

**RENEWAL MINISTRIES MISSION  
TANZANIA, JULY, 2007**  
By  
Tom Edwards

**DODOMA RALLY**

This July of 2007 marked the seventh mission journey Renewal Ministries has made to Tanzania in the past six years. Our team this year made up of thirteen members was diversified and gifted. Joining me was



Fr. Earl Muller from Detroit Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Fr. Graham Keep of London, Ontario, Fr. Jan Buc of Slovakia, Sr. Rita D'Souza and Sr. Juana Teresa of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, Jim Lowe a seminarian from Companions of the Cross, Martin Janus of Slovakia, Karen Stein of Ann Arbor, MI, Mary Johnston from Wisconsin, Jeanne Thompson from California, Dennis Donahue of California and John Mathe from Florida.

The week of events in the Diocese of Dodoma marks the tenth diocese where we have conducted outreach in Tanzania. Our time in Dodoma was followed by another week in Dar-es-Salaam.

The mission to Dodoma was a response to the letter of invitation which we received last year from Bishop Juda Thadaeus Riwa'ichi, O. F. M. CAP. The invitation specifically asked us to be involved in the presentation of a retreat for the priests of his diocese, a retreat for sisters, daily workshops and outdoor rallies. A focal point of our visit was the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the first missionaries who arrived in Dodoma in 1907.

The brothers and sisters who make up the leadership of the National Charismatic Renewal in Tanzania continue to do an outstanding job under difficult circumstances and with minimal resources. The two events which we conducted this year were but a part of an overall blitz which involved simultaneous renewal events in four cities scattered about the country, some of which ran for twenty-four consecutive days. Other speakers were invited to rotate from city to city including lay Catholic evangelists from Brazil and Kenya. We were once again blessed to work hand in hand with Fr. Mathias Mulumba from Kenya and Celina Kolumbani, a Tanzanian lay woman now studying at Emmaus Community in Uganda. Our friend Gabriel Otatu of Nakuru, Kenya was also on hand and circulating between cities. Just a few of the leaders instrumental in the planning and execution of the enormous undertakings are Mr. Joseph Mishili, Roman Lyimo, Estalatus Mtema, Alex Lengeju, and Louisa Bulemela.

Dodoma is an eight-hour bus ride into the interior of Tanzania and is the official capital city. The diocese is comprised of a population of 1,800,000 of which about 20 per cent are Catholic. The median age is 18. One other Renewal event, a rally, was conducted in the city of Dodoma 7 years ago. Upon arrival in the city, our team took up lodging at the Precious Blood Seminary about 5 miles from the town via an unpaved road. Our team bus served as our only form of transport to and from the town twice a day. Each morning our team celebrated an early morning mass, then breakfast. Our events began at 9:00 AM in town and we were responsible for the priests retreat, sisters retreat, and workshops on the Holy Spirit, Evangelization, and Healing and Deliverance. The rally began on the grounds of the Cathedral at mid-afternoon and continued until 6:30 PM.



## PRIESTS RETREAT

The three-day priests retreat was attended by 34 priests and was led by Fr. Earl who was assisted by Fr. Graham and Fr. Jan. Bishop Thadaeus was present for most all of the retreat and another visiting bishop was present for a day.

Fr. Earl addressed many of the misconceptions and questions regarding renewal and was able to distribute considerable printed material which reflected the thinking and positive statements of the Church. In the end all of the priests present were prayed over to receive



*Team with Bishop Thadaeus Ruwa'ichi*



*Priests of Dodoma Diocese*

Renewal in the Holy Spirit. This was an occasion for much rejoicing by all of the participants. The priests were also eager to attend the afternoon rally sessions and to join the team in praying for the many thousands of people.

## SISTERS RETREATS

Once again our Sisters from the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ of Prayer Town, Texas added a vital dimension to our ministry team. Sr. Rita and Sr. Juana Teresa and the effect of their special community charism of evangelization was evident in every place



*Bishop Thadaeus and Priest of Dodoma*

that we set foot. In Dodoma Diocese seventy sisters participated in a five-day Dodoma retreat, another twenty-two in Dar-es-Salaam. All were extremely receptive. Like dry sponges they came and drank in the whole experience. None was more receptive than the Mother Superior of the community who is hoping for our return and has visions for a much greater gathering.

Our two Sisters were constantly finding opportunities to evangelize as we moved along. Through their witness doors opened for ministry to a group of British missionaries and another group of German girls who were in the country doing some social works. The Sisters remained in Tanzania after the teams departure





***Sisters Retreat---Dodoma Diocese***

to minister to the Goan Indian community in Dar-es-Salaam and to interview prospective young women interested in their religious community. In the past year, they received one young woman from Tanzania into their initial formation program.

**DODOMA RALLIES**

The rallies in Dodoma were well attended with several thousand attending each day. The priests and sisters, as well as Bishop Thadeaus joined us for most sessions. Rally talks covered a number of topics and were presented by Tom Edwards, Fr. Earl, Fr. Graham, Fr. Jan (the 3-way translation went amazingly well), Fr. Mathias and Sisters Rita and Juana Theresa. All of the team members were involved in organizing and presenting the daily workshops as well as prayer ministry following the rally talks. The Tanzanians were very methodical in the handling of the deliverance ministry and as usual the opportunities were numerous as the “deliverance tent” being filled each day with dozens of people being set free. Numerous people came forward each day to give testimony of the Lord’s marvelous workings in their lives.

Specific invitations for prayer were often issued including prayer for married couples, for mothers and children, for men, priests, nuns, teens and young adults.

Teachings presented in the rallies included the following:

- The Love of Jesus---Fr. Graham
- Keys to the Kingdom-Tom Edwards

- Conversion and Priethood--Fr. Jan
- The Our Father and Prayer---Fr. Earl
- Empowerment in Time of Trouble---Tom
- Bringing Light to Darkness---Fr. Mathias
- Marriage and the Church---Fr. Earl
- The Gift of Eucharist----Fr. Graham
- Testimony---Sr. Rita and Sr. Juana Theresa
- Everyone a Missionary----Tom

Our week in Dodoma concluded with a time of fellowship with the brothers and sisters of Dodoma who organized, led and served throughout the event. Before departure we were invited to the Bishop’s home.

Bishop Thadaeus on two occasions emphasized that he wants the Renewal Ministries team to return. He specifically asked us to



***Sr. Rita and Sr. Juana Theresa leading retreat***



***Praying for Sisters in Dar-es-Salaam Retreat***

return next year if possible as he desires to invite priests and sisters from neighboring dioceses to come and participate in retreats which we would present. It seems that he is very much committed to promoting renewal of the faith in Tanzania.



*Jeanne Thompson shares in Healing & Deliverance workshop*

### ***Dar-es-Salaam Ministry***

Our second week of ministry in the large coastal city of Dar-es-Salaam followed the same program schedule as that of Dodoma with one exception. The retreat for priests didn't happen. Just before our arrival our Tanzanian brothers were informed that the priest who had been given responsibility to organize the event simply didn't do it. This was a disappointment but our team quickly regrouped as now our priests were free to teach and lead other workshops. The workshops were well attended and all of our team members were greatly blessed as the dynamic of the Holy Spirit was powerfully evident in all of the workshops. Some of our team members were led to teach a group of people how to say the rosary during one workshop. This led to an unexpected outpouring of the Spirit that left people resting in the Spirit outside in the rain. Praise the Lord!

Our participation in the afternoon rallies constituted the final week of a twenty-four day crusade. The event was held on

Jangwani Grounds, the same field used for the Pope John Paul II event in 1990.

Our ministry in Dar also included other outreaches to orphanages, small groups, and special sessions with individuals in need of attention.

Team member John Mathe was able to bring the first well-digging project to near completion. A blessing of the well was arranged with Fr. Graham officiating. Clear clean water is flowing from the well and some of our team members had the privilege of seeing the villagers enjoying this new benefit in their community. John was also able to hold some meetings with key people to discuss future projects of this nature.

Once again we were able to meet with Polycarp Cardinal Pengo as well as Auxiliary Bishop Method Kilanini. Each greeted us cordially and expressed sincere support for the work we are doing, making it clear that Renewal Ministries is welcome to return at any time and needs no special invitation to do so. Our Tanzania leader friends understood this to be a very affirming statement.

On our final day in Tanzania, our team was invited to the Catholic Radio station. Our speaker team taped a one hour interview to be broadcast the following day. The broadcast goes out to all Dioceses in Tanzania in Swahili. Equipment is not being installed which will allow the station to produce and broadcast television by October.



***Team with Polycarp Cardinal Pengo in Dar-es-Salaam***



*Right: Fr. Earl Muller praying for participants at Dar-es-Salaam rally.*



*Left: Fr. Graham Keep preaching at Dar-es-Salaam rally.*



*Below: Team tapes radio interviews with Tanzanian Catholic Radio.*



*Right: No mission is complete without its trials. Zigging to miss a five foot sinkhole on the right---our bus fell into the ditch on the left. Eventually with lots of prayer from the sisters on our team and lots of help from the locals, we were on the road again.*







*Villagers fill their buckets at the new well*



*Fr. Graham and seminarian Jim Lowe assist in the blessing of the new well*



*Newly constructed porch serves as tower for the new water tank at home of Estelatus Mtema*

*Team member John Mathe rejoices at completion of the well in the village of Change'Ombe, the first fruits of newly formed Water Ministries. Our friend and co-worker Estalatus Mtema and his extended family, along with 300 villagers, now have access to clean water for drinking, bathing, and laundry.*



*One goat in the skillet----Delicious!*