

**We are mission partners based in Iringa, Tanzania, working as directors of the Neema Crafts Centre for people with disabilities**

In Tanzania, people with disabilities are often considered to be a burden or even a curse. People think that nothing can be done for them. They are often left uneducated and told that the best chance they have is to beg on the streets. The Neema Crafts Centre was set up to change people's perceptions of disability and to provide high quality training and employment to our disabled artisans, chefs and technicians.

As directors of Neema Crafts our job is to ensure the many facets of the centre (seven different crafts workshops, shop, cafe, conference room and guesthouse) are all on track and that our products and services are attracting customers and promoting the work of people with disabilities. We also oversee various other projects including the entrepreneurship training course, tailoring training, computer and English teaching, mobility access and our latest house building project for our staff.

Ever since a short term trip to Tanzania as an 18-year-old with his church youth group at St John's Blackheath, Ben has always wanted to work in East Africa. During his

undergraduate years, God lead him to both South Africa with YWAM and to Kenya with another mission team. Through these experiences, the Lord grew in him a vision for setting up a training centre that would employ people on the margins of their community and that would be self-sustaining by selling what it produced. After graduating with a degree in product design engineering he spent six months volunteering in Tanzania to confirm his calling. He then trained as a design and technology teacher in the UK where he worked for five years.

Katy's journey to mission began with a five-month gap year in Tanzania in 2002. After this experience she changed her university plans and reapplied to study art. She was eager to see God use her artistic skills, but she had no idea what that might look like. After three years of studying textiles, she set up a business, selling handmade interior accessories. During this time God began to speak to us about working at Neema Crafts.

**Please pray**

- That we are able to manage a young family along with the demands of Neema.
- For the Lord's blessing on the three business areas of Neema and that they would continue to thrive.
- For the chaplain and his work with our staff.
- Please pray that our international visitors would continue to be inspired and blessed by God's work at Neema Crafts.



[churchmissionsociety.org/ray](http://churchmissionsociety.org/ray)

	<b>Name:</b> Ben and Katy Ray
	<b>Location:</b> Diocese of Ruaha, Iringa, Tanzania
	<b>Our call:</b> To show God's love for the most marginalised in Tanzania by providing training and employment opportunities for
	<b>Our role:</b> Directors of the Neema Crafts Centre for people with disabilities