

Tanzania Visit 2013

29th September to 15th October

Jez and Martin Grosvenor

Travel information

We flew to Nairobi courtesy of British Airways using air miles, and arrived at 0725. We had visas for Tanzania but not for Kenya as we wanted to test out how easy it would be to obtain them at on arrival. It was very easy and barely took longer than just passing through immigration with pre-obtained visas. We easily had enough time to catch the bus which left just before 0900 (Shuttle to Arusha is shared between all companies, although East Africa Shuttles is marginally cheaper). Despite JFK airport having suffered a major fire to the arrival terminal a few weeks earlier the organisation and layout was very effective. The road to Arusha was smooth and almost complete, apart from a few places where the rains had washed the surface away. It was a delightful journey. Arusha was busy with heavy traffic so we were late arriving. It was great to see Felix, Julius and Steve Kweka after a 2 year gap.

The journey home was essentially the reverse of our arrival but characterised by an exceedingly long wait at the airport which we occupied by reading, eating a meal, walking and talking.

Tuishime School

Most of our time was spent at Tuishime School as we felt that, in the limited time available, it was best to observe, understand, help and encourage teachers and children.

The school continues to be strong with children being incredibly enthusiastic, full of energy and keen to learn. As with children in the UK, these children have very intense curiosity and need a high level of stimulation. Generally they don't get that within the Tanzanian culture so the school has a superb opportunity to provide something radically different.

We taught puppy class and class VI a few songs and told a Bible story. Jez played the keyboard we took with us which we donated to the school and I used the computer and projector to show the songs and teach the children. I had downloaded the story of Daniel and the lion's den and showed pictures of it as I talked. The children loved the story and singing. They were very quick to learn the words and actions which showed the limited content of regular lessons which are generally taught at a pedestrian pace and in an unimaginative way. These observations are as non-professionals as we are not teachers, nevertheless we feel that they are worthy of consideration. It was obvious to us that a much faster pace of teaching with more depth and content would produce children with amazing knowledge and abilities.

I also taught a science, geography and maths lesson, but only because the teachers didn't turn up. This was one of the points that caused me concern – i.e. non-attendance of teachers in the classes they were meant to teach. Is it laziness, or lack of timekeeping, or not knowing the time or just a casual attitude? Probably all of these. But it did disappoint me as children

are being short-changed in the quality of education they receive and parents being deceived. In addition the opportunity to teach and train pupils is not being used nearly as wisely as it could be. The non-attendance by teachers was due to wedding preparations, illness and simply not being in the classroom.

John Bosco remains as creative as ever and is such an asset to the School. For the vocational skills curriculum area he had produced an amazing model village, with the children, which had been used to teach them model making and as well as different aspects about life in different Tanzanian environments.

On most mornings, I was encouraged that teachers met for a bible reading, short talk and prayer. Responsibility for this was shared around and it was encouraging to see the short time being used in varied and imaginative ways. Pancras was the teacher who generally led the morning school meeting, which was used to inform pupils about what was happening during the day or to point out some way for the pupil's behaviour to be improved. I was impressed by Pancras. He is a graduate in computing who is young, enthusiastic and gets on well with the children. Hopefully he will really make the most of the fantastic facilities the school has and teach IT in an imaginative and challenging way.

The state of building repair is unchanged and classrooms still need painting, cracks repaired and screeding of floors. Some of the ceilings require painting and fluorescent tubes replaced. Externally classroom 1 has a severely damaged external wall which requires remedial work. Sadly some of the lovely painted maps on the walls of the veranda are damaged and need repainting. Posters on the walls of some classrooms need to be replaced to liven up the environment. Naomi assured me that the classrooms will be painted over the next 1-2 years as part of ongoing maintenance. We need to follow up on this.

All books - reading, reference and textbooks - are kept in the office and there was no evidence of them being used. Only the puppy classroom has books in it. To create space on the existing shelves, I suggested that some of the books donated from USA be binned as they are quite unsuitable for the school and will never be used. We took over a large number of books with us, and have many more in our garage in the UK, but want to see them being used. We initiated a plan for bookshelves to be built in the classrooms so that books will be more readily available to pupils. It is only by doing this that teachers will see children improving their reading skills and learning new words. Sadly the culture of reading books, including the Bible, is not present in Tanzania.

The water supply is poor and we were without water on many of the days. A borehole is needed to avoid Felix having to fill up containers each day to bring back to the school. We visited a water drilling company, run by the mayor of Arusha, and asked for a quotation. This we obtained but are now waiting for 1-2 other quotes to ensure we get best value for money. When water is available it is pumped into one large 10,000 litre tank and used to supply the school and bungalow.

The bungalow looks splendid and is very comfortable with 3 bedrooms, lounge/dining room, kitchen, storeroom and 3 bathrooms. It has a veranda, front and back, with a sofa on both of them from which we spent time enjoying the sun and views. We loved staying there and found it a most relaxing place to live – much more so than in Kijenge. The journey into Arusha did not cause any problems although it took slightly longer than before. We spent time walking around the local area and came across a number of interesting areas. The school is also close to where Moses and Mary live so we walked to see them on a couple of occasions.

Jez and I ran a sports morning for classes V and VI followed by another one a week later for class IV. They were similar to the ones we ran in 2011 and were highly successful and greatly enjoyed. We were both asked to drive the buses to the sports ground which Jez enjoyed (due to his experience driving tractors) whilst I didn't.

The school will soon have all the buildings it needs. It is my view that one further classroom (50% larger than the current ones) be built for use as a library/resource centre which can be used by classes for informal learning. A small office is needed for the Director. John Bosco and Anne will remain in their current room which will be divided to give both of them privacy. This will then complete the building work at the school.

It will be most beneficial to concentrate on improving resources – reading books, textbooks, computers/projectors in classrooms IV-VII to reduce the dependency on blackboards, clocks, play equipment for the youngest children and internet access via dongles. Resources should be built up by storing exam papers, homework sheets, worksheets and other teacher resources on the school computer so that they can be used in the future to avoid having to repeat laborious work.

Teachers need to become inspired and shown different teaching methods and motivated to teach in a more energetic and faster way. This will stimulate children and make the most of the available time. Naomi is expected to exert more of an influence on the school as time goes on which hopefully will result in standards improving and new practices established. Her relationship with head teacher, Jon Bosco, will need to be strengthened and their roles differentiated. Sadly, it has been decided that teacher Mathias will leave the school in December due to a few issues that have arisen. I expect him to be replaced.

A small church meets in the school on 2 occasions each week, which is an encouraging start to using the buildings for the community.

Microfinance

Following in the footsteps of Dick, I visited the VICOBA microfinance group which is based at Christ Church Cathedral. The group consists of 30 members who have contributed TSh 20.5 million so far with the same amount having been loaned to members. An interest rate of 10% is charged on loans made to members. It was a somewhat chaotic meeting, held outside in the garden, which was disturbed by the heavy traffic noise. In true Tanzanian fashion, everyone introduced themselves, as I did, and a report on the organisation and objectives of

the group was read out. I spoke about Hope for Tanzania's interest in business and gave a few ideas about renewable energy and manufacturing for consideration by the group. In particular, I emphasised that we were particularly interested in businesses in non-agricultural sectors which would result in employment of people other than the members.

Different members of the group spoke about the loans they had taken, the business they had set up and the financial return achieved. Martha had borrowed TSh 600k which she had used to buy 3 small pigs. Now she has 5 large pigs and 45 small ones which will be sold. Another person borrowed TSh 1.5 million to invest in a business to sell second hand clothes. Profit from this venture was used to buy land. Other people had started businesses to manufacture soap and vegetable oil, produce food, expand video production from 200 to 2000 each run, manufacture biogas and purchase solar lighting. These ideas are generally for the benefit of the members but we can hope that the foray into the world of business, by these fledgling entrepreneurs, will result in more ambitious ventures in the future. The accounts were quite encouraging. The meeting was run quite formally although it did not involve any sharing of best practice, learning points or discussion of new business ventures. So in these respects the group is functioning as independent members who miss the benefits of shared purpose and learning. Hope for Tanzania was awarded a plaque in recognition for the donation I made on its behalf, which was received with much appreciation.

I chatted to a number of different members at the end of the meeting and was impressed by their enthusiasm and willingness to make the most of our donation. We will need to follow up in a few months to see what progress has been made in allocating the funds and using them wisely.

Send a Computer Scheme

In January 2012, Hope for Tanzania donated 90 computers to four schools. Dick Beath visited these schools in October 2012, six months after the computers were installed, and produced a comprehensive report concerning his findings. My objective was to re-visit the schools to see how they were being used and the condition of the hardware.

The IT suite at Tuishime School is being treated with a lot of respect and is in a very good condition. Children and staff take off their shoes at the door which has helped preserve the cleanliness of the carpet. The school has 31 desktop computers which are all working satisfactorily. One computer is connected to the projector which is stored in its case when not being used. The suite also contains the photocopier, whose use is rationed by restricting access to paper, another printer and a computer which is reserved for use by teachers. I re-organised the folder structure on this school computer and encouraged teachers to start building up resources (homework sheets, questions, exam papers, handouts) in order to decrease their use of blackboards and repetitive rote learning.

I observed a class IV lesson in which children were taught the Paint program. The lesson lacked objectives and a sense of direction from the teacher. It was also rather slow in pace and the children could have benefited more from the lesson. As with children in UK, the

school pupils were intensely creative, open to ideas and able to learn very quickly. If the teachers are shown how to teach at a faster lesson pace and helped to increase their knowledge of the subject material then the school standard will rapidly rise and children will receive a fantastic education.

The IT suite is only being used to teach computing rather than the computers being used to teach other subjects. Classes IV to VII have 2 lessons per week whilst the other classes have only one. The suite is thus heavily underused and is currently not being used to teach adults in evenings. Internet access is key and use of a dongle is the favoured option as it is reasonably priced and paid for by monthly subscription. The performance of one laptop was speeded up by removing a lot of music files. The location of two other laptops was traced but a few others seem to have disappeared. However, the powerful school laptop which Anne is using is working well. The need to back-up important files was emphasised and two media drives donated to the school for this purpose, at the end of November.

I also visited the other three schools and found the following situation: Uhuru Primary School – 20 computers donated; all computers working, 3 monitors not working, one keyboard not working, all mice working, mains lead required for monitor. Ukombozi Primary School – 18 computers donated; all computers working, 5 monitors not working, 3 keyboards required, 3 optical mice needed. Kijenge Primary School – 20 computers donated; 3 computers not working (no RAM in 2), 5 monitors not working, 7 PS2 to USB connectors required for keyboards, all mice working. If we assume that all computers were checked in Dar, then 13 of the monitors were damaged during transportation from Dar to Arusha and 7 keyboards were either inappropriately supplied or damaged during transport. A further request has gone out to supporters for monitors but so far none have been donated. We are more likely to be able to source monitors from businesses or Computers4Africa than private individuals so these avenues will be investigated.

Pastor Samuel & Grace

A visit was made to Samuel's church where we were warmly welcomed. It was great to see the new church building although its construction materials (wood, tin sheets) had been taken from the previous one. But as a church is not a building, its condition or grandeur is immaterial. We introduced ourselves and shared some thoughts from the Bible. Samuel gave a simple message which was short and practical. He has a great knack of communicating and is a good pastor and teacher able to identify with uneducated people and make the Bible relevant. Whenever I visit his church I feel as though I'm coming home, such is the love from the Christians. We also saw the school that has been built and which Grace runs. She would really appreciate us providing resources and getting practically involved during one of our visits (the school is open in August). The nursery school has 15 children on roll and educates children to the age of 5. The Sunday school has 10 children in it. They have no toys for children to play with.

We visited the home of Samuel and Grace and heard about the challenges in their life and in the church. Currently they rent the land that the church is built on (TSh 300k for 6 months,

which increases with the size of church) and we were asked to help them buy it. But the cost is high (TSh 35 million, negotiable), due to its location near a road (very rough track), so Felix suggested that they look for another site which would be less expensive. The church is located in one of the poorest areas of Arusha where many robbers come from so there is a great opportunity for community improvements projects to be started by the church.

Samuel and Grace are both humble servants of God, live very simply, often go without food as they don't have money. Their daughter Happy is 17 years old, is in Form II and wants to become a policewoman. Sadly they still have no other children. We prayed for them that God would let them have further children and for their ministry to be blessed. Whilst we need to think about how best to help, without spoiling them, I am convinced of their sincerity and sense a close connection with them. Their specific needs and wishes are: assistance with rent of the house/church, money to set up businesses for women in the church who are single and on a very low income and a motorbike (TSh 3 million).

Pastor Deo

We met Pastor Deo at the Impala Hotel on the first Saturday of our visit. What an intense pleasure it was and what a humble, God fearing and God loving man he is! He is a person I feel a deep connection with in terms of spiritual focus, and someone whose motives are selfless. He is certainly open to God for His leading in the work he has started in Singida amongst the Isanzu, who are a tribal group with whom he is building up connections. They keep cattle and carry out small scale copper prospecting by open cast digging and have settled in small villages. The people dress colourfully and are involved in witchcraft, animal sacrifices and animism. He is learning that they value their ancestors and have a concept of God. Their language is a mixture of Sukome and Swahili. Some of the children go to a school, which is far away, but education is not important for them as cattle keeping is the main priority. Markets are held in different villages in the area at a monthly frequency. They don't use money, instead practising a commodities exchange system.

Pastor Deo took oil and salt to give the people which was greatly appreciated. He is being cautious in his approach, as initially they were a little scared of him but by helping them in small practical ways he is beginning to build bridges and become trusted. On his first visit he stayed for 40 days, living in a small hotel and visiting people during the day. He uses a motorbike to get around and give rides to people if they need a lift to the road or shops. Pastor Deo's priorities are to firstly understand the Isanzu, then help them in practical ways (reading, provision of water) and share the gospel once he has gained their trust. It is a slow work with prayer being a key activity to break down the strongholds of witchcraft. The name of the "largest" settlement is Mkalama, which is an ex-German site.

There is another people's group in Singida who are similar to the pygmy people – they are short in height, live on honey and roots, are relatively undressed, hide during the day and live a very isolated lifestyle. Deo was unsure of their name.

Augustino Godfrey

We met Augustino on a number of occasions during our visit. He is the father of Winifrida, a pupil at the school, a governor of Tuishime and has become a personal friend to me over the years. Currently he is waiting for a court appearance in relation to a criminal offence that he is charged with. We went to court with him but the hearing was postponed as the judge had a personal matter to attend to. Subsequent to this the postponed hearing date has again been delayed on two occasions and we are waiting for an update on the situation. I am convinced of Augustino's innocence and believe that we should support him during this very stressful time. Our attendance at the court was a great encouragement to the family and caused interest and curiosity from court officials who thought we were from the BBC! Should Augustino not be cleared, he will lose his job with his family being severely affected. I wish we could do more to help, e.g. by providing a character reference for him, but of course we don't have deep knowledge of local customs and employment law so need to trust God and leave it to his lawyer. But I'm sure God will defend the cause of justice.

Moses and Mary Paulo

They are both prospering. The little shop that Mary runs is struggling due to competition from other little shops but she perseveres in running it. Moses continues with his responsibilities as Ward Educational Officer being busy with many challenging situations and numerous schools to manage. We have agreed to sponsor him during his graduate studies which will start in January 2014. Their children are growing up fast and becoming more confident and accomplished in speaking English. We saw the greatest change in Mkape who is maturing quickly and was much more willing to talk with us. Tabitha, a mini Irene, was absolutely adorable. Moses is constructing a further building containing single rooms which he will rent out. He has increased his herd of cows and sheep and agreed to buy two goats for us to eat next summer.

Moses has applied to University to study for a Bachelors degree in Educational Administration which is run as a distance learning course. He will start in January 2014 and attend classes in the afternoon and evening on a few days each week whilst retaining his current job as WEO. It is important for him to upgrade his education since competition is increasing within the education administrative area due to many new graduates who are applying for jobs. Moses fears losing his job in the future unless he obtains a degree, a view which I support. This would then undo all the investment we have made in him over the years and affect his ability to help his children as well as his community. I agreed to sponsor him throughout the course.

Grace Mbise

Grace is an evangelist living in Arusha who we have known and supported for many years. On this visit we met her on a number of occasions, went to her office, and heard her preach at a church which was holding a mission during our second week. She gives the impression of being a timid lady, but appearances can deceive, and when she preaches a great change comes over her as strength and authority enter her words. Many people were challenged by the words that she spoke and asked for prayer and deliverance. Grace is having a very

difficult time in her personal life since the death of her husband. His family have turned Grace's children against her and she has been advised by Caroline to relinquish all claims to her rightful inheritance (house, land, money) so as to preserve her life – such is the gravity of the situation. So it is likely that she will move closer to Arusha and build a simple house but she does not have money to do this.

She is not supported financially by any group, is often not paid expenses by the churches that invite her to preach and has become limited in the missions that she can hold. She is looking to Hope for Tanzania to support her, although we may be rather limited in what we can do in the short term since our funds are low. After spending time with her and talking with Caroline Shao (a close friend and missions partner), I am convinced that she is a trustworthy person who has been given the wonderful gift of preaching and who is being used by God in amazing ways. I feel that any assistance we give her will be used to extend God's kingdom on earth and is thus a valuable investment to make. Since the visit, I have proof read her biography which makes incredible reading. It is a book that shows how God is still working in ways that are similar to those described in the Bible. Sadly the book may never be published unless Grace receives money to do so which would be a great loss.

Presentation to Tuishime School Teachers

At the end of our visit I made a presentation to the teachers, at the invitation of Naomi, to encourage them and pass on some fresh ideas to improve the school.

Martin's Observations @ Tuishime School

11th October 2013



HFT focus for Tuishime School

- Quality not Quantity
- Teachers are key asset
- Competition between schools
- Quantity – water borehole, new classroom



- Quality - build on school's strengths (French, computers, atmosphere, music)
- Quality – teachers
- Quality of buildings – decoration of rooms
- Quality of teaching
- Quality of resources – posters and art, toys



Points to Note

- Professional attitude of teachers leads to good behaviour and children will be keen to learn
- Timekeeping in lessons – clocks and timetables
- Attendance at school
 - Sickness
 - time off
 - focus on school activities
- Higher energy levels will help



Staff Meetings

- Positives – you have this one, leadership shared
- Negatives – staff attendance is poor - morning meeting should be prioritised
- Introduce - overview of the day, head teacher's directions for the day, any other important information

- Do you have other meetings? Perhaps monthly meeting for planning and review. Include training in a subject or teaching method
- Hold meetings in Swahili if it helps
- Create an atmosphere where teachers can freely contribute ideas without criticism

Christian values of Tuishime School



• Christian School

- Teaching is worship
- Teacher's words, actions and attitudes have a huge influence on a child – good and bad
- Encourage and love children to counter harshness in Tanzanian culture
- Understand that product from school is a child who is educated to a high primary level, a child who knows moral values, a child who will be successful at secondary school and (hopefully) in life, a child who knows a little about God's love for them and is ready to help others, a child who is confident and creative

- Pray for school and pupils, pray for each other
- Pray in each class at start of day



Use of Books

- Textbooks
- Unused books
- Reading books
- Books in each class
- 1:1 reading



Use of IT resources

- Low usage of computers



- No use of OHP



- Accessing information from internet
- Building up school resources

Further learning for teachers

- English
- Computers & internet resources
- Subject knowledge