



Newsletter 13 – Winter 2011

50 Years of Independence

On December 9th 2011 Tanzania will be celebrating 50 years since it gained its independence from the United Kingdom. Julius Nyerere, the Father of the Nation, led the country through the peaceful transition and a year later Tanganyika joined with Zanzibar to form the Republic of Tanzania. No doubt there will be big parties up and down the country to celebrate.

The Manyara Region, like many others have had their regional celebration early so as not to compete with the main event. The party was held at the Kwaraa Stadium on the green outside the Kahembe Guest House. It was led by the Regional Commissioner who amongst other things displayed our new kindergarten tables from Sinai Primary School, highlighting them as a great innovation and an example to other schools.

More recently a Government Inspector of Schools from Dodoma visited the same kindergarten and praised it as a “model kindergarten” saying it was a “must see” item for all visiting dignitaries as it “helps boost the image of progressive teaching methods in Babati.” The Town Council are happy to take credit for this but if by taking credit other schools follow our lead no one will be happier than us.



Our Model Kindergarten



School books

The Gift of Reading

We hope you will buy this year's Christmas card. Not only do they create awareness of us but more importantly they generate revenue that allows us to buy more books for the Sinai Primary School. If you'd like some cards please contact Penny on penny@igotemail.co.uk

Aside from the cards we also have some very simple sponsorship opportunities and ideas for gifts for those people who have everything such as this solar lantern. They can be found on the website. www.livingstonetanzaniatrust.com



Buy 10 cards buy 1 school book

A Mother's Reality

A few years ago a mother from the Waangwaray Community approached the Head Teacher at the Primary School and asked if she could fail her daughter when she wrote the National Year 7 exams which allowed entry to Secondary School. The mother explained that it would be easier if her daughter failed than having to face up to the sadness of telling her that she could not afford the Secondary School fees.

When I first heard this story some years I was in a state of disbelief and angry that a mother would do this to her daughter. Angry that she would deny her the opportunity to realise her full potential. However after quiet contemplation I was full of sadness for the mother, the mother who might have wanted the best for her child but was simply unable to give her the best because of her state of poverty. In the event the girl did fail her exams and the mother was spared the embarrassment.

But it started me thinking; it made me realise just how complex this world I had moved into was. All very well building nice schools, new books, training the teachers but if the families are just too poor to make the most of these opportunities then am I just wasting my time and your donations? We will never be able to help everyone, I have accepted that, but that ought not stop us from trying. It was this experience that motivated us to move our focus also into the community and work with the women's groups, to help them get an income and hopefully prevent any other mothers having to make such an awful request.

This November we are offering a 3 day business training course to 50 members of the community who will then be able to apply for a micro-loan to help them with their cash flow, their small business ideas and give them the hand up they need. We have researched many different microloan models and have taken what we see as the best and developed our own community run, low interest rate, scheme.



The Future of Tanzanian Tourism: Catherine Kayumbo

The Face of Tanzania's Future

At 19, Catherine Kayumbo began school later than most, because she was an orphan. However, with sheer dedication and perseverance, she has been applying herself. Thanks to you, we have been able to support her Secondary School education, as well as the education of 2 other orphan children. They have just written their final exams, and we are all eagerly awaiting their results!

With a huge interest in Tourism combined with giving back, Catherine was invited to join the Livingstone Tanzania Trust team in October, where she worked with a group of our overseas volunteers. She was a fabulous asset to the team and we hope we can employ her and the other young adults as they graduate – all because of your support of their education!



The Pump at Sinai

Sadly not everything is good news; the water pump installed at the Sinai School broke again. In October we mended what was a broken connector pipe. However, the main pump head had also become eroded and the piston had bent beyond repair due to continuous use. The children are now using the community pump.

This is hindering plans to create vegetable gardens and the orchard development at the school which would enhance the school meal programme. We are working with our friends in New York to find a solution and also considering getting a new and local pump system which will be more expensive and cost about £1600.



Lunch programme



Nutritious rice and beans

Our lunch programme is now feeding 821 young people at 2 schools; representing 75% of the students. It is sad that not everyone is participating in this voluntary scheme but those who are are benefiting greatly. The teachers are seeing improved attendance, greater alertness and also improved health.

The lunch is just one part of a wider holistic programme. We plan, water permitting, to start a smaller demonstration vegetable garden at Sinai along the lines of the project at Waangwaray. The lessons learnt by the students can be taken and applied at home with the Keyhole and Sack gardens.

St Dunstan's College

12 Students and 2 teachers came out to Babati in October for 10 days with 2 team leaders from Inspire Worldwide. They started the building process for a much needed new classroom at the Sinai Primary School. The team worked very hard and in a short time built the wall to roof height, including two lintels and installed a floor. They also made time to visit with the local community, seeing how they live and what problems they face. We had talks from the Head Teacher Mr Walter and the Ward Education Officer on the struggles they face.

Each day, we had Swahili lessons and took breaks playing football with the builders. The girls went to visit the Girl Guides, and their new recruits at the Frederick Sumaye school, which was an eye opening and humbling experience. The trip helped each of us learn about ourselves, each other, the communities, and ultimately know that this classroom will help shape the future Babati students.



The Girl Guides of Babati

In December when schools break up, The Girl Guides of Babati are going to hold their first "camp" where 60 girls from 5 schools will join together to learn about the Guides and start to identify the problems they face in the community so that together they can tackle them. Topics like discrimination at home and in the community; forced marriages; polygamy; genital mutilation; violence and abuse; building self-esteem and confidence, will be examined and discussed in the context of supporting each other.

We are looking for people who can help support this phenomenal group of Guides.



The Power of Education: Angela Mefruda's Story



Angela is a 46 year old mother, wife and homemaker. She reached only grade 4 of primary school. However through the Livingstone Tanzania Trust, and the Sinai Primary School where she is a member of the school development committee, she attended agricultural training in Mombasa. Empowered by the knowledge and experience, Angela motivated her own community to form a collective. This group started with fish ponds and despite difficulties the project faced with water, the collective remained positive and began a new project - Pig farming and now also includes 2 cows reared from our cows in the community programme.

One woman's training has brought positive benefits to an entire community. Finding the true leaders in the community is what we want to do as part of our self-help philosophy.

All the best for 2012