

Tanga in Touch

Registered Charity No. 1099877

Supporting Tanzanian organisations:

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

SPRING
2007

First the Good News:

- The Hostel at Mapinduzi is now in use.
- There is electricity again in Tanzania
- More teachers are being trained at Old Tanga School
- Duga Old Folks' Camp is being renovated.
- We have a new Patron

and now the bad ...

- Until we, or Hereford Hospital, find a new store we cannot send any more computers.

HELP!

Hereford Hospital, which has very kindly let us have space on their containers destined for the Teule Hospital at Muheza (not for nothing! We have always paid our share) is losing its storage space at Leominster. This has been wonderful - secure, dry, cheap and easy for the container lorry to get to. Until we find another suitable store there will be no more containers.

MAPINDUZI HOSTEL NOW IN USE.

Instead of young women, however, there are forty young men in residence at the Mama Brenda Hostel! They are all trainee teachers on the Government's crash course - there are so many new secondary schools being built that they are desperate for teachers. The college provides most of their food - here they are buying cups of tea provided by the priest's wife.



A NEW PATRON!

We are delighted to welcome Bishop John Ramadhani as our new patron.

John Ramadhani was Bishop of the Diocese of Zanzibar and Tanga for around twenty years until it was divided into two in 2000. He was appointed Bishop of Zanzibar and now, although he is officially retired, is still acting Bishop there. Bishop Philip Baji, of course, is now Bishop of Tanga.

Although Bishop John lives on Zanzibar, he has happy memories of his time in Tanga and has many friends and relations there.

Tanga people remember him with affection; his wisdom will be invaluable to us.

DUGA OLD FOLKS' CAMP

In a country where Old People's Homes are rare, St. Francis has one on its doorstep. There are around thirty old people there. The government, of course, should look after them. It does its best, but fencing and roofs are low on its list of priorities. The Old Folk have their belongings stolen; their roofs are full of holes. The people of St. Francis wanted to help and produced a project proposal and budget. In February this year we heard that the Tanzania Development Trust would supply the money. Work is now in progress and we hope that the new roofs will be in place before the worst of the rains begin.

MICRO-FINANCE SCHEME OFF TO A GOOD START.

Our Microfinance Loan Scheme for the women at Mapinduzi started at the end of 2006. Fifty women had four days training in business management. 25 of them took up loans in December - the amount was Tz 50,000/= - the equivalent of £20. This does not sound much to us, but can mean the creation of a viable business.

Photos below, Clockwise from top right. a) after church - women queueing to make their repayments b) Joyce, who has a paralysed leg, sells sweets and ice-cream outside the school. She was the first to fully repay the loan. c) Luiza makes cushion covers, which sell well. d) several of the women sell firewood, for a quick turnover e) Janet makes underskirts f) Blandina keeps a sow and spent the loan money on repairing her pig pen, medicine and food for the pigs (the sow had ten piglets!).



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We continue to support Brother Vincent and his work at Misufini Leprosy Centre. At present he is collecting money towards building a larger house for the children who are living, in term-time, near Muheza and attending the Rosminian school there.