MAGOMENI CHURCH OF CHRIST
TANZANIA CHURCH HISTORY

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HISTORY
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CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT IN TANZANIA

The church established the first congregation in Tanzania in earlier 1953, by then the country was known as Tanganyika. The missionaries who came from Malawi to preach the Gospel in those days in the country, they were led by missionary known as Andrew Connally and his fellow known as James Judd. In those days our country was under colonialism rulings and many of these colonists were the members of Catholic and Protestant denominations.

Andrew Connally and James Judd were intending to establish the Church of Christ by preaching the Gospel. But before that, they decided to ask for the government's permission to establish the Church of Christ in the country. The colonialism government at the time refused their request. The missionaries did not despair; they decided to buy the farm in the suburb known as Chosi in Chimala area located at Mbeya region and the farm was known as Chosi Farm.

After purchasing the farm, the missionaries returned to the United States to prepare their strategy and tell other resolution of their plan and these initiatives were undertaken in 1953.

After a few months they returned to Tanzania with other fellows known as Guy Caskey, Mattel, Peter and Eldered Echors and they intended to implement their plan. When they returned they were checked in the hotel at the white people suburb in Chimala.

The missionaries employed some laborers to look after the farm that bought before and most of those workers were the citizens from Malawi, led by Ephroni Mtenga. In that farm, crops of corn and garden vegetables were planted.

After living in a while at the white suburb hotel the missionaries led by Andrew Connaly bought the hotel. The place which hotel existed is the same place which Chimala Mission established the church building, three primary and secondary schools, hospital buildings, and workers residency.

The missionaries then bought another farm at Kitekelo area which at that time was the part of Mbeya region but now days countable as part of Makete district in Iringa region. The missionaries then build the first Bible School here in Tanzania at that area and the school at that time was known as Tanganyika Bible School.

In order to receive the permission from the government to establish the Church of Christ in the country the missionaries decided to convince the government by building and establish hospital service to the public.

When Tanganyika gained independence in 1961, the Government of Tanganyika decided to give the missionaries permission to establish the Church of Christ in the country in 1963 but before that the -
Government first gave them permission to build a mission hospital in at Chimala as they were intended before.

The hospital opened by the first president of Tanganyika, called Mwalimu Julias. K. Nyerere in 1965.

The Government of Tanganyika then permitted Church registration in 1963, three years after the Tanganyika gained independence. That is why the Church was registered in the name of “TANGANYIKA CHURCH OF CHRIST OF CHIMALA MISSION & HOSPITAL” Because the government of Tanganyika at the time were instructed the missionaries to build a hospital to assist the public in order to receive permission for Church registration.

But unfortunately one of these missionaries by the name of Math 1 Peter, who came with Adrew Connaly in the second trip, was involved in a road accident while riding a motorcycle and died. After that, Echoris Guy Coskey, David Coskey and Dr. Mays and some few missionaries remained with Andrew Connaly.

After a while, Dale Dennis who was still at Chimala, as a Bible School teacher in Kitekelo, he also suffered a serious car accident, together with his wife and the mission had to take them back to America for further treatment. After the surgery he removed his one spleen from his body and left with one spleen. His wife had an accident while she was pregnant. After she gave birth to their first child called Toni. In 1970 Dale Dennis had returned to Tanzania to continue with Bible teaching at Kitekelo School.

DAR ES SALAAM CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT

In the city of Dar es Salaam, there was one Christian from American known as Hilinton.

Hilinton was a professor lecturing at the University of Dar es Salaam which at that time its inception in mnazi mmjoa area in lumumba street. By that time the city of Dar es Salaam had no Church of Christ and that is when he decided and began preaching to people in different streets of the city.

Most people who hear the gospel and believed, some of them were the Makonde who were refugees from Mozambique and and Wanyasa from Malawi. One of the preachers who preach Church of Christ in Temeke area, called R. Msisiya was his student.

Professor sent some of the believers who were preached by him, to Tanganyika Bible School at Kitekelo area in Mbeya Region for further Bible studies. At that time Tanganyika Bible School had teachers from (Malawi citizen) and others from Tanzania known as Joseph. K. Elimini and Livongoja Mwangunule, all of them taught together with Dale Dennis, who was American.

❖ TEMEKE CHURCH OF CHRIST

In the beginning, the preachers of this congregation were foreigners from Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia any church gathering in Dar es Salaam city before the 1973 preachers Dar es Salaam were empty visitors from Malawi and Mozambique.

These preachers are Robecher Msisya, Kaunda, Singini, Stephen Market, Redsoni Mwale, Chiriwa, Elisha Mkandawile, Chua, all these preachers were foreigners, civilians from Malawi. L. Ridge was a citizen of Zambia. Charles Nandonde, Alfonce ring, Tiago, Makonde were Mozambicans.
The first preacher’s camp was pitched at Kunduchi area. These preachers were missionaries from America and were usually preachers in the country. One of these preachers who was Tanzanian citizens known as Edwin Tusekelege who currently serve as a preacher of the Church of Christ Forest in Mbeya town.

After the contract with Tanzania government ends professor Hilnton returned to American. Church of Christ in America sent a missionary evangelist Dar es Salaam, called Savage. Savage he is one who build Temeke Church building in 1965 on the plot that was already bought by professor Hilnton before he returned to U.S.

In 1972 the Government of Tanzania has ordered all foreign preachers except Americans and Europeans to return to their countries, many preachers from Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia had to return to countries as to obey the Tanzania government of order. The Tanzania Governments required insisted only Tanzania citizen were allowed to proceed with preaching and teaching Gospel. In Dar es Salaam is only one missionary remain known as H. Phillip who continued his work.

Some of the first Tanzanian students at the Bible school Temeke Dar es Salaam that was established in 1972 and completed their studies in 1973 were Stevin Ligoho, Yoshua Myombo and Isaya Mwantimwa. Charles Nkata na Hambo Hogs were Malawi citizen.

**MAGOMENI CHURCH OF CHRIST**

After graduating their studies in 1973, some of these students were chosen by church to assist the church responsibilities. Isaiah M. Mwantimwa was appointed as a teacher and preacher of the Magomeni congregation. Steven Ligoko was appointed as evangelist of Temeke congregation and later became a teacher of Bible school. Joshua was appointed as a preacher of Keko congregation. Dale Dennis and Joshua Myombo are the founded of the Church of Keko.

Before 1974, the first Christians at Magomeni church were gathering at Mkwajuni in Kinondoni area. Before Malawi preachers left the country, Elisha Mkandawile was a preacher of this congregation when they were gathering at Mkwajuni area. After being appointed by the church, Mr. Isaiah M. Mwantimwa to be a priest, the Church decided to shift from Mkwajuni to Magomeni area and they were gathering at Karume primary school after being accepted by the head teacher to use their classes for worship.

After a while the church discovered that many denominations congregations were also made their worship at Karume primary school. The church decided to shift from Karume to Turiani primary school, the church begin to use school classes for the worship until the construction of Magomeni Church building finished and the church moved into it.

Magomeni Bible School started in earlier 1974. Among the first students to join the school is Mr. Zacharia Shemtuhu who is currently a teacher and preacher in the Magomeni Christ and by that time Mr. Isaiah M. Mwantimwa was the first teacher by that time, which currently assisting the church as a preacher and bible school teacher, at Temeke church.

The Bible teaching services at Tanganyika Bible School in Kitekelo area were closed and teachers who were the citizens of Malawi returned home.
Missionary Dale Dennis who was the one of the Bible school teachers had to return to Dar es Salaam and assisted in the preparation of correspondence Bible studies. Mr. Joseph K. Mwangunule and Etimini Livongoja (Tanzanian citizens) who are among the teachers of the closed school at Kitekelo. They also moved to Dar es Salaam in late 1971 and join H. Phillips who was in Dar es Salaam.

In 1972, H. Phillip and Dale Dennis began cooperating on the work of preaching the Gospel in Dar es Salaam and Etimini Livongoja and Joseph K. Mwangunul began to work as a preachers and teachers of first Bible school in Dar es Salaam after being chosen by the church.

The school was registered as Tanzania Bible School in 1972 and by that time H. Phillip was the head of the school in Temekte church premises. At that time, Dale Dennis and Mwencha Sisya kept on working with the preparation of correspondence Bible studies the printing.

**KEKO CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Keko Church was founded by Dale Dennis in collaboration with Joshua Myombo, who was latter chosen by the church to be preacher. In 1976 the Keko church started Bible school and Joshua Myombo he was appointed to be a Bible school teacher and preacher of the church. Joshua Myombo and Steven Ligoho was taught and baptized by Dale Dennis in the year 1972. Among the first students to study and finish their studies in Keko Bible School was James Chacha and Philemon Mwambwalo.

After Phillip return to America, the Church of America sent another missionary by the name Jim Morrow. Jim Morrow changed the position of Phillips and he was in charge of a Bible school. During that time Dale Dennis kept on preparing collaboration studies.

Latter on Jim Morrow also returned to America and that is when Dale Dennis began to manage the school and start teaching Bible classes in secondary schools in Dar es Salaam and built the worship buildings for Magomeni, Keko, and Mbagala Church.

**MBAGALA CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Mbagala Church was founded by Godwin Dihigo who was baptized in Church of Christ Temekte in 1982. Dihigo graduated the Bible studies in Temeke School in 1991 and since then he worship with his family at Mbagala Rangi Tatu primary school. Godwin Dihigo was preached and baptized by the teachers who taught him the Bible known as Joseph School. K. Mwangunule and Etimini Livongoja.

The Bible School Mbagala began in 1994 and the first teacher was Godwini Dihigo himself.

Among the first students to attend the Bible school Mbagala were A. Finias, J. Chilatu, P. Kahimba and Joseph Milanzi who is currently a preacher and Bible school teacher in Mbagala.

The Church in Dar es Salaam had several servants in whom at different times involved and killed in the road accidents:-

In 1992, Joseph K. Mwangumule died in a car accident at Mbagala area in Dar es Salaam.

In 1995, Etimini Livongoja died in a car accident when he riding his motorcycle at maduka mawili area in chang’ombe Dar es Salaam.
In 1998, Steven Ligoho was involved in a road accident when he was riding a motorcycle at Nyerere Road in Dar es Salaam and suffered for more than a year, then he died in 2000.

**TANGA CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT**

In 1968 Christ Church was established in Tanga region at the place called Ngamiani in Tanga town. The Church of Christ Chimala Mbeya sent Abia Mbwile to preach the Word of God in Tanga but unfortunately Mr. Abia Mbwile fallback spiritual and become lazy to do the work of God and started using alcohol, etc. The Church of Chimala took him back home and that become the end of that church.

**ARUSHA CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT**

After seeing the work of God, has begun to spread here in Tanzania, particularly in the southern part of the country. The Elders of Church of Christ Parkron in American instructed missionary Andrew Connaly to go to Arusha Region to preach the Word of God there and constitute a Church.

Andrew Connaly went to Arusha with some priechers from Chimala Mbeya and stayed in Arusha town. The preacher followed him was Edwin Tesekelege, Lenkos Mkwama, Mkandawile and Isaac Chando. The preachers stayed for a while with Adrew Connely in Arusha then some of them returned back to Chimala. Andrew Connally and Isaac Chando remained continue the work of God to preach the Gospel.

For a very long time the Church of Arusha did not built a worship building. Andrew Connally returned to America for a while and that time Isaac Chando got a sold small house and since he had no money to buy he updated Dale Dennis who was in Dar es Salaam and Dennis gave him money to buy another plot for the church at the junction to Iliboro High School. Later on the plot used for servant houses that the servant lives in these days.

Latter on Andrew Connally returned from the America and decided to buy another compound for the worship building located in Unga Ltd. And after that he gave money to construct building. The construction of the building was supervised by Isaac Chando who started the Usa River Church and now the work of God keeps on moving by the missionary Cy Stafford at Arusha.
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