

# Tanga in Touch

Charity No. 1099877 Summer 2011

## Supporting Tanzanian organisations:

- **Taking computing skills to young people (and the not-so-young)**
- **Misufini Leprosy Care Centre**
- **St. Francis Parish, Mapinduzi, Tanga**

## PATRONS:

- **The Rt. Rev. Michael Hooper**
- **The Rt. Rev. John Ramadhani**

The last year has been unusual in that I visited Tanzania only once, due to my husband's illness and operation. Then there was a prolonged severe drought there, resulting in a lack of water and electricity, and rising food prices. Communication was even more difficult than usual and people needed more time just for the necessities of life. Now, thankfully, it is raining again and a good harvest is forecast. Things are getting back to normal (except, apparently, for a week without electricity when all the generators will be shut down for maintenance!). A good harvest is forecast. I plan to go out in September this year with Sue Morris, one of my fellow trustees.



## 2010 was Misufini year!

We concentrated our efforts on helping this community of sufferers from leprosy and their families. With your help a new cowshed was built, a bicycle, a SIM tank for water harvesting, and an in-calf heifer, were purchased, and land was ploughed and planted with maize. The St. Francis Leprosy Guild have provided two more SIM tanks.

Anna Mgelwa, the new centre manager, is proving very successful. She is now organising a charity dinner in the autumn, to raise money for a 4-wheel drive vehicle. Already contacts with other charities are proving beneficial. The Germany Leprosy Relief Association have provided a piki-piki (motor-cycle) so that Anna can get to work more easily, and discussions are currently taking place with two other charities.

Good news from Fr. Christopher Kiango, priest at Mapinduzi:

*"I would like to inform you that two of our VETA students are now working in the Hotels, these are Grace Mnkabenga who working at Beach Resort Hotel in Tanga and Charles Peter who working at a new Hotel called Mtendele Hotel which is in Tanga, this is amazing, There is another student who received our assistance for a long time known as Yohana He is now near to complete his Nursing Course at Muheza Nursing School, I brought him to you when you came last time, I think you will remember him. Other VETA students are still continue with their courses."*

Charles did a 2-year catering course, and Grace, a shorter course in Hotel Management.

## COMPUTERS

Computers 4 Africa is a charity which recycles computers and sends them in bulk to Tanzania. We have used them in the past to get computers to Dar es Salaam. They deal with the hard drives and packing as well as transport; for £10 per computer this is good value for us. However, getting computers to Tanga is another matter and we are hoping that they can be persuaded to send a load there. But, at the moment, with many new secondary schools being built, and many teachers at the new universities upgrading their own qualifications, schools are struggling and many do not have facilities (power supply, security, air conditioning) necessary to use computers.

I am still sending a few computers and sewing machines, but have cut down on numbers (not least because of a bad back). For the same reason, I can no longer deal with CRT monitors. Laptops and flat screens are another matter, and most welcome.

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### LAND OF MILK AND HONEY...

Beekeeping is a great source of income for families—and honey, of course, is itself a very nourishing food.

We are planning a course in Beekeeping for two people from Misufini and two from Buhuri— these bee suits are waiting for their owners.

### AND AT THE OTHER END ....

These computers arrived earlier this year at St. Monica's school on Zanzibar. Most of our computers end up in Tanga, but in response to urgent requests some have also gone to Mpwapwa and to St. Mark's Theological college in Dar es Salaam.



## MAPINDUZI—Christmas appeal 2010

Again, many thanks to those of you who donated towards our Christmas Appeal last year. This is a life-line for many orphaned children, who because of your generosity can now go to school. For primary school children this gives them a good start. As they get older they get more expensive, with shoes, uniform and exam fees and well as school fees. The George Walker fund provides some vocational training which is now giving results. This year we are supporting five teenagers in this way. This is only a drop in the ocean in a large parish, but it does provide great moral support.

Yvonne Evans

We were very sad and sorry to lose one of our original trustees, Yvonne Evans, to cancer earlier this year. Yvonne was tireless in her support and always willing to help. Particularly so with her paintings and cards; every few months she would give me a cheque from the proceeds of her sales. Some of these were of scenes from Uganda which she visited a few years ago, and some of the English countryside. Our condolences go to Robin and the rest of her family.

### STOP PRESS!

Arrangements are ongoing for a visit by our Patron, Bishop John Ramadhani, retired Archbishop of Tanzania. He hopes to be with us in Whitbourne on Sunday 11th September.

Contact:

Brenda Allan, Tanga in Touch.  
bp.allan@btinternet.com  
01886 821450