

## From one small seed...



In November 2007 Katy Morgan and Esther Sutherland, both aged 13, came on the *Rooted in Jesus* team to Kibaya, Tanzania. While the adult members of the team worked with the *Rooted in Jesus* group leaders in the cathedral, Katy and Esther spent a week in the English speaking primary school which forms part of the cathedral compound. It is a boarding school, with many of the pupils children of pastors. Katy and Esther helped in lessons, but also ran, on the Saturday, an open air prayer workshop. They gathered the children in a circle under a tree, offered some simple teaching about prayer, and enabled the children to pray for one another in turn as each came into the centre of the circle. For the children this was the first time anyone had told them that they could bring their own needs to the Lord in prayer, and the first time they had experienced prayer for healing. Katy and Esther weren't sure how it had gone, but the head teacher told us the next day that all the children were talking excitedly about it and telling those who had not been present what they had missed.

Just over two years on, we have learned what those children have done with what they received that day. They began to meet for an hour each evening to pray. They established a pattern of prayer before church on Sundays, meeting together to pray and praise God for an hour before the service begins. This still continues, and has deepened the faith not just of the children but also of the English adult volunteers who have observed it. But many of the children also returned to their villages and passed on what they had discovered. The result is that in villages all over the Kiteto area children are now seen regularly and spontaneously praying with and for one another.



And so from one small seed, the Lord has brought great growth – to the surprise and delight of two uncertain 13 year olds who were doing their best, with almost no adult assistance, to pass on to children in a completely different culture some of the things they had learned at home.

Here is an extract from Katy's original reflections on the visit (for the full article see <http://www.resource-arm.net/articles/neverforget.pdf>).

"In Tanzania, in this school, the children are taught very formal prayer. They sing a little song for grace before meal times. They knew no communications with God except the most proper, official ones. They were astounded when Esther and I came into their midst and got them to pray together. We asked them if they were ill; some said yes, some no. We put them into groups and asked them to pray for each other within their little circles. Next, we asked everyone who was ill to stand in the middle of a circle we'd formed. We ended up with three-quarters in the middle and one-quarter round the outside, so we formed a big huddle. The headmaster asked them to touch the part of them that hurt, and I prayed for them all.

Later on I glimpsed the headmaster talking earnestly to my mum. I asked her what about just afterwards, and she explained that all of the children who we'd prayed for had been telling everyone else how wonderful the prayer session had been. What we hadn't realised was how very formal their prayer was, and that they'd just never come across healing prayer before. Praying together, for each other: it was all new. They were asking for more.

The evening before our departure, I wrote a note to the children. *Never forget that you can talk to God whenever you want*, it said. *He will always listen to you*.

Esther and I sowed some seeds in these children's hearts: as my mum put it, two Christian girls coming, making their afternoons interesting and helping them to pray for each other is not something children forget in a hurry. I'll never forget my experience in Tanzania, ever. The seeds are sown, and soon the faith of these children will blossom into fruit-bearing Christians, through the will of God. I feel so honoured that God worked through me and pray that He will do so again."

Alison Morgan, in conversation with Bishop John Hayden, March 2010. Website [www.rootedinjesus.net](http://www.rootedinjesus.net).