

## Hope for Tanzania Visit 2009

### 1. Tuishime School

I was greatly encouraged by developments at the school which had doubled in size to 183 pupils since our last visit. The whole atmosphere in the school had become more professional and with the dedication and commitment of teachers being much higher. A number of new teachers had started in the last 2 years – Laura, Moses, John Bosco, Rose, Robert, Andrew with their standard being quite high. The previous head, Alex, is now an ordinary teacher which is in the best interests of the school. The new head, John Bosco, from Uganda is a talented individual particularly in the areas of music, art and sports. Much of the school currently relies on him which is encouraging in the short term as it has allowed him to impress his mark and strengthen the life of the school. But he has realised that he cannot continue at the current level and from January he will step down as the Class IV teacher. This will allow him to concentrate more on training of teachers and building relationships with parents. John Bosco is also a committed Christian who is active in his church and is keen for the Christian focus of the school to grow.

I spent time talking with each of the teachers to learn more about their backgrounds, aspirations and suggestions as to how the school could be improved. Common themes that came out were their wish for their salaries to be increased, the importance of the Class VII exam results for recruitment of pupils to the school and the need to improve facilities and resources.

Class VII exams in September 2010 are crucial to the success of the school and the ability to attract a greater number of pupils. Already the school has a good reputation with the authorities and with parents but poor results next year will have quite a negative effect on the vision of the school to become one of the best in Tanzania. It is my vision that the school is held up as one of the best examples of primary education in the country, not because of impressive buildings but due to great resources, teachers and enthusiastic children. It remains my hope that, from the school, boys and girls develop into men and women who have a profound and godly influence on Tanzania.

All teachers are committed Christians but there is limited evidence of how this impacts on the life of the school. A meeting was held with one of the Pastors from the cathedral – Rev Peter Undole – about suitably qualified church members assisting in informal Christian activities at the school. This is an area that needs to be understood more since it is not sufficient that children are just educated as their spiritual health is key to their influence for God which they can have on their country.

The children were a delight showing great enthusiasm for their schooling. They were very respectful, joyful and keen to get involved in the activities that were offered to them. This is a very promising situation for the school as it is a key building block for the establishment of a high performing school. The weekly debates that have recently been started are a great means to encourage participation from children and development of different viewpoints. Those children that had borrowed books from the library were reading avidly and thirsty for knowledge. Life for many of the children is tough, as evidenced by our visits to their homes and their shabby school uniforms. But they are

keen to be at school and their parents are full of appreciation for the teaching they receive.

Sam helped to set up the laptops which Dick had obtained and brought with him and gave computer instruction to a few of the teachers. The provision of computers by Dick was particularly appreciated and all are looking forward to learning how to use them. We investigated the best way for documents to be printed and concluded that the inkjet printer which Dick provided would suffice in the short term but that longer term a laser printer would be most cost effective for low volume printing. We have a donor for a printer/scanner/copier and need to confirm that the funding is still available. 3 computers were given to the school for use by the teachers. One computer was given for use by the headteacher and the administrator (Anna). One printer was left for general school use.

Photocopying in nearby shops will be the best way for large volumes, e.g. worksheets, letters to parents, exam papers. A template letter was drafted, which will give a more professional image for the school and Anna was trained to a basic level in computing. A computer trainer was contacted, Colin Kibga, and he will be asked to initially train up 4 teachers in some of the Microsoft programs with the remainder of teachers being taught at a later time. Cost of training (before negotiation) is 40,000 TSh for 2hrs tuition for 10 days per teacher per program. Cost for a personalised program for first 4 teachers is ~£300 and for a further 3 teachers is £170 although a lower cost can probably be negotiated. Colin's contact details are [ckibga@yahoo.com](mailto:ckibga@yahoo.com) , Tel 0784496642.

The importance of safe storage of the computers and printer was emphasised. The intention is that they will be stored in the library when not being used, although some could actually be used in the library.

Kim and Steve built desks for 60 children, made shelving in the library, fixed shelves under each blackboard, fitted a new blackboard in the Puppy classroom, which was also painted as was half of the library.

Although little help was given by volunteers to the building of the classroom for Class VII, it progressed rapidly and by the end had been completed with only a coat of paint being needed once the plaster had dried. The pavement in front of classrooms V, VI, VII and the staff room was nearing completion with progress only held up by the absence of water on site.

The school has a strong desire to establish boarding for Class VII pupils from January 2010 in order to increase the amount of teaching and homework time that the children receive. The bungalow, where puppy and baby classes are located, will be used for this with mattresses being put on the floor at night and taken up during the day. Food will be provided at the school during the week with the pupils returning home on Saturday morning. Longer term the bungalow could be internally converted into permanent dormitories and washing facilities added to the toilet block. This would require the construction of 2 more classrooms for the puppy and baby classes. In addition the plan is to move class II from the smallest classroom into a new classroom, with the computer suite being located in the old class II room. A further room is required to house the headteacher, administration office and store room. These extra rooms should complete the essential list of buildings which are required. Other rooms, e.g. dining room, staff quarters (to support boarders) can be added at a later stage.

The grounds are not large enough for sports but the nearby Catholic seminary has a playing field which has been offered freely for occasional use by the school. In time the school grounds need to be levelled and made more attractive.

The number of staff in the school is at about the right level for the foreseeable future although a teaching assistant is now required for the baby class. Increasing the number of pupils per class to about 25 for pre-school and 35 for classes I-VII will allow the roll to rise to 300 from the current 183. This can be done with no increase or minimal increase in staff numbers which will allow the school finances to be strengthened.

The English standard of most teachers should be improved by sending them on a training course.

The site of the well was noted although it is of no value as the water table is much deeper than it was possible to dig to. Hindsight indicates that it was not a good use of funds as a borehole to a depth of 70m is needed to secure a quality source of water for the school. Enquiries are being made by Felix whether it is possible to obtain assistance to pay the costs of drilling but this looks to be doubtful.

An inspection was made of the condition of each of the classrooms. In many of them installation of ceiling boards would help to reduce noise levels between classes, in others repair of cracks and damaged floors were needed whilst in others a coat of paint on the walls would help to brighten up the room and increase motivational levels.

A review was carried out how valuable it would be for the school to capture rainwater from the roofs. We calculated that even two 6000 litre tanks would only allow a small fraction of rain to be captured with most of it having to be channelled away into a nearby storm channel. The cost of guttering will be in the range of £450-550 with tanks costing £300 each. Whilst the water would be of some value during the dry season it may not be the best use of the limited school funds in the short term. During the rainy season the school grounds can also become quite flooded as the soil does not freely drain but installation of the water tanks would not have a major effect on this.

We visited the District Educational Officer of Arusha Municipality and gave him a computer. This contact will be of great value to us over the coming years as it will help to boost the standing of Tuishime School, by securing his continued interest in its development, and help Hope for Tanzania support other schools in the area. One idea, which was warmly received by him was to send over a large number of re-conditioned computers for use by schools in the Arusha district. We identified the Director of AV Resources as being the person who would drive this project forward from the Tanzanian end. Adequate preparation at the Tanzania end is needed before the computers can be sent to ensure their appropriate distribution and use by the schools and adequate training of teachers. A person will be needed in the UK to manage the supply and use of the computers.

Dick started to analyse the school accounts and took away a number of cash books. This analysis will allow the financial health of the school to be assessed and whether its balance of income and expenditure needs to be changed to make the school financially stable. It is too early to say what changes could be required. However, a financial priority

remains of increasing teacher's salaries when possible, although this is mainly dependent on an increase in the number of child sponsors.

A continuing and deep rooted problem is the non-payment of school fees by parents. The total outstanding fees, from last term, is 1.2M Tsh whilst that from the current term is 12M Tsh. I had a discussion with Naomi about this situation and encouraged her to immediately visit the non-paying parents and deliver a tough message to them. The school needs to adopt a tougher stance with the parents and be prepared to exclude children much earlier in the term than at present. The actual problem is more delayed than non payment as most parents do eventually pay. But delayed payment has a significant effect on the cash flow of the school and payment of teacher's salaries at the end of each month.

The school has a great shortage of text books with only the teachers having copies of them. Consequently in lessons, teachers spend much time copying information from their textbook onto the blackboard after which pupils copy this into their exercise books. A considerable amount of time is thus wasted by this copying process which does not help the school in its quest to deliver a high standard of education. A high priority for the school is to purchase a full set of textbooks for each curriculum area and year group, although initially only one book per two children will be purchased.

Cherry and Joel designed an art piece which the children painted and decorated with seeds. It looked fantastic on the wall of the teacher's staffroom and has been placed in a prominent place for all to see. The children also made cloth flags with their own handprints and names which have been strung up at the front of school. It shows off the school as a very vibrant place which will be helpful to advertise to parent when they attend parents day in November.

The teachers want to establish links with teachers and other people in the UK. Most of them have e mail access and can pick up e mails weekly. Of course letters are still a widely welcomed means of communication. Such contact would help to develop relationships and do much to encourage the school teachers. However, this support is not just one- way as it will also encourage the UK people to find out more about the school, its needs and successes of the teachers and about Tanzania. John Bosco has requested a mentor to help him develop his headteacher capabilities

## **2. Sponsor a Child Scheme**

All the parents/guardians of sponsored children were visited. Many told stories of extreme hardship and human tragedy which falls outside the funding objectives of HFT. Background information and photographs were obtained for all children which will be passed on to Janice Jackson for onward distribution to the sponsors. This new information will be forwarded over the next 12 months to keep communication fresh and appealing. Martha was briefed about her role and responsibilities as Tanzanian co-ordinator of the scheme. As she is a Compassion co-ordinator she has a good basic understanding of similar programmes so discussions concentrated on the specifics of the HFT scheme. In particular she was reminded about the need to update information about the children, to take a photograph of the child each year and to help each child to write a letter (with different emphases each time) every six months. We will give her a digital camera for the photographs, which she will send to us on a memory stick. A folder

on the school's laptop has been set up to help in the administration of the scheme. I set up Janice's spreadsheet of sponsored children on the school computer which shows when Martha needs to carry out certain tasks. I also asked her to write occasional articles on different subjects for Janice to use in a newsletter for sponsors. Martha will visit each child's parents/guardians at least every six months to build the relationship and to find out about their particular needs and any changes in personal circumstances. I confirmed to Naomi that Martha should now be paid for her work on a monthly basis. I found that Martha to be a very humble person, who has had, and continues to have, a very hard life but still lives sacrificially to support a nursery/primary school which she set up in her home village. Her sister is a teacher at the school which educates about 50 local children. An offer was made to us to visit it next time we are in Tanzania. In addition Martha and her husband, a photographer, have taken in a poor girl as a house girl and are supporting her through her secondary education.

### **3. Micro-businesses**

A visit was made to two projects that Moses Paulo is involved with which are both in his educational ward. One project is a run by a group of women, who have been widowed, as a way of earning money to support themselves and their families. Their business, which is run from a small room, is tie-dyeing of cloths some of which they make into finished garments such as shirts. They demonstrated their expertise to us during the visit. Moses is training them up in English and accounting whilst working as a volunteer. The women are requesting additional funding to buy more stock to expand their business. On questioning they said that they had no difficulty selling their cloths in local markets although there did appear to be a lot of stock in their room and a lot of competition. Due to the level of competition in this business area it is uncertain how sustainable the business is and whether it could be grown much more. The second project we visited was the manufacture of cooking stoves, water heaters, drying chambers by a group of women and men working in the adjacent room. They are having good success in their business venture but they were not looking for funding from anyone else at the moment. This project shows what it is possible to achieve once an idea is hatched, someone is found to drive the business forward and there is a market for the product to be sold in.

Peace, Naomi's sister, works for a charity which runs micro-credit schemes. She talked with me concerning the operation of these schemes. We discussed the importance of lending to a group of people rather than an individual, how a loan must be secured against some commodity which the group or individual owns and how the group members must be known to the people making the loan. Peace would be a good person to spearhead a scheme when we have been able to raise sufficient capital. Her suggestion was that a £2500-5000 fund is needed before loans can be given. £250 is the recommended minimum amount to lend to an individual project. I remain convinced that this remains an area that we should develop but it is not one of our most prioritised areas at the present time.

### **4. Other Projects**

We visited the Amani Children's Home in Moshi, which is supported significantly from USA, Canada and UK. Its aim is to take children off the streets and offer them a wonderful alternative to this by showing them love and compassion. Although this is not

a Christian project it is run along strongly compassionate lines which do meet the needs of the children. The Home will have to grapple with the need to maintain ongoing funding so that the children can be supported as they grow older. It is our view that the Home is adequately funded.

I visited the Samaritan orphanage on the Old Moshi Road which looks after about 30 abandoned children who range in age from a few months to those about to start secondary school. The buildings are adequate without being splendid. Funding is taken from a wide range of sources and seems to be adequate and by no means extravagant. However as staff rely on donations of food and clothes to meet day-to-day running expenses there is always a need for further help. This orphanage would be a suitable place for volunteers from the UK to help at. Staff were enthusiastic about receiving any help in the future. Transport from Arusha is quite straightforward using dala dala buses.

I also visited a Pentecostal church in one of the poorest parts of Arusha. It was run by a relatively uneducated pastor and his wife who oozed love and sacrifice. During the day the pastor's wife, with help from others, runs a nursery for young children coming from desperately poor backgrounds and gives them food and clothes as funds allow. These are very limited. The pastor's wife told me how the helpers teach Bible stories to the children and pray for them; these activities are viewed as being the most important of those that are offered. I felt great warmth from the people involved in this most humble of projects which was completely free of luxuries. It would provide a great learning experience for people from the UK who wanted to work there. The pastor's wife was speechless when I said that we try to help when funds became available to us. She had been praying for such a happening.

We visited the YWAM Arusha project at Enkikaret, which a team from St Barnabas church in Derby is supporting and will be visiting in October 2009. It was encouraging to see the school, clinic and meeting room buildings and to hear how provision of physical and spiritual help is beginning to bear fruit after the sowing of God's seed. The project is also well supported from other countries so does not need any further help from HFT. Kim Jeffery provided some good advice to staff about using spare capacity in the generator to supply electricity to the staff quarters.

We visited the home village of Moses Paulo and met his stepmother and other village elders. Our reception was much warmer this time and we were invited back when we next visited Tanzania. We were also asked if we could help the village. Moses has volunteered to carry out a survey of the Masai villages in this area to identify the population, the physical needs of the Masai and whether any village is Christian. From this information we can then develop an approach which we may be able to use to start a project during our next visit. I believe that we have been given a great opportunity to pray for and help to satisfy both the spiritual and physical needs of these people.

We visited the Tanzania Pharmaceutical Company in Arusha and spoke with one of the owners. There are possibilities for Martin to advise the business on specific matters so contact with the owner will be maintained and developed.

## **5. Clinic**

Peter Harris visited a clinic in Arusha which is being set up for both poor people and those, who by being able to afford full medical fees, can subsidise the treatment of poor patients. The Clinic will offer minor operations, although caesareans and appendectomies will also be carried out. Peter spoke with the anaesthetist and is arranging for equipment to be sent out to the Clinic to assist in the setting up of the operating theatre. Periodically there are shipments from the Diocese of Leicester to the Diocese of Kilimanjaro and we have asked the bishop in Arusha to write a letter to the Leicester bishop seeking permission for us to send equipment and other goods over. Peter wishes to enlist the support of Hope for Tanzania to facilitate this matter through a financing arrangement although the full purchase costs of the equipment will ultimately be born by the clinic. Peter is also purchasing drugs which he will give to a pharmacist who is travelling to Arusha in the near future.

## **6. Tanzanian Individuals**

Rev Grace Mbise – Grace is an evangelist under the authority of the bishop in Arusha. She has an itinerant ministry mainly holding missions at the request of churches. She has been to all regions of Tanzania and also to Kenya, Mozambique and Uganda. She is personally recommended by Felix and Caroline Shao. Her ministry has been blessed by God with many people being converted and introduced into local churches. In all missions she is helped by local Christians who visit homes and share some of the preaching with her. Grace has stories of miracles that she had personally witnessed, some of which are quite astounding. Unfortunately due to a misunderstanding we were not able to attend her mission in Morogoro where we would have experienced first hand the work of God. Grace is an evangelist who lives a sacrificial life and is in need of financial support to assist her with expenses of the ministry which God has called her to.

Caroline & Eli Shao live in Morogoro. Eli is a physician who has recently been promoted to Head of the AIDS medical work in four regions around Morogoro. He is also an ordained pastor in the Morogoro cathedral helping to conduct services. Caroline is a teacher of English and RE at a Lutheran school in Morogoro which was set up by South Koreans, who continue to fund it. The couple both live in a sacrificial way and financially and prayerfully assist many individuals. Caroline has a desire to develop a counselling ministry and to study a course of Bible Study. They are a couple who have a good number of contacts, a thirst for God and a desire to help others without wanting to receive anything back for them selves.

Felicia Masenge is starting a 3 year BEd degree in October, sponsored by Hope for Tanzania. Her husband is working in Mwanza, and as they have a baby daughter, the next few years will be quite a challenge for the couple who have a great love for God and who will hopefully become influential leaders within Tanzania. Ultimately we hope that Felicia will become a headteacher at the Tuishime School.

Steve Kweka is a teacher at the Kijenge School, where Naomi is headteacher. He has devoted a huge amount of personal effort and skill to the Tuishime School by helping to build classrooms and assist in other constructional activities. He is a vibrant Christian attending a local Assemblies of God church which has seen significant growth during the last two years.

Marie Masenge is the second daughter of Felix and Naomi who is studying for an Advanced Diploma in Business Administration, supported by Hope for Tanzania. She wants to work in the area of Logistics when she completes her course at the end of July 2010.

Ibrahim Mwakagenda is a pupil at the Lutheran school in Morogoro who needs a sponsor to pay his school fees as his mother is unable to afford them. The cost for the remainder of 2009 is £275. Fees for 2010 and 2011 will be ~ £550 per year at which point he will have finished his secondary school education. Caroline has identified him as a future Christian leader due to his character, love for God and his personal qualities.

Shamsha Chande is a pupil at the Lutheran school in Morogoro who also needs sponsorship. Martin has paid half her fees for 2009 with the Korean sponsors paying the other half. She will need to pay further fees of £550 in 2010 and 2011 when she will complete her secondary education. Shamsha is a lovely Christian girl and a talented singer who has a bright future as long as she continues in education. A sponsor is needed for her.

Mr Chiesa is the Chief Prison Officer in Arusha and an influential person in the country. He invited us for a meal with his wife and son on our last evening in Tanzania. He requested help to find a suitable economics or law degree course in the UK for his daughter, who wants to commence study in 2011.

We also had a meal with a Muslim family whose daughter is studying business management at Reading University. We aim to meet up with her in December.

We had many invitations to visit different people in their homes and were met by tremendous love and generosity from so many people. They said to us that they were blessed by our coming into their homes and how much of an honour it was for us to eat with them. From much poverty comes love and great generosity. It was a privilege for us to share fellowship with them and we were able to pray that God's blessing would be upon them.

## **7. Team Members**

Dick, Chery, Sam and Joel Beath, Martin Grosvenor, Peter Harris, Kim Jeffery, Roger Lennard

The team members came from different backgrounds, were of different ages, had different expectations and interests and yet they gelled together as a team. Each person supported the others with encouragement, humility and a willingness to serve. Cultural difficulties, which did occur, were minor in nature and a rich part of the learning process. It is not easy for people to rapidly adapt from the physical wealth and time-bound lifestyle of Europe to the poverty and relaxed time keeping of Tanzania or from the spiritual desert of Europe to the strong Christian faith of Tanzania. That team members culturally adjusted in such a short period of time to a significant extent was a tremendous answer to prayer. In many cases team members warmly embraced the culture to the extent that inconveniences were gladly pushed into the background. We had great times of personal sharing and reflecting about our situations back in the UK.



Our hosts were hugely appreciative of our visit which they found to be greatly encouraging. Much was accomplished during the visit but more importantly deep friendships were started which, hopefully, will be developed over the next few years. It is my hope that team members will spread the word to friends and families, that they will continue to be involved in God's work in Tanzania and that they will pray for people they have met and situations they have seen first hand.

Roger Lennard is to be greatly thanked for the professionalism that he showed during his videoing of a great number of scenes. The hard work of editing the footage now starts and we look forward to using these clips to further God's work in Tanzania.

Martin Grosvenor  
Oct 2009