

Tanga in Touch

Charity No. 1099877

Spring 2014

PATRONS

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

TRUSTEES

- *Rev. Walter Gould*
- *Rev. David Howell*
- *Mrs. Susan Morris*
- *Mrs. Brenda Allan*



February is certainly a better month to visit Tanga than January! It was hot, certainly, but not unbearably so. I visited all the usual places, and also Horten Secondary School, one of the twenty or so built in Tanga in the last decade, and the one to which many of 'our' orphans go. I was asked if we could help this school, so I thought I had better go and have a look (see over).

With vast reserves of natural gas discovered off the coast, the country should be getting more prosperous—and it is, outwardly at least. Main roads are being improved, new bus stations built outside cities, a new commuter railway in Dar...

But infrastructure to deal with the gas is still being installed, entailing loans, mainly from China, which is also funding much of the road building. The government is hard up again ... and food payments to places such as Misufini are late.



Many professional people now have cars; the accident rate is soaring. They do not now feel the need for a prayer before eating. And sadly, the number of street children is increasing as families can no longer always support orphans. It's a funny world.

Left: traffic leaving Dar es Salaam.

AMBONI

The Amboni Women's Development Group asked for help. We paid for a course in bakery for them, and then helped them to buy an oven. Now most of them are producing bread and cakes for sale. We had a ceremonial sampling of a cake—and very good it was too.

Very often when women start making a little money for themselves, their husbands start to treat them better (i.e. not beating them!).

The Tree of Hope (an Anglican Church organisation) in Tanga also has a project enabling women by teaching them to make soap.



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MISUFINI LEPROSY CENTRE

This is now looking much better, and there is a better atmosphere. Solar panels, paid for by us and by the Episcopal Church of Massachusetts, provides power for light, charging telephones and a television. Now the residents can see beyond their immediate horizon. They have twelve cattle, twelve goats and twelve hives of bees. They also have water security, thanks to the SIM tanks (for rainwater—you can just see the top of one in the right-hand photo). They were provided by us, the Americans and the Rosminians. There has been enough rain to keep them topped up, but not enough to fill the new dam.

In the photo George, who we sponsored on a Vehicle Maintenance and Driving course, is thanking us. He wants to do the next level up, so that he can drive buses!



HORTEN SECONDARY SCHOOL

There is not enough space to describe all their problems:

*No fence, so neighbours' cattle get in and children get out, especially at break time in search of food. *Not enough toilets. A new toilet block for girls is planned.

*Not enough books in the library. *Not enough text books. I took a sample of the maths books from QE, which the Head said would be useful. In spite of being a History/English teacher she knew the Maths syllabus. *Teaching language. Children coming into school cannot speak English. They need simple English readers and English people who can help.

*Orphans with nowhere to live: twelve of them. Most orphans still live with extended family, but in Tanzania these traditional structures are breaking down. *They need computers and science apparatus. I left a laptop with the Head Teacher. I am also packing Maths text books for them— I had about two cubic metres from the QE Academy in Bromyard.

But in spite of this, the school was a happy place with caring teachers.

I have since received an estimate of the cost of new toilets—£14,000. That is a bit more than we can afford, but it is for twenty-eight; perhaps we could manage six!

ALL IN A WEEK'S WORK...

Actually I was in Tanga for ten days. Not really long enough for the above plus the City Library (3 visits), Old Tanga School, Chumbageni Primary, Buhuri, the Remand Centre, the College for the Disabled, a quick courtesy visit to the Bishop, a church service which was four hours long, a ride on the boat (right)...

While there I sent copies of my diary back to a few friends. I have put these together as a small booklet, which will be available shortly in return for a donation.



TANGA IN TOUCH is Whitbourne's charity which runs our Tanzanian link. We support the Misufini Leprosy Centre as well as our link parish of St. Francis, Mapinduzi, a suburb of Tanga.

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