

Tanga in Touch

Charity No. 1099877 **Winter 2009/10**

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



HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our friends in Tanzania, U.K., U.S.A., Italy and Finland! Who have I missed out? It is very encouraging that so many people have contributed with goods, money and moral support to our 2009 Christmas Appeal. This year our appeal went particularly well. It began with Yvonne Evans' Garage Sale—to which her in-laws Patrick and Kristin largely contributed as they had just moved house. Most of Whitbourne seemed to turn up and Yvonne's personal target of £600 was easily reached. Then

we had cheques through the post, a morning at the Upper Sapey Friday Market, donations pushed into my hand—wonderful. We reached our target of £800 in early December, and then extended it to include a new invalid tricycle for Joyce. Left crippled by a childhood attack of polio, Joyce earns a living by packaging sweets and nuts and making ice-cream. She sells these outside the school. Her present elderly tricycle has done good service, but is now beyond repair. A new one costs £250 in Dar es Salaam, and we might be able to find somebody to transport it free. (On the other hand, we might not!)

So as a result of your generosity, many orphans will be able to further their education, old people will get medicines, babies will get extra nourishment—and Joyce will get a tricycle. Thank you all.



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

It is wonderful to behold how keen Tanzanians are on education. '...like snail unwillingly to school' springs to mind when thinking of English students. But Tanzanians, probably because they have never had it easily, and it is not free, really appreciate the opportunity to learn and to improve their skills. Only recently has primary education become compulsory in Tanzania, and a place at secondary school was only for those who could both afford it and pass exams. Even then it was not guaranteed. In a parish like Mapinduzi, one of the poorest in a poor city, very few managed it.

Now, thanks to the trustees of the Trade School Foundation, we are able to sponsor four students for vocational training. Next year four young people (three orphans and one disabled) will begin college courses—one secretarial, two plumbing and one sign-writing.

ALL IN THE DAY'S WORK

Leaving the Hostel at Mapinduzi one day in October this was the sight which greeted us. Workmen—and women—carrying bags of cement, piles of gravel and a cement-mixer. This scene of frenetic activity was very different from the usual few people wandering past.



On our return, the cement and gravel had magically been turned into the floor for the new church hall. All parishes need a church hall—both for church events and to hire out for parties etc. Ideally this will pay for upkeep. Also the sewing group will be able to use it instead of waiting for the kindergarten children to

go home—and they have their sights on the kitchen to start a bakery business.

It is encouraging to see this progress. We helped to build the hostel—now profits from that are being used to build the church hall. Unfortunately, the church itself needs a new roof. When it rains, the congregation needs umbrellas, so they will have to decide where their priorities lie.



TUJIKOMBOE (Self-sufficiency!)

The farmers at the Buhuri dam finally tried my suggestion of siphoning water for their crops. But having seen the results—just a trickle coming out of the other end of the hose—I agree that what they need is a decent pump. They are now making bricks to build two water troughs—one each side of their land, which is in a valley. They will use the pump to fill them and irrigate by gravity. Groups like this, which make the best use of what they have, are a wonderful example of what can be done with a little help in the right place.



These Red Masaai sheep are nothing to do with Tanga in Touch, but they are so photogenic I had to include them. They are part of the Buhuri Sheep and Goat project, funded by the Britain-Tanzania Society.

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