

Tanga in Touch

Autumn 2008

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, Bishop of Ludlow,*
- *The Rt. Rev. Dr. Philip Baji, Bishop of Tanga*
- *The Rt. Rev. John Ramadhani*

Registered Charity No. 1099877

Christmas Appeal 2008

There are now 190 AIDS orphans in Mapinduzi—in just one parish. The number is steadily creeping up year by year as more parents die of AIDS. At least now people are talking about the problem, and it is seen as a national emergency rather than a personal shame.

However, the challenge now is to care for and educate hordes of orphans. Many people are taking in orphans—sometimes their grandchildren, nieces and nephews or even children of deceased neighbours. We have

seen houses where children sleep five-to-a-bed, or in the kitchen when the day's cooking is done. One boy was sharing a room with ten bicycles—his uncle lets the room for storage. Where it is difficult to find the money for bread, taking in orphans is a challenge, but people do it, because what would happen to the children otherwise?

Our first Christmas Appeal, in 2004, resulted in £400 providing school uniform for eighty chil-



dren, so that they could go to school.

Last year the £800, as well as providing uniform, was spent on exam fees and specialist nursing for people bedridden with AIDS.

Our target this year is £800. As I write, in November, we are up to just over £400. Please keep the cheques coming!

St. Francis' Day at St. Francis, Mapinduzi



The priest, Father Christopher Kiango, cuts the first sod for the new building in Mapinduzi

Sue Morris and I visited Tanga, the second of our visits in 2008, in October. We happened to be in Mapinduzi on St. Francis' Day. Their Patronal celebration lasts a bit longer than ours in this country, with a two-hour service and then a feast for the whole parish. The previous day saw the slaughter of a bullock, and a chef was brought in to cook a great pot of rice.

This year the service was followed by a ceremony blessing the plot, next to the hostel, for the new church hall (including a room for the sewing group and one for computers).

The first sod was cut cooperatively by several of us in turn. Workmen had been busy all week making concrete blocks for the foundations.

Building in Tanzania is rather different from England; here, we ensure that we have enough money to finish the job before we start it. There, they build as they get the money. So we expect to see the ground floor finished and probably in use a year or two before the second floor is started.

This is the plot over which there was a dispute, finally settled last year. So it is good now to see that work is finally under way.

Saving Fuel at Mapinduzi = New Business



Modes Nyimbile shows Mothers' Union members how to make a clay stove.

In May we sent money out to St. Francis Mapinduzi, Whitbourne's link parish, to run a course for members of UMAKI (Mothers' Union) in how to make fuel-efficient clay stoves and how to cook bread and cakes using more traditional methods (see below).

Course members are now finding that a load of firewood lasts more than twice as long; the stoves are easier to use, with less risk of accidents and much less smoke.

Opportunities



Above: newly-baked clay stoves.

Our aim was to show women how to save fuel. We seem to have given them the skills to start two types of business — making stoves and a bakery. If they manage to get going - both need capital - they will have an assured income; their families will be fed properly, their children will be educated and they will all live healthier lives.

Snippets from our October visit to Tanga:

- There are now 46 trainee teachers (young men!) living in the Mapinduzi hostel. They have breakfast at their college, and their evening meal is brought to the hostel. They do their own washing, which is hung up in the yard to dry; we had to fight our way through it every day!
- Fr. Henry Sheshe, former priest of Mapinduzi, having gained his degree in Public Administration, now has a new parish in Tanga - Amboni.
- There is a new 'International Conference Centre' just a few kilometers down the coast from where we usually stay at Mwambani. They have good accommodation and it is a very nice place to go for a drink.
- Both computer teachers at Old Tanga secondary school are on courses to upgrade their qualifications. There is a Norwegian girl there teaching computing.
- The rooms destined to be a computer classroom and a library at Old Tanga Secondary School are now being renovated. Electrical sockets, just installed, had been stolen, but were returned and have been re-installed.
- Tanga is to get a museum. The Urithi building, just to the North of the library, has been restored by the Urithi organization and is an ideal place for it. Urithi (Heritage) have already restored several of the old Tanga buildings. See www.geocities.com/urithitanga/
- LITI Buhuri have funding from the Tanzania Development Trust for a sheep and goat project. They are trying various breeds of goat to see which does best.



Above: fire below + fire above = oven.

Below: Sampling the cakes. Some were sold to cover the cost of ingredients.



Contact: Brenda Allan, Gaines Lodge, Whitbourne WR6 5RB

Tel: 01886 821450

bp.allan@btinternet.com

TRANSPORT CRISIS

We have always been extremely grateful to the Hereford-Muheza Link Society for allowing us to buy space on their container. This normally goes twice a year, taking mainly hospital goods to the Teule Hospital in Muheza. Not many container ships actually go to Tanga, so we would be stuck without this.

The number of charities sending goods on this container has now increased to the point where the hospital are having to say 'Steady on, enough is enough'. Is anybody willing to take on the organization of a general charities container from this area? Or perhaps provide storage facilities in the Bromyard area?

MISUFINI

We visited Misufini, the Leprosy Centre where we have been trying to help with their farming projects.

This has been difficult in the past as there is no effective leadership. The orange trees were lost in the jungle, the chickens disappeared, one cow was eaten and the young men who had been taught to look after cattle went off to find work elsewhere.

However, the goats are doing well—there are now five, and one is pregnant. We await events.