

## FEBRUARY 2026

### Opportunity to learn from each other



*A team from EI Tanzania (EITZ) visited EI Brazil in 2025. They are Joel Newby (striped shirt), Simon Ewing (far left), Jesca Mzimba (4<sup>th</sup> from left) and Pastor Malaki Msigwa (far right).*

As previously mentioned in the November 2025 issue of Down to Earth, as part of the EI International Global Strategic Plan (STEP) EITZ committed to start a partnership with EI Brazil through a mission initiative, focused on reciprocal learning and sending. Our team travelled to Brazil with three primary goals: to learn from the experience and ministry approach of EI Brazil, to strengthen relationships between our two EI offices, and to explore the opportunities for long-term Tanzanian missionary involvement.

The first stop on our trip was the Terena Bible School, which is dedicated to training indigenous pastors and future church leaders from across the region. Students come from surrounding communities and even travel distances of 1,000 kilometers and further to participate in the school's three-year program. From the moment we arrived, we felt a familiar sense of home. Part of our community development has included spending time at Bible schools, and being on this campus immediately resonated with us.

As we walked the grounds, we noticed both the similarities and the ongoing needs that come with institutions committed to long-term ministry - classrooms well-used, structures that tell stories of faithful service, and opportunities for continued improvement. It was especially encouraging to see the impact of EI's solar project, which now provides the school with sustainable electricity. This investment is not only practical but transformational, strengthening the school's ability to serve students for years to come.

One of the most meaningful parts of our visit was meeting the students. We listened as they shared their stories - where they came from, how God called them into ministry, the challenges they face in their home villages, and the sacrifices they made to attend Bible school. Their testimonies deeply moved us. In many ways, their experiences echoed the stories we regularly hear from Bible students in Tanzania: a clear call from God, perseverance through hardship, and a passion to serve their communities with the gospel.

Pastor Malaki had the opportunity to preach during Sunday service at the school and share his own journey in



ministry. His message and testimony deeply touched the students. There was a beautiful sense of unity as we worshiped together - different nations, but one calling and one mission.

In 2020, EI Tanzania began building a church-planting school that also serves as a pastoral training center for our partner church. This project has become very dear to our hearts. Through seasons of challenge, hosting teams on the campus, and celebrating the faithfulness of God, this training center has remained a focal point of our ministry in recent years. Looking back, we can clearly see God's hand at work even then, preparing the way for partnerships we did not yet fully understand.

In 2023, as part of a reciprocal giving initiative, EI Tanzania - together with our groups and partner churches - raised 2,000,000 TSH to support Terena Bible School. As we prayed about how best to give, we collectively sensed that scholarships for students were where God was leading us. Knowing the sacrifices these students make to attend

Bible school, we believe this support directly strengthens future pastors and church planters.

It is truly remarkable to see how God has orchestrated this partnership between two training centers, from 2020 until now. Walking the campus in Brazil, speaking with students, and hearing their vision for ministry, we felt a strong sense of camaraderie and shared purpose. Though separated by continents, we are united in the same mission.



Looking ahead to 2026, El Tanzania is already planning to fundraise once again for scholarships for students at the Terena Bible School. Our hope is not only to match but to surpass our previous efforts. Additionally, we are prayerfully considering another mission trip from Tanzania to Brazil in 2027, and we know that serving alongside Terena Bible School will be a central focus of that visit. We are grateful for how God continues to weave together relationships, ministries, and nations for His glory.

Joel Newby, EITZ Country Director

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Terena Church

The Terena Church in Bananal Village, Brazil, celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in February 2026.



**Alcielito, Fred and Marcelo**

Fred Silva, MEB General Director, attended the event with MEB (Missão Emanuel do Brasil) leaders, Alcielito Carvalho and Marcelo Martins. They also visited the Terena Bible School.

Alcielito shares a little about this trip: *“During the celebration, I had the opportunity to meet many people and experience firsthand their cultural richness. What struck me most, however, was noticing the presence of different ethnic groups participating in the event. Each with their own customs, organization, and identity.*

*The celebration demonstrated that the message of the gospel had reached those hearts, promoting transformation, reconciliation, and fellowship. Seeing different peoples gathered together, worshipping together and celebrating the same purpose, was something deeply touching for me.*



*This trip was an experience of learning, faith, and reflection on the power of transformation that Jesus brings to the lives of people and communities.”*

Marcelo writes “Meeting with the Terena brothers and sisters is always a blessing, a reminder that missions work is worthwhile, and a call to deepen my relationship with the Lord Jesus!

*I always think I will help, support, encourage, and bless the Terena*

*brothers and sisters, but in the end, I always receive much more than I give!*

*Participating in the centennial celebration of the Bananal church, the first church built among the Terena people, was a way to learn more about this fantastic story of the Gospel transforming the Terena people, both in their past and present history, and to see how the Lord Jesus has used the Terena people for the expansion of the Kingdom of God.*

*Again, I was surprised by how much they do with so little, how they persevere in the mission to which the Lord has called them, and how they remain steadfast and joyful amidst so many struggles and difficulties!*

*I feel privileged to be able to participate in these events, to have this time with the Terena brothers and sisters, and even more privileged to be able to collaborate on the large and challenging projects they are undertaking.”*



The celebration ended with Holy Communion, which was served by the indigenous pastors.