

- **The Joy of Working Under**

I have often worked in contexts in which American and European missionaries are in charge. Sometimes, in the course of events, I can sense ways in which that 'old me' would want to



engage. The 'old me' is the one who wants to solve problems for people. When we Westerners do that with our superior knowledge and money, unfortunately we can disenfranchise local people ...

Instead now and here, my reaction is the opposite: 'no way am I going to take an initiative' ... Local people take initiative and solve the

problem in their way (or leave the problem 'unsolved' in their way) with me as bystander ...

- **A Name co-incidence**

A missionary called Jim Harris was eaten by natives of the Erromango Island in the south Pacific in 1839! I had not before realised that I had such a famous ancestor ... For details see:



<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1233952/Sorry-ate-great-great-grandpa-Island-cannibals-apologise-killing-missionary-170-years-ago.html>



- **Flooding**

Caught out! The compound of the bible college I am at in Tanzania was recently flooded. This was as a result of heavy rain, and a blocked drainage system. Although reluctant to do so at the beginning ... I eventually took out my camera and took a few photos of our compound,

turned into a lake. “How much money will you make out of that photo?” a colleague immediately asked. Later, in another discussion; “let’s see the photo” he said ... “how much money have you made out of it?” he added. ... Hence I feel justified in not taking too many photos! I also realise, that my warm welcome deep into this indigenous Tanzanian context is conditional on my ‘good behaviour’, which includes not using funds to buy influence, and not using contexts of ‘poverty’ to raise funds ...

- **Windows in trouble**

Since coming in Tanzania, I have discovered that the version of windows on my laptop is pirated, so my computer keeps giving me warnings, and may freeze up or explode or something on 11th Feb. Pray that this not happen so that I can keep on using my computer till I get it to the repair-man back in Kenya!

- **To Church in West of Tanzania**

Instead of going straight home, I have committed to visiting a Coptic church in the West of Tanzania. I am to travel with a Tanzanian colleague who is to help me in teaching, taking two days by bus to get to Kigoma, which you will see on this picture is 922 km away. Although there is only one church there, they tell me it has a regular attendance of 5,000.

Much of my trip will be roughly along the old ‘slave route’ once popular by Arab slave traders, along which route there are now a lot of African-Muslims.

- **‘We’re Better’**

Many Western people who know that everyone else in the world really wants to emigrate to the USA or to Western Europe are of the opinion that they are better than other people in the world. This begs the question: why then do countries from where those citizens are fleeing so as to come to Europe or the USA, often not want Westerners to settle in their home countries? (Immigration is being made much more difficult in many parts of East Africa.) I suggest that the reason people are fleeing their countries to come to Europe is the same reason they don’t want



Europeans taking up permanent residency in their countries; because Europeans 'are of the opinion that they are better than other people in the world'! It might be ok to visit people who always know they are better, or to have them visit you, but they are a nuisance if they have money and they stay too long in your back-yard! ??

Thanks for your prayers,

Jim Harries