

# **DIocese OF TABORA**

**Anglican Church of  
Tanzania**

**Bishop:  
Francis N Ntiruka**

**PO Box 1408  
TABORA  
TANZANIA  
East Africa**

**Tel: +255 26  
2604124**

**E-mail:  
[acttbr@taboraonline.com](mailto:acttbr@taboraonline.com)**

## ***Our Three Main Priorities...***

### ***EVANGELISM***

The official figures for Tanzania state that 1/3 of the population is Muslim, 1/3 Christian, and 1/3 follow traditional religious beliefs. Our Diocese seems to reflect this quite strongly. Tabora town, being on a former slave trading route, has a very strong Islamic influence, and many of our rural communities are under the influence of traditional religious beliefs and practices, many not having a church of any denomination.

It is in this context that we aim to bring the Good News of Christ so that all will have the opportunity to hear the Gospel and be given the opportunity to respond to it by believing in him and receiving eternal life. Every Parish and congregation is encouraged to be involved in evangelism, and evangelism is a major element of our training programmes.

All though evangelism is the responsibility of all Christians we have established the Evangelism Department which aims to promote evangelism and be a resource to the Parishes. Between 2000 and 2003 the department ran a donor supported Church Planting Programme which trained and sent 15 evangelists who started 34 new congregations adding around 1400 people to the worshipping population of the Diocese.

The Diocesan office also hosts the regional office of the Jesus Film Ministry and involves them in much of our evangelistic and church planting activities.

### ***TRAINING***

Many of the Christians in the Diocese, and even some of their leaders, have a very limited understanding of the Christian faith. This leads from and to poor and often unbiblical teaching. We therefore need well-trained and well-equipped laity and clergy to lead our congregations. To meet this need the Tabora Anglican Training Centre (TATC) was established to train Evangelists who bear much of the responsibility for leading most of our congregations. We run a three-month and six-month course and aim to have every congregation led by someone who has completed both of these courses.

Our clergy are trained to either certificate or diploma level at other Theological colleges in the Province. We have also been able to send a few of the Clergy overseas to study to Degree or Masters level. We believe it is essential to have appropriately educated leaders at all levels of leadership in the Diocese.

We also have a department for Theological Education by Extension (TEE) aiming to improve theological understanding and leadership through group work and seminars in the Parishes and through assignments by correspondence.

Virtually all our theological education is heavily subsidised from friends and partners of the Diocese overseas.

TATC runs an annual course for Sunday School Teachers. We also aim to have an annual seminar for clergy and their spouses. Training and education is a major emphasis of much of the work of almost every department of the Diocese.

### ***DEVELOPMENT***

We work among some of the poorest people on the planet. We believe that it is our responsibility to demonstrate God's love for humanity by ministering to the whole person, looking to their physical needs as well as their spiritual needs. It is for this reason we have a department for development that aims to assist the community in improving living conditions as well as to encourage and empower them to lift themselves out of poverty.

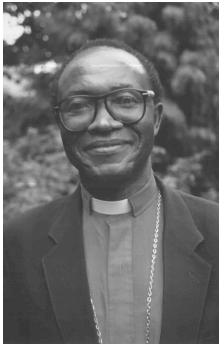
Much of the work of the Development Department until recently has been the digging of wells to provide clean and safe water supplies. Education in hygiene and sanitation going hand in hand with this.

With the increase in the devastating problem of HIV/AIDS the department has recently been able to obtain funds to tackle this issue. Education through seminars in the communities to increase awareness and understanding of HIV/AIDS, to influence sexual behaviour, and to give practical teaching on living with or caring for those infected with HIV/AIDS virus.

Agricultural improvement programmes, income generating projects and small loan schemes are also part of the department's work.

## WHO WE ARE

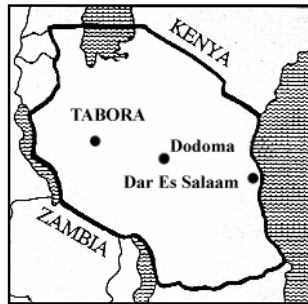
The Anglican Diocese of Tabora was inaugurated in July 1989 under the leadership of its Bishop, The Rt Rev Francis Ntiruka. It was formed out of the Diocese of Western Tanganyika to enable the efforts to reach people in this area to be more concentrated and effective.



When Bishop Francis began there were 10 parishes with a total of 35 congregations. Now there are 27 Parishes with over 120 congregations – 34 of which were started between 2001 and 2003. There are a total of approximately 10,000 worshipping Anglicans in the Diocese. The Diocese is part of the Province of the Anglican Church of Tanzania, part of the world-wide Anglican Communion.

## WHERE WE ARE

The Diocese of Tabora covers 96,000km of rural western Tanzania, East Africa. This is about one tenth of the area of mainland Tanzania. Approximately 2 million people live in the region, around 200,000 in Tabora municipality. Most people are involved in subsistence agriculture - in other words they grow the food they need to feed themselves and their families. However, there are some cash crops – mainly tobacco, rice and maize. The region is very poor especially after several years of failed or poor harvests due to extreme and unusual weather patterns.



## HEALTH

A new department under the Development Department was established in 1999 to develop health care facilities within the Diocese. In March 2001 the newly built St Philip's Clinic was opened to serve two communities just outside of Tabora town. The high quality service has drawn people from the far reaches of the region to seek treatment. At the beginning of 2003 the clinic was already the busiest out-patient facility in the region. The Clinic is now being developed to admit patients and offer a wider range of services particularly HIV counselling and testing and a low cost mosquito net project aiming at reducing malaria which is by far the most common problem treated at the Clinic.

## YOUTH

Youth in Tanzania means anyone from the age of 12 to 35. Therefore this group consists of nearly 75% of the population. In most congregations the youth meet together to form the choirs - music and dancing being a very important part of community life. The Diocesan Youth Department aims to be a resource to the youth of each parish organising youth events, camps and seminars, often mixing biblical teaching with life issues such as HIV/AIDS, marriage, and income generation – unemployment being a huge problem with people in this age group. The youth department is also involved in secondary school work where local ministers are given the religion classes to teach. This is an opportunity that the department hopes to develop.

## WOMEN & CHILDREN

The Diocesan Mothers Union aims to minister to women and children, to help them understand the word of God and overcome the extreme difficulties they face in life. Teaching includes subjects such as HIV/AIDS, as well as giving practical teaching on issues such as nutrition, health, family values and setting up small income generating projects.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE IN OUR MINISTRY

- PEOPLE** We have benefited enormously from people coming to Tabora to share their skills and time with us, both as short-term volunteers and longer term mission partners.
- PRAYER** We believe in the power of prayer and ask for your prayer support for the development of our work. If you would like to receive our annual news and prayer letter please fill in the coupon above.
- POCKETS** The Diocese could not survive without the generous financial contributions made by friends and partners, and we ask you to consider if God is prompting you to share in our ministry in this way.

**For further information – please e-mail or write to us at the address overleaf**

*Please complete:*

Name:  
Address:

E-mail:

I would like to receive the annual Diocesan newsletter.

- I would like to find out more on how to financially support:
- a new church plant
  - A student at the Bible school.
  - Training of a Pastor.
  - Health related project

I enclose a gift of US\$/ GB£ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please specify if for a particular purpose or project:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(cheques made payable to "Friends of Tabora Diocese")