
MISSIONS IMPACT

Beyond All Expectation

Dr. Lena and Patrick Wensel have been serving with CVM as long-term field workers in Tanzania since 2017. They recently hosted their first short-term veterinary team through CVM to help support their outreach to an unreached people group. Even with high hopes for the success of this team, the Lord went beyond their expectations to use this short-term service to surge their ministry forward. Here is their story.



The US team worked side-by-side with Dr. Dawson and the Tanzanian team

A short-term team of five (four veterinarians and one spouse) from the US joined Dr. Lena and Patrick together with a Tanzanian team of pastors and translators, evangelist families, vets and paravet workers. Their goal was simple enough: to host an animal health clinic while building critical relationships within the unreached community they were serving and showing neighborly love.

What wasn't simple were the circumstances the team faced. Leading up to the clinic and ministry outreach, the Tanzanian evangelists serving in this area had been experiencing various acts of persecution, with clear signs that they were not welcome in this new community.

It was difficult to build relationships, and their families' health and welfare had been endangered multiple times. The team didn't know if any people or animals would show up to their animal health clinic, which made it challenging to plan for the correct quantities of vaccines and dewormers to purchase ahead of time.



The veterinary work became an event for the whole community



Dr. Jerry Kolb and Dr. Lena working with the cattle



The team had a great opportunity to connect with many children

As always, God’s provision was not only enough but surpassed all expectations.

During the outreach, the short-term team worked alongside the Tanzanians to treat 620 cattle, 84 donkeys, 280 sheep, 390 goats, and any of the dogs and cats that also came along – a huge task! So many animals showed up that it seemed they would run out of blackleg vaccine for the cattle – something that this community specifically needed.

The team prayed for provision for the next day—one specifically prayed for a “loaves and fish” miracle. Not only did the vaccine not run out, but it seemed to multiply overnight and there was excess remaining after the last cow was treated.

God also provided through their evangelistic efforts: on the first day of the clinic about 15 children’s Bibles in Swahili were distributed to kids from unreached families. The team didn’t know how the parents would respond and if the children would be allowed to return the next day.

To their surprise, as an answer to prayer about 100 children showed up for day 2, and the accompanying adults even asked why there were no Bibles for them! The love of Christ was, through these kids and animals, welcomed into so many homes where Christ had not been known before. Praise the Lord for using this short-term team beyond all expectations.