SUMBAWANGA, TANZANIA

FREEDOM & HEALING IN CHRIST!



From Fear to Freedom in Christ

By Rob Welch

Jesus told His disciples "Fear not" or "Don't be afraid" over 100 times in the Bible. Jesus clearly wants people to be freed from the power and bondage of fear. The Lord called you, our friends and partners in the Gospel, to send us to Sumbawanga, Tanzania, a city gripped with fear.

Witchcraft and other false religions have kept the people of Sumbawanga in spiritual and physical bondage for generations. In fact, the name Sumbawanga literally means "Our witchcraft is better than yours"! Since Sumbawanga was known as the witchcraft capital of Tanzania, we knew we would face serious spiritual warfare.

Knowing that so many of you were praying for us and that "Greater is He that is in us than he who is in the world" strengthened us in the battle! With this knowledge, we brought the hope of the Gospel to the people of Sumbawanga, confronting their fears and showing them the way to freedom in Christ. However, it wasn't without resistance from the enemy. (Cont'd inside on page 2) Trained in T4T!

5,807 People

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Rob Welch Giving the Call to Christ at the Festival, Sunday, June 6

Tony Vincent, who leads our Africa ministry team, expressed how challenging mission preparations were for our team. Both Tony and Samuel Ongondo and their families contracted COVID in the weeks prior to the festival. In March, Tanzanian President John Pombe Magufuli died unexpectedly and the nation had an official 14-day mourning period following the president's death. There was significant opposition from churches that chose not to participate in the festival, and many of the festival posters were torn down by people who were opposed to the Gospel.

During the festival, at least ten women who were practicing witches were sent by Satan to curse the festival. This plan backfired on the devil, as each one of these women was delivered from demon possession and received Jesus as their Savior at the festival! This reminds me of how the Apostle Paul describes his mission from the Lord in Acts 26: "To open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."

The 5-day festival was the perfect environment for the launch of a disciple-making movement in this city. The Lord blessed us with the vast majority of the people in attendance responding to the invitation to receive Jesus, with 56,125 people making recorded commitments for Christ!

Above all, we saw the Lord drawing people to Himself and setting them free from fear and bondage! We praise the Lord for all that He has done and all that He continues to do in Sumbawanga as a movement is being birthed there.

Thank you for sending us and helping to spread the Gospel to places like Sumbawanga! There is nothing better than seeing captives being set free by the power of the Holy Spirit!



Rob Welch Preaching at the Festival



Powerful, Confirming Signs of Healing!

By Mike Osterhoff

The man in the Adidas shirt (below) came to the festival seeking healing for intense pain in his stomach and was unable to use his legs. He met us in the tent next to the festival and sought prayer. Before praying for him, we shared with him the love of Christ and he received Jesus as his Lord and Savior. We explained that we would all now pray in unity as brothers in Christ for his pain to be removed and for restoration of his legs.

Praise God - the pain completely left him and he was restored and





Having arrived at the tent next to the Festival, the 19-year old lady (above) was suffering terribly from diabetes. She was weak, pale and in much pain. Joy Bulus received this young lady and prayed over her in the Name of Jesus. Joy explained that she had no power to heal and that we pray only in the powerful Name of Christ.

After prayer, the young lady felt much stronger, was no longer pale and reported that all the pain had completely left her body. She was so thankful to Jesus!

We met this young woman (to right) at the deaf school in Sumbawanga. She has no ear on her left side and only a slight reconstructed ear on her right side from an accident she was in several years ago that left her deaf. We shared the love of Christ with her and explained that we would pray for her in the powerful Name of Christ.

After praying for her, her hearing was opened and she repeated the words Hallelujah when spoken from behind her!





We met these young men outside the local corner pub as they were sitting on their motorcycles. We talked to them about who Christ was and how much He loved each one of them. We invited those in the group to receive Christ as their Savior. Thank God many chose to pray with us in receiving Christ into their life. A street boy named Jaffed (whose shoulder Pastor Don has his hand upon), had also joined us.

Jaffed was both deaf and mute so we prayed for him in the Name of Jesus. Jaffed immediately received his hearing! He then began attempting to repeat the Word Yesu (Jesus in Swahili) as his tongue began to loosen!

We praised God as a group and encouraged the other young men who knew Jaffed to continue to talk with him and help him learn how to speak.



Jim Lindemann Brings Discipleship Multiplication to Life with an Avocado

By Mark Levesque

Some of the most important trainings we did in Sumbawanga, Tanzania, were during the Key Leader sessions. These sessions are so significant because they prepare the top leaders in the churches for the launch of a disciple-making movement. Based on the feedback we received from the participants, the most impactful session this year was Jim's avocado demonstration.

Jim began by saying that God made avocados as an important source of essential nutrients because He loves and provides for us. Jim went on to say that if you eat the avocado and throw away the seed you only have one, but if you plant the seed, you'll grow an avocado tree that, on average, will have 200 avocados on it.

If you plant each of those 200 avocado seeds, you'll have 40,000 avocados. If you then plant each of those avocado seeds, you'll have 8 million avocados!

Jim summed up his demonstration by pointing out that the Training for Trainers (T4T) model applies the same principles of multiplication. Disciples making disciples who make disciples is like planting the avocado seeds. If we keep training disciple makers, we will eventually see millions come to faith in Christ!





Joy Bulus Leads a Life-Changing Event

By Mike Osterhoff

The Women's Conference in Sumbawanga was a life-changing event for the over 400 women in attendance during the two-day conference. The conference was led by Joy Bulus. Joy's background and stories resonated with so many of the women who responded to the call of going out into the community and sharing the love of Christ with others.

They learned how to lead a T4T group, the importance of praying as a group for the Holy Spirit to lead them and how important it was to study God's Word in their T4T group each week.

We praise God for the amazing love Joy showed to each of the women who were so encouraged by her teaching!



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