

Rooted in Jesus Tanzania Reflection

Liz Borrajo, August 2011

Liz Borrajo is a trainee teacher, and in July 2011 she joined a Rooted in Jesus Junior team to the Diocese of Masasi, Tanzania. After the conference she stayed on to do some teaching practice in a primary and then a secondary school. Liz reflects on her experiences:

Before going out to Tanzania to be a part of the Rooted in Jesus Team, I felt comfortably prepared because of the amount of information in literature form I had received (Alison thank you the outlines and information booklets for the conference and general things to know and bring regarding Tanzania are so helpful). Jonathan also answered numerous questions for me and gave me a very good outline of the conference. I was so impressed with how sorted the accommodation/travelling and other general practical arrangements were once getting out there, Jonathan truly knows how to get around and live in Tanzania!

The actual conference I felt ran really well, with the participants being keen to learn and the translators very willing to translate us (sometimes maybe slightly too willing). I particularly enjoyed the workshops, which gave an hour and a half to really get into depth with the group I was working with, on the workshop topic. Since my workshop was 'How do children learn' I particularly focused on the idea of making Sunday school teaching interactive and alive (the handbook seems to concentrate a lot on discipline – which actually is something the Tanzanians didn't seem to need encouraging with).



Although at first it took some encouragement to persuade them to pretend and put themselves into the shoes of the children they usually teach – they were soon enjoying using drama, role-play, songs and other interactive forms of teaching the Bible stories and Sunday school material. Sonia and Jonathan were both a real encouragement and support for me, especially since I hadn't ever led Bible studies or ministry talks in front of so many people before. God truly provided in many a situation and at times when I would expect to feel so nervous and scared (because of talking on a topic which I was by no means an expert in and in front of what for me was such a lot of people) I felt calm and ready to speak his word – we serve an amazing God!

After finishing the week work as part of the RinJ team I then went on to teach at Mnara primary school. I found it quite a challenge to adapt from the well equipped primary schools I'm used to teaching in, to the bare classrooms with a chalk board. However once again I saw God's hand in the situation and I loved teaching my classes! Since I have little to none Kiswahilli, at times teaching English was a bit of a challenge but it worked out well and also because of the situation I picked up some Kiswahilli too. The school teachers were so friendly to me, insisting on giving me breakfast each day and making sure I was happy. During the afternoons I also taught an adult English class at the Rhondo secondary school, which was brilliant and all of the adults were so keen to learn.

I found the entire experience amazing, which may seem a simple way to put it, but the way the trip combined challenges, seeing God work, amazing people and the beautiful place that is Tanzania was just brilliant! The people I met whilst out in Tanzania were just so abundantly hospitable and friendly, so hospitable in fact that the amount of bottles of fizzy drinks I was kindly given, probably means that a dentist trip should soon be organised! 😊

Thank you Alison to yourself and Jonathan for giving me this amazing opportunity, I honestly feel very blessed to have been a part of this RinJ team.

Liz joined a Rooted in Jesus Junior team to the Diocese of Masasi, August 2011. To read more about the conferences please click [here](#).