



CROSSING THE SEAS WITH THE CAPRARIS

“Reaching the nations by discipling and empowering nationals and internationals in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania”

August 2019

Suggu & Schwarmas | Suleiman & Sugar Cane Juice

We’ve known Suggu for two years now. He is Indian by descent but has lived around the world. His father works for the richest man in Tanzania. Suggu was a student at Haven of Peace Academy and this year he invited us to a Hindu religious festival in a town called Diwali. At ten at night we got schwarmas together and talked. A few hours later the festivities began, with hundreds of Indians shooting off fireworks in a dedicated field in downtown Dar es Salaam. A bond was formed.

We met Suleiman, a Tanzanian, a few years ago when we first discovered the chicken restaurant where he works on the side of the road—the closest thing to fast food here in Tanzania. Suleiman doesn’t cook the chicken or fries; he serves the sugar cane juice. Suleiman is from Pemba, an island off the coast of Dar es Salaam that is 99.9% Muslim, one of the most unreached places in the world. One day he invited me to meet one of his other friends in Pemba, where we shared a delicious meal rich with spices and carried on to his friend’s place of work, another side-of-the-road restaurant that serves the most flavorful octopus soup in town. A relationship was established.

A few more conversations over schwarmas with Suggu and he has confessed his belief in Jesus as the Son of God. He loves listening to Hillsong United worship songs and is working through a discipleship book. Praise God.

A few more talks over sugar cane juice with Suleiman, and he has kept conversation open about the differences between Islamic faith and the Christian faith. He loves debating about who Jesus (or Isa) is and what the gospels (Injili) say about Him. Meanwhile many of his family and friends back on the island have no idea that there is a Bible that says all these things about Jesus. Praise God for this open door.



A worship night at HOPAC led by a student worship band and speakers.



At a Dar es Salaam church plant, Naomi and a member of the church holding the twins!

Ministry Focus | Unreached People Groups

As we look forward to the next few years, we get excited and turn our focus to these opportunities. We believe God has put us in a unique place at a unique time to carry out this unique purpose: to reach the nations by discipling and empowering nationals and internationals in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

At Haven of Peace Academy, where John is one of the chaplains, we have a unique opportunity to minister to students, like Suggu, who come from unreached areas of the world. We also get the chance to mobilize young believers to be intentional with their faith to be part of reaching unreached peoples, wherever they might be.

In the churches we partner with, there are leaders who are ready to be empowered and mobilized to do the work God has called them to do. For example, we had a simple conversation with Isack which led him to plant a church in the town where he lives. That church has gone on to plant another church and is surveying another area to start a church. He has also held conferences which have served to get other young people excited about advancing the gospel. There are many other potential opportunities like this one.





Naomi holding the twins at church.

In Dar es Salaam we have unique opportunities to meet people from unreached people groups, like Suleiman from Pemba, who seem to have a general openness to new and different ideas because they live in the city. Not only that, but Dar es Salaam is strategically located near most of the 30 remaining unreached people groups along the coast of Tanzania, which are primarily influenced by the Islamic faith.

An unreached people group is a people group among which there is no local or homegrown community of followers of Jesus with adequate numbers and resources to reach the remaining in the people group without outside assistance. As we think about our role as outsiders in this country, we believe that there is no greater impact we can have on fulfilling our calling than to be that outside assistance for unreached people groups. We believe we can best accomplish that by mobilizing others to be that outside assistance in order to bring the full gospel to unreached people, both those who live in or have migrated to Dar es Salaam, still live among their people groups in their hard-to-reach villages, and those who are students at Haven of Peace Academy.

Family Update

A lot has happened in the Caprari family since our last letter as well. We are now 5 total instead of 3. On February 18 our two newest daughters were born into this world. They are now 5 months old and doing amazing.

Pray!

- Pray for new believers like Srinivas and Lepakshi who come from Hindu backgrounds and who have come to know Jesus through the ministry at HOPAC.
- Pray for our family to find good rhythms and routines to the way we do life in this next season as we approach our 3rd year at HOPAC and look towards other ministry opportunities as well.
- Pray for HOPAC students who graduated this year and who are studying at universities around the world.
- Pray for people to rise up and use their lives for missions and for the church in Tanzania to have a heart for missions and reaching the unreached.
- Pray for the church plant in Dar es Salaam which continues to grow and expand its ministries, and its pastor, Meshack Mzaliwa, who just got married in June to Anna Kipaka.

John, Naomi, Ellie, Esther, and Eva Caprari



John, who was chosen by the seniors, had the opportunity to address them with a message at their graduation.



The family with Meshack, pastor of a church plant in Dar, with his new wife, Anna.