



Newsletter 12 – Summer 2011

Bringing about lasting change

The change in climatic conditions in East Africa that has caused the drought in Somalia has also caused hardship in Tanzania. Not to the dreadful extent that we see in the news, but the people are down to one meal a day. Please don't do what I sometimes find myself doing and think that is not so bad, please think what it would mean to you, your children or grandchildren.

For us at the Livingstone Tanzania Trust it makes us realise just how important our work is. Demonstrating to the community how rainwater can be harvested and how crops can be grown using water efficient methods, how the soil can be improved using compost and manure, how the deforestation can be reduced by using fuel efficient stoves is our way of showing the community that there are alternative ways of working that could be better for them. Their lives are unlikely to get easier by carrying on in the same fashion and we hope to inspire them to change aspects of their lifestyles for the better.

It is through education that people get the inspiration to develop new ideas that will help them develop the solutions they need to the growing number of problems they face. This is why we focus on improving the educational in the schools by reducing class sizes, training teachers, adding resources, assisting with school meals and providing practical agricultural studies. It is more important now than ever before because the young will be facing greater hardship in the future and without the skills to challenge them they will continue to live in extreme poverty.



25 Piglets



The Sawe Community Group's business has burst into life with 25 new little piglets. We started the project last April with 10 piglets and 16 months later the business has 30 pigs. That is not bad growth in any business! But the community have to run this as a business and they have to manage their cash flow, so when these little darlings are 3 months old they will be sold and the process of getting their mothers pregnant starts all over again. Next time we plan to keep 5 piglets and grow the business slowly. Food, water and shelter are the limiting factors especially in times when food prices are rocketing. But we hail their arrival as a great success and we are delighted for the women running this project.

Managha Primary School

When an earth tremor felled the staff toilet and further damaged 3 already fragile classrooms, the teachers at the Managha Primary School approached us for help. For the staff toilet they promised to provide the bricks and dig the pit. How could we turn them down? We later arrived with a team of Quest Overseas volunteers and were engulfed in a sea of eager young faces with outstretched hands trying to shake ours. It was a wonderful welcome. While we were there we also installed a new floor in one of the classrooms. In mid morning breaks we entertained the kids and one day played a game of "spade cricket". We enjoyed the company of the kids, teachers and community members and hope one day to return to the school and to assist the community as they strive to renovate the school and provide a safe environment for their children to receive their education.



THANK YOU

As always none of this work is possible without the phenomenal support of so many people. So thank you so very much for putting your faith in us and helping us deliver these projects. In particular we want to pay tribute to our volunteers Louisa, Stef, Jo, Katie, Evie, Michaela, Jordan, Alistair, Finlay, Niroj and Alix from Quest Overseas; Nikki, Abi, Tina, Ellie and Hattie from the Holy Trinity School; and Brian and Jim from Darrow School. We would also like to thank "Send a cow" and "Sunseed Tanzania" for their excellent work in East Africa and their generosity in sharing their knowledge.

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Waangwaray Primary School and Library



This summer our volunteers together with local builders built the foundations to two classrooms and a teacher's office and when funds allow we will build the rest. The students continue to enjoy the library and are getting excited about reading competition and are all desperate to win the chance of going on safari. The classrooms were being kept clean which was great to see. Some areas of the farm have suffered from the poor rains but the market garden was looking fantastic because of the borehole; seeing all the tomatoes, peppers and chillies was a testament to the hard work that is being put in.

Rocket stoves

Our fuel efficient stoves programme goes from strength to strength with a new design of cooker being even more popular. For this we must thank our friends at Sunseed Tanzania who we met through the Together4Africa network. The new stoves use the same concept as before but have a superior design and are cheaper and more environmentally friendly to make. This project reduces the rate of deforestation AND generates an income for the women. A double whammy! We have challenged the women to build at least 100 before the end of the year so that the impact on deforestation can be immediate.



Feeding programme and store

We are very excited to have started a 3 year feeding programme at two schools. This is a matching programme where if the parents contribute half the required food and pay for the chef, we will provide the other half. In years two and three our contribution reduces to 33% then 25%. We will be offering 100% assistance to the poorest 5% of the community as determined by the community themselves as long as they participate on the school farm. By feeding the students we hope to reduce afternoon truancy and keep the young minds active and learning.

Vegetable gardens

With students not getting a balanced diet we are eager to demonstrate how easy it can be to grow vegetables. After much research we were most inspired by Send a Cow's keyhole gardens. These raised-bed vegetable gardens, which from above look like keyholes, use locally available materials and demonstrate how to use compost, manure and ash to help improve the soil. We built 3 over the summer at different schools and plan to build many more throughout the year. We have also improved upon our cement grow bags and are demonstrating how they too can be used by students to grow vegetables. All the vegetables that are grown at school on these projects are added to the lunchtime meals to help improve the students' diet.



Chelsea Flower Show

Our new student farming programme is aimed at encouraging the children to learn about farming as a business. Year 3 will learn about vegetables that grow under the ground, Year 4 will learn about vegetables that grow above the ground, Year 5 will learn about "greens" and Year 6 will learn about staples such as cassava, pigeon peas, maize. Aside from practical learning on the school demonstration farm, they will also be asked to demonstrate to us what they have learnt. Their plots will be marked and their knowledge tested. Certificates will be issued subject to how well they have performed, Bronze, Silver and Gold as well as a "best in show" award. With any luck Mr Titchmarch will sponsor us!!

London to Paris in just 23 hours and 20 minutes

He made it!! After suffering a road rage assault during his training and being 49 years old!!! Hats off. Simon Page cycled to Paris in a fantastic time raising over £2500 for his efforts. His sweat, bruises and saddle sores have allowed us to buy enough books to have a ratio of 1 book per 3 students in EVERY subject in EVERY year at the Waangwaray Primary School. I am pretty sure that is not Blackpool in the background! If you would like to walk the Great Wall of China, climb Kilimanjaro or hike in the Atlas mountains please contact Julian julian@livingstonetanzaniatrust.com or if you are not so athletic perhaps a painless standing order would be better. **Together we can make a difference.**

