

Hope for Tanzania

Report to the Trustees on the Other main issues – October 2012

Introduction

This report covers the following subjects from the visit to Arusha in October 2012.

- Report on the Bungalow
- Report on the Water situation
- Report on Church Resources
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- Ex Tuishime pupils
- Micro Finance
- Shalom Primary School
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- Bibles from Gideons

Report on the Bungalow.

The bungalow has deteriorated further in this last year in its condition. Maggie will provide the latest version of the estimate for restoration. What is clear is that it has become a big worry to Felix and Naomi as she retires in September 2013, but may be expected to be out of their existing house by the end of June 2013. It would seem essential that this work goes on as a matter of urgency. The major problems are.

- Cracks in the flooring which have been caused by some deep drilling next door and will require that the floor is taken up, reinforced and re-laid
- The ceiling height has now been found to not be in line with regulations and the roof needs to come off, and an additional course added.
- One room needs to have the wall taken down to facilitate a more suitable room layout.

Report on the Water situation

The existing water supply is from the mains water. This is stored in a tank beside the classrooms and is used for washing and ablutions. Other water is taken from the mains and directed to the kitchen, and then stored and used for cooking. None of the water is suitable to drink directly as is the case in most other African countries.

The well at the edge of the Tuishime compound was started to be dug manually but has not gone down far enough to provide the necessary supply. It also does not have a proper sleeve to prevent cave in from the sides.

What is needed is for a proper well to be dug mechanically and a sleeve put in. There is an estimate separately produced with this report.

Report on the main school buildings

Photographs have been taken of all the classrooms. They are generally in good order. The last block to be built with a combination of HFT money and the Ts 20m loan, still require ceilings. The problem with the cracking of walls due to the neighbour drilling has been resolved at a cost of around Ts10m, and this can be seen in the report on the accounts for 2012.

Report on Church Resources

I spoke to the Cathedral manager Charles Ngahyama about what help they would like. His definite reply was training lay leaders in all kinds of ministries. I also spoke to

the Bishop of the Pentecostal Churches in Arusha and he was a personal friend of Felix. He also reiterated the need for training in ministry for lay people. The areas that were thought to need covering were.

- Prayer Ministry generally and in the Sunday Church services
- Leading a house group Bible Study
- Preaching and teaching
- How to lead children's work (especially in the Cathedral)
- Hearing God's voice from the Bible training.
- Use and teaching on spiritual gifts especially prophecy

The best solution would be for a team of people to go to Arusha and for the Cathedral to host a few days of ministry training and conference for all the Anglican and free churches to come to and in partnership with the large Pentecostal Church in Arusha. This could be initiated either from an existing African nation such as Kenya or Uganda, or from a Diocese in the UK. They have had some training from Scripture Union which is based in Arusha. I will speak separately about these ideas.

I also presented Alpha to Charles at the Cathedral, but neither he nor Felix had heard about it. I described it in outline and left some leaders manuals for the Canon and him to read. I know that Kampala has Alpha representatives and so does Nairobi. I will make contact with them and anyone in Dar and see if a conference can be done using fellow Africans.

Ex Tuishime Pupils.

I met up with six ex Tuishime pupils at Arusha Secondary School. All seemed to be very well and happy and said they were in the top ten in their classes. Speaking with Naomi about this later, it was thought better for her to ask their teachers herself about their results and it was thought this would be better than just going to each school as the pupils could not accurately report how they were getting on academically. She said she would do this.

Micro Finance – the present

The Christ Church Cathedral has recently started up a micro finance initiative (January 2011). There are three groups in the Cathedral and I spoke at length to one group on how they worked and what they were doing and Canon David helped chair the meeting. These groups are still in their infancy but are already having a powerful and beneficial effect in the Church. Both Naomi and Feliciana (head of Shalom School) are part of a group. The main points of the scheme are as follows.

- There are three groups meeting once a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. These groups of around 30 are made up of people from different churches and none and roughly half male and female.
- Each member makes a contribution every time they come to a meeting and this is accounted for individually by a treasurer and put into a separate bank account for each group. Minimum Ts 3,000 (£1.50) maximum Ts 15,000 (£6.50)
- The scheme has been recognised and registered with the Government who are trying to encourage such schemes.
- A person wanting a loan must be part of the group for a minimum period of two or three years (although at the start of the scheme this was not possible). They can apply for a loan for up to ten times what they have contributed in any one year.
- Initially a letter of desire is seen in the group meeting. An application form is then requested (copy with this report). This also refers to any business case

that may be needed and frequently is. The schemes that have already embarked upon are.

- School and student fees advances
 - Medical care.
 - House building
 - Small business set up
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- Once an application has been sent to and seen by the group, the chairman and a sponsor, go and have a close look at the scheme and discuss it with the proposer. Then the group decide based on recommendation whether to go ahead or not.
 - The financial terms of the scheme is then arranged and the payback can be between 6 to 12 months usually, with a two month grace before any repayments are made. There is interest added which goes back to the group and distributed to each member in proportion to their contribution.
 - The Government have a look at the books and check their systems annually. However at the time of my meeting they have not prepared annual accounts in a form we would recognise, but they fully accept they need to do so in due course. The careful records are there.
 - It was not clear whether they had sponsored an outside of group loan yet, but when I suggested this, they were really enthusiastic about using this scheme as an evangelistic tool.
 - **My assessment** of this total scheme is that it is very well run and has excellent accountability and monitoring. Each member of the group has a direct stake in ensuring the success of every proposal and loan. The fact that the Government are behind it is also very interesting and something we need to bear in mind when we decide about the future. It is different from some other international schemes in that this is based around a group membership. But this is likely to be a strength rather than a weakness.

Micro Finance - the future

I put forward the idea that in the future, it would be possible for a loan beneficiary to be from outside the group but be sponsored by a person who was from inside the group and who had personal knowledge of the loan beneficiary. The application process would need to be equally rigorous and the group would provide the necessary accountability and monitoring. Of course it is very likely that if a beneficiary started outside the group they would be most likely and willing to join the group subsequently. The groups would need therefore to amend their eligibility criteria.

I put forward the idea / question that if they had funds sent to them from HFT, would they be willing to make these funds specifically available for outside group projects / beneficiaries. They all responded yes and clapped.

Shalom Primary School.

Shalom Primary School is situated on some land three quarters of a mile beyond Tuishime. It was started in 1999 by Feliciano and her husband who subsequently died in 2001. She started with a Kinder garden in her home in Arusha and then moved to a purpose built school beyond Tuishime in 2005. The buildings are very impressive being two storey in a three sided square with a paved courtyard. There is a vehicle gravel area and beyond that a grass playing area. The school has the normal nine year classes, but with two classes per grade / year as opposed to one class per year at Tuishime. The number of pupils is now 580. The purpose for my

visit there was to make comparisons and to see if we could learn something. The main points to note were

- The average class size was 35 (Tuisime is 31 in 2012)
- They have class teachers in class as well as specialist teachers sometimes at the same time.
- Their fee structure is Ts 120,000 a term (Tuishime Ts 140,000)
- Stationery Ts 15,000 per year (taken in first term), Transport Ts 35,000 or Ts 40,000 per term.
- Development fee Ts 50,000 per year (taken in the first term)
- Medical insurance £10,000 per year (taken in the first term). This was considered by Humphrey the administrator as being essential and likely to save the school money as emergency care for a child at school can be very expensive and yet absolutely necessary before parents can be involved. I mentioned this to Naomi and Felix.
- New student entrance fee Ts 80,000, report book Ts 5,000 (one off)
- Uniform is dealt with outside the main accounts and fee structures and done on a cost reimbursement basis.
- There are no computers in the school at the moment and all key staff I talked to said they would welcome this.
- I talked to the administrator and they are desperate for three PCs with which they can do all the administration of the school. These would be networked and provide a total management system, which they have already bought and which is all manual at the moment. Contact point Humphrey Ndabagoye, e-mail hmubi@yahoo.com.

The degree to which the school has developed is very impressive. There is a vision for an adjacent conference centre and the foundations have already been laid. It will have computer rooms, offices, toilets and a very large auditorium, which could be hired out for all kinds of other uses. This is a model of faith, we should take note of. There is a joint venture in the wings between the Masenge's and Feliciano to build a training centre on land right out towards the airport. I know very little about this and this is confidential information at the moment.

Learning Disability in Uhuru School.

Uhuru have a complete section for the education of what is called retarded children, which I visited. This heading includes Downs Syndrome and what used to be called mentally sub normal children and those with Autistic Spectrum. I was very impressed by the level of care with what were much smaller classes. The system was that these special needs children get educated up to grade / year 7, whatever that takes. Then these children go into the ordinary secondary system and just join in. Those special needs children who are unable to get to grade / level 7 at Uhuru, remain there in a special unit and do vocational activities such as cooking, embroidery and other tailoring tasks. I saw about 15 of these children and they, together with all the special needs children behaved impeccably. It cannot be underestimated that the Government should have cared for these children in the state system with such compassion and shows itself to be highly civilised in so doing.

Bibles from Gideons

I brought this up with Felix and he did know about these contacts. What he thought was needed was Bibles in Swahili. I did not pursue this further.

Dick Beath
October 2012