the summer of 2023, God bridged the gap across continents and crossed the paths of Mary and I, forging a divine connection in a way that only God can. A few months later, in May 2024, Mary and I both found ourselves at the end of one chapter and not sure where to step next. Of course, God had been ordering our steps all along and knew exactly where He was going to place our feet. To our surprise, we landed on a beach in southern Tanzania. Against all odds, we purchased a small piece of property, and Thrive Tanzania was born. Truly, God is making "a pathway through the wilderness" and we are confident that He will "create rivers in the dry wasteland", literally and metaphorically!

One of our first needs was to create a 400 meter access road connecting the main road to our site. This would be a very expensive and difficult challenge. Before we even had time to plan, the villagers came to our aid. They knew a construction company working on a major project downtown was planning to build a road to acquire materials from our area. They fought hard advocating to reroute the plan. Within days, a brand new road was laid passing within a few feet of our site. As it turned out, the materials in our area were not right for the construction project, and the road was abandoned. It was obvious to us that this series of events was a divine move of God literally making a path through the wilderness.

Another obstacle arose when a government employee attempted to infinitely delay our building permits. We had met every requirement, and still, our paperwork had not been approved. Somehow, a higher-ranking official heard of the actions against us. The employee was transferred to another location and our permits were immediately granted.



## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS



The villagers are happy that we have arrived to develop this area in a responsible manner. The local economy has benefited from our presence. The task of clearing the brush from the land and gathering soil, water, cement, and bricks to build the bathhouse allowed us to employ over 100 people for varying lengths of time. In addition to a fair daily wage, villagers received two complimentary meals every day they worked. Fishermen and local women were hired to provide the food. Before leaving the area, we hosted a thank you dinner which included meat, a luxury for most people.

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS CONT'D

The grasses for the roof were collected by various women whose livelihoods depend on having customers to purchase their bundles at a fair price. Several people were hired to prep the grasses before they could be placed on the roof. Local fundis (skilled workers) were hired to make bricks, build the walls, assemble the roof, cut timber, and provide security.

Although work is paused for the season, we continue to employ a small staff of gardeners. A security company from northern Tanzania agreed to set up a local office. Trainers were sent to hire and train new workers. Because of our patronage, one of our temporary workers now has stable, permanent employment at the security company.

We are so thankful God is allowing us to do His work in this area. We look forward to the day that these relationships allow us to win these souls to Christ.



## LEARNING AS WE GO

The process of constructing the walls and roof for the bathhouse gave us a taste of what will be required to successfully build in this area as well as an awareness of the needs of the people. Due to limited material resources, gathering building supplies is a task unto itself. Often supplies must be gathered from various places and from great distances. There are a small number of locals who have access to pick-up trucks. Although they are eager to be hired, mechanical difficulties frequently render the vehicles unavailable.

We have been fortunate to have hired capable fundis who are hard-working and talented. Although, some of the projects we need completed require skills sets beyond the current training of local workers. This is both a challenge and an opportunity. It is difficult to find skilled workers who are willing to temporarily relocate to do the work. Additionally, bringing outside people into the area increases the price of the project as we now need to cover the cost of travel and accommodations. On the other hand, doing so gives us an opportunity to offer training to the local people to advance their skills.



### Fiscal Partnership

Thrive Tanzania has partnered with Global Horizons Inc. (GHI), a US-based 501c3 nonprofit (EIN 41-1805314). GHI serves as a fiscal sponsor for Thrive Tanzania providing donation processing, bookkeeping, and accountability. Donations made through GHI are tax-deductible in the US.

### Donations

checks can be made payable to:  
Thrive Tanzania/GHI  
and mailed to:  
Thrive Tanzania/GHI,  
P.O. Box 64059,  
Eagan, MN 55164-0059



<https://thrivetanzania.org/>

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Projects

In 2025, there are several projects we are hoping to complete.

1. Running water and septic
2. Electricity for food storage

In order to make our site habitable, we need to secure access to running water and install a septic system. Accomplishing this means we will be able to complete the bathhouse by installing fixtures and plumbing. We also need to be able to store food on the premises which means that we will need electricity. Once these resources are established, we will be able to set up temporary tents which will serve as housing while permanent bungalows and a more formal dining area are being built.

The presence of a working bathhouse and tents will allow us to house missionaries coming to help with building projects and/or outreaches. Additionally, it is our desire that these projects will allow us to continue building relationships with the local villagers while simultaneously providing skills training and professional development.

### Local Church

It is important for new believers to be connected with a local church body where they can fellowship and grow with other Christ-followers. Unfortunately, there are few to no Christian resources available in the area. Thrive Tanzania reached out to well-established pastors with churches in other parts of Tanzania. It was agreed that a church plant is needed to provide villagers with formal pastoral care and Christian community. We are excited that villagers will have a local community of believers with which to grow and serve. We are looking forward to assisting with the establishing of this church plant and partnering with them to serve the people of Mbamba Bay.

### Expansion

The vision is larger than the size of our current site. We are hoping to purchase additional plots of land on which to work.