



GREETINGS FROM AFRICA

Breaking news and stories for friends of Twing Memorial Ministries, changing lives in Tanzania, East Africa through health, education, and evangelism.

SPRING 2011

Albino Sisters Attend Twing Memorial School

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: Before I put the following story in print to you, I did a Google search on "Albino Africans." Here is what I found as reported by The Observer, Alex Duval Smith.

"A series of horrific murders of albinos in Tanzania has shocked the nation. As children are hacked to death for their body parts, believed to bring good luck, the authorities are failing to stop a trade in organs that relies on superstition and greed ... killers acting for witch doctors are turning to cannibalism alongside their quest for lucrative body parts as magic charms. Buyers from as far away as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Kenya and Uganda believe the legs, genitals, eyes, and hair of people with albinism can help them achieve instant wealth."

The rate of albinism is about 1 in 3,000, compared to roughly 1 in 17,000 in the United States. [11/2009] Since 2007, 44 albinos have been killed in Tanzania and 14 others have been slain in Burundi, sparking widespread fear among albinos in East Africa. At least 10,000 have been displaced or gone into hiding since the killings began, according to a report released this week by the International Federation for the Red Cross and Crescent societies.

This is unbelievable, until you read the following story about two of our students at Twing Memorial School (TMS).

One morning two albino girls, escorted by their mother, arrived at Twing Memorial School (TMS). They traveled by bus from their home some 400 miles away. They wanted to escape their home village.

One night, four unidentified men arrived at our village and went straight to our hut. We were sleeping. The men used machetes to cut off a part of Regina's foot and a part of Maria's hand. As quickly as they

came, they disappeared into the darkness with the body parts.

The attackers were working for witch doctors, who want the albino girls' flesh for their magic charms. They believe albino flesh can help achieve instant wealth. These murderers were motivated by ignorance, witchcraft beliefs, and greed.

Regina and Maria, now live in fear for their lives. They need an education, a place of safety, security, and compassion. They were directed to come to Twing Memorial School. After hearing the story, we admitted them to school. A family was found who will take care of them for the present. We are working with a government agency to find them stable and secure lodging. As the Psalmist says in 34:18 "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

Regina and Maria found a safe place at TMS. They are so grateful for the opportunity to be at the school. This is only possible because you care. Thank you for your continued support, making education a reality for these young people.



African albinos endure insults, discrimination and segregation throughout their lives. They also have a high risk of contracting skin cancer in a region where many jobs are outdoors. Regina and Maria wear hats for protection from the sun.



TMS children are organized into their own Pathfinder Club. The only time they have uniforms to wear is at Camporee. The uniforms are owned and by the regional Church headquarters and are loaned to them for Camporee. They would like to have their own uniforms for the work they do in their communities.



BELOW: Early in the morning Twing Memorial School students are pared up, then inspected before entering class. Teachers check for cleanliness, their fingernails, hair, and their uniforms.



CURRENT NEEDS

- \$50 will educate one student at TMS for an entire year (*teachers salaries*). There are 532 students enrolled with 12 teachers.
- \$17,000 to repay Toyota Land Cruiser loan.
- \$840/month stipends for 12 full-time lay pastors.
- Uniforms (*Thank you to all who have supported this project. Polo shirts are funded.* Some students need navy blue skirts (*for girls*) and shorts (*for boys*).
- School supplies for students, e.g., pencils, paper, erasers, scissors, etc.
- Secondary school/college tuition for young people selected for advanced education.
- Bathrooms: Government agency required that they be moved, at a cost of \$2,000.
- There are many other needs; however, these needs are most critical now.

Twing Memorial Ministries is a member of Adventist-Laymen's Services for Industries (ASI).

The ministry is involved in evangelism, employs 12 lay pastors, a 12 full-time teachers and a headmaster for an elementary school, and educates young people beyond secondary school. Work is accomplished as TMM is blessed by donor support.



TWING MEMORIAL MINISTRIES

(TMM) is committed to the teaching, healing, and preaching ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and is a 501 (c) (3) organization. All gifts for this work are tax-deductible as allowed by law. This newsletter is published regularly to provide an update on TMM projects.

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Dear Ones,

My heart sings within me for the opportunity given Musa to serve as an officer in the Tanzania Union. From my house boy to a leader in the church! Praise God! He tells me the Union is very supportive of Twing Memorial School (TMS).

Heri Hospital is now under the supervision of the General Conference and the leadership at the hospital is anxious to work with Musa.

For years, many of you helped fund the education of men like Musa. My heart overflows with gratitude. My love to you,

Ethel



Pastor and Mrs. Mitekaro are now department directors for the Tanzanian Union Conference and have been away from their homes conducting revival and reformation meetings for churches. They have been in the Southern Highland of Tanzania. Many people have been attending the meetings.



Winfrida conducts Sabbath School and Women Ministries seminars, while her husband, Musa, was engaged in the revival and reformation meetings. What a team, working together in ministry!

Students Score

Roza, a student from TMS, was among the top 20 girls who scored the highest in standard four exams in the western area of Tanzania. All 20 were interviewed on a national television station and newspaper. She was a favorite for the way she answered the questions.

"What is the secret of your good performance?" she was asked. Her reply, "Prayer."

How can prayers help you?" was the next question. She answered, "At TMS we

pray before the teacher starts teaching, we pray before leaving the school, and we pray at home."

Then she quoted from memory Matthew 7:7-8: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

The next question was, "What do you want to be after your studies?" She responded, "I want to be a pilot and a medical doctor."

Then the last question, "Why?" Her reply was, "I want to help sick people who are not able to reach the hospitals." This was the very work that Dr. Twing was doing before his death. He flew out to some 20 clinics scattered about Heri Hospital.

Rahabu, another TMS student, did well in Science. She was asked, "What do you want to be after finishing your education?" She responded, "I want to be a medical doctor at Heri Adventist Hospital."

Zuhurah, her young sister and brother are well versed with Bible texts. They love God and pray at home. They are from Islamic background, but now they have learned about Christianity and Jesus.

Twing Memorial School is near Heri Adventist Hospital. At this time, we don't know what the future holds for these children who attend. Some will become doctors, pastors, nurses, teachers, engineers, to further the cause of our Heavenly Father.

In Africa we live in a spiritual world far different from the west. Satan demonstrates his lying power day and night, but at the same time, we are witnessing the miracles and the power of God's salvation. From deep in my heart, I am so much grateful for your prayers and gifts that make stories like this possible. May God richly bless you.

– Musa Mitekaro

