



## CHURCH PLANTING IN TANZANIA

With vast expanses of untamed wilderness, Tanzania is teeming with opportunity for those with an adventurous spirit. Over 125 people groups live on the plateau of the Great Rift Valley, along the coast of the Indian Ocean, and on inland savannahs. The country hosts some of the most biologically diverse species of wildlife on the planet. Dr. Livingstone lived here, taking huge strides in abolishing slavery.

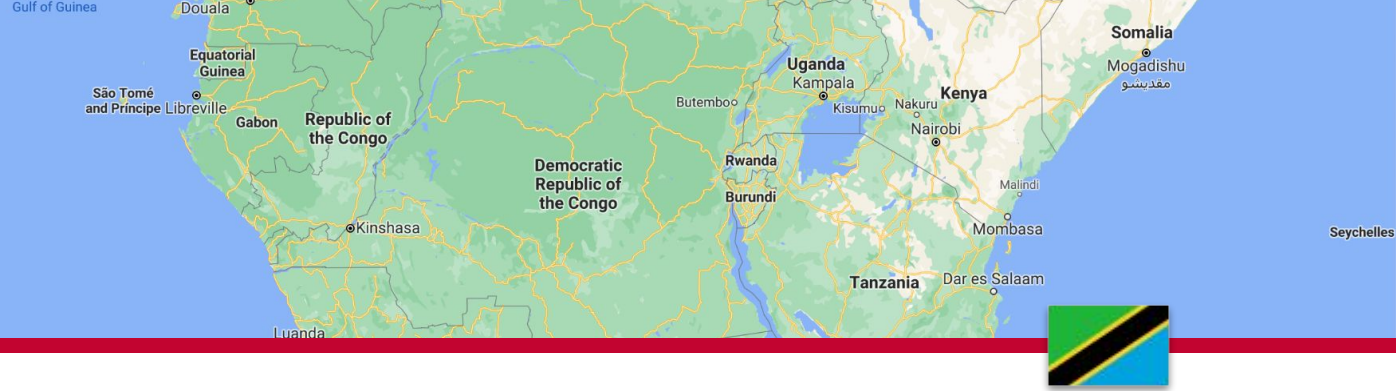
### The Purpose

The Tanzanian people are mostly Bantu tribes, but there is a significant Arab influence. Arab families resettled in Tanzania during the spice and slave trades of the 1500s, and as a result, Islam has impacted the people, its influence still felt today. Of 125 people groups throughout the country, 28 of them are unreached with the majority living in highly Muslim areas.

However, the most influential of all the religions in the country is animism. It is the unspoken religion, and its principles dominate the worldviews of over 90% of the population. It influences people of every level of society from wealthy to impoverished. The Tanzanian people need help from the Lord to overcome this darkness.

### Tanzania Needs the Truth of the Gospel!

- **80% of Tanzanians are Farmers.**
- **90% of Tanzanians practice animism or witchcraft.**
- **Less than 2 are evangelical.**



## The Task

Avant is focused on the 28 unreached people groups, engaging these communities through pioneer church planting. The ideal team will be sent to live with them, build relationships, and share their faith in Jesus.

Ministry will vary depending on location. Medical services and training, English classes, sport programs, and farming are all good options. Field workers are encouraged to discover the open doors for the gospel in their own areas.

***“There is never a dull moment, each day is an adventure, and God is in it all!”***

## The Fit

We need people that like adventure and are willing to take risks to see the gospel proclaimed to the unreached. Hearty, adaptable, and driven qualities are a must for individuals and families to serve here. A mature faith is essential.

Specific vocations that would be useful include: medical professionals, midwives, teachers, mechanics, farmers, builders and craftsmen and anyone else that is willing to be stretched by God in unimagined roles.

## The Realities

Western and Tanzanian culture are poles apart. Tanzanian life operates at an extremely slow pace. It is a communal culture with low education, and people in general do not understand the concept of personal space. One will have to learn how to cook from scratch as goods are not always readily available.

Opposition to ministry comes from the enemy through Islam, witchcraft, and even other non-biblical churches.

All missionaries attend 4 months of language school and several months more of cultural awareness training before entering their ministry area.

There are many things that can kill you here: driving, insects, snakes, people, and bad weather. Be ready to give up “creature comforts” to share the gospel.

## The Commitment

The need is urgent for mid term (2+ years) and long term missionaries (7+ years).