



July 2017

## THE BIG WHY?



Not only do people with albinism in Africa have to deal with various health issues that come along with their condition but they also live in great fear. Albinism stems from a genetic condition caused by a reduction in melanin, the pigment which colours skin, hair and eyes. Albinism causes extremely pale hair, skin and eyes, eyesight problems and sensitivity to light. While globally it affects approximately 1 in 20,000 people, in Tanzania and other parts of east Africa that figure is much higher, likely a result of kinship. Tanzania has one of the highest rates of albinism in the world, at 1 in 1,400 people. In Tanzania, though, if you are born with albinism then you start life with a price tag on your head; as many will exploit the superstitions surrounding albinism by killing them for good luck and selling their body parts to witch doctors for "charms and magical potions". Albino body parts are highly valued in witchcraft and can fetch a high price in the country. Superstition leads many to believe children with the condition are ghosts who bring bad luck. The fears and superstitions surrounding albinism run very deep in Tanzanian society. So deep that many women who give birth to a child with albinism are told to kill the baby at birth. If she refuses, she and the baby will become outcasts and they will live in constant fear for their lives. Rejected and cut-off from their families, they live separate from society in order to keep them safe. In some of the camps the living circumstances are horrible, with even basic care lacking.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4334330/Albinos-Tanzania-face-killed-body-parts.html#ixzz4mirZiILD>

***During our visit to Tanzania, we heard horrible stories of persecution of children and adults with albinism. You can see in the top picture, a young girl who lives at the Buhangija Centre lost her arm to these superstitions. We had no clue that this was happening in various parts of the world and when we heard about it our hearts broke for these precious children. They desperately need to hear how much God loves them and how God created them for a purpose. So when the opportunity came up for us to work with them, we took it in an instant while trusting God to figure out the rest of the way. We knew that this is a specific need that we both have the heart, skills, and readiness to help with.***

One of the main places we will be working at is Bungihja Centre. Buhangija Centre is a government-

run safe house for kids with albinism. Because of the circumstances, Buhangija gives them a safer place to grow up but once they become teens they are on their own. (That is why SHADE and the Lutheran church have both started programs to help young adults with albinism learn a trade.) The conditions of the Centre have not always been great. In the past couple of year, they have added on an operating preschool, a clinic for the children, and a wood-burning kitchen. Back during the Tanzanian national elections in 2015, there was an increase in people seeking black magic and an increase in crimes against people with albinism. The population at Buhangija increased to almost 500 kids. The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission thus provided money to have a larger kitchen built to better accommodate the need. Although there has been much improvement to the Centre in the past years, there is much more work to do there. We will be working there to keep improving the living and learning conditions for these children. We will help provide a home, care for the children's and staff's daily needs, and show them the love of Jesus in any way possible.



## Church Presentations

We recently traveled to *St. Timothy Lutheran Church*, our home church, and *Concordia Lutheran Church* to share more details about what we will be doing in Tanzania and why we feel called there. It was so nice to see people that we haven't seen in a while as well as share our hearts with them. We were overwhelmed by the support and encouragement everyone offered! Thank you for having us and partnering with us on this journey.

On August 13th, we will be at *Community of Hope* in Houston. Please join us at their 10am service if you want to learn more about our upcoming mission work in Tanzania.

If there are any small groups that would be interested in hearing a detailed presentation on our journey to Tanzania, we would love to come speak to your group! Feel free to contact us about this opportunity.

## Support Discovery Spotlight

As mentioned in our last newsletter, our costs are divided into two categories: Out-going and On-going. To be transparent, we will use a little of our newsletter these next two months to outline the costs of this work. Imagine that your family was leaving everything behind. What would you need to start a life in a new place? This is the question we have asked ourselves. Here's what made our list for out-going expenses:

- Vision Trips (\$4,500): In order to figure out, where God was calling us we took a vision trip to Tanzania. We fell in love with the country, people, and opportunity.
- Support Discovery Expenses (\$300): As we travel around gathering support from churches in the U.S., this covers some of our printing expenses.

- Legal Costs (\$2,000): To work in Tanzania, we have to file much paperwork and get our work and resident visas, which we are already in process of receiving.
- Plane tickets (\$4,000): To work there, we have to get there.
- Language School (\$4,500): In order to better connect to the people and culture we need to know the language so we will be attending a specialized school with a home stay to learn Kiswahili.
- Used vehicle with 4-wheel drive (\$9,000): A necessary to maneuver the "roads" that lead to each of the organizations.
- Moving Costs (\$2,500): Finally, there are all the pieces of life we forget about until we don't have them, i.e. a refrigerator, a stove, a small window air-conditioning unit for hot nights, a bed, a table, chairs, a dresser, linens, dishes, utensils, etc. Though we will make an effort to live simply, there are many little things that make a house a home.
- GLO Home Office Support (\$2,680): GLO operates on a tithe system (10%). This money covers extraneous costs like the GLO website, our field training, and other office related costs. Most organizations take a much higher percentage.

It all adds up to an estimated \$29,480, which will need in total to be able to move our lives to Tanzania, but we know with your help God will provide.



***As of now, we have raised \$5,630 of the \$61,050 we need total for our first year in Tanzania. Before we can leave the U.S., we need \$48,422 in cash and pledges.***

## Prayer Requests

- Thanksgiving for Austin's promotion at his current job and for the generosity of our partners.
- For albino population in Tanzania, especially the abandoned young children.
- Provision of funds for us to live in Tanzania.

### ***How To Partner With Us Financially:***

Make checks out to  
"Global Lutheran Outreach".

Write "REED" in the memo line.

Mail to **Global Lutheran Outreach**

6709 Ficus Drive,  
Miramar, FL, 33023  
OR

You can give online using credit or debit  
card at our website.

\*All donations are tax deductible.\*

### **THRIVENT MEMBERS:**

Choice Dollars® charitable grant funds can make a world of difference to our organization as we work together to send missionaries! Your Choice Dollars directed to Global Lutheran Outreach go to GLO's "Global Missionary Fund" (unless we are otherwise informed). Our Global Missionary Fund supports GLO missionaries who are underfunded or are experiencing a temporary shortfall in funding. **Directing Choice Dollars is easy.** Simply go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more and find program terms and conditions. **Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.**

*For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" Romans 10:13-15*