

Bethany Newsletter April 2015

Dear Supporter,

Firstly we are disappointed to have to tell you we are still waiting for our school to be registered. We have filled out all the forms, had all the inspections, been down to Dar-es-Salaam but still no success. The latest news was that we are waiting for the application to be signed by the prime minister after which the forms will be returned ready for the Zonal inspector to visit and give permission for our school to be registered. We have no indication of how long that may be!

Jesca and Emmakulatha; are teaching some of the children at Bethany during the day and others in the late afternoon and evenings. Sophia will be joining them in July and we will then have three qualified teachers on site waiting for the registration to come through.

Primary / secondary school children; Most of our children presently attend the two local government schools - which will be the case until we receive registration to operate our own school. These schools have few trained teachers and very meagre resources. They also use corporal punishment to the extreme often in a brutal indiscriminate way. This has the effect of dehumanising the students making them dislike the subjects and resenting the teachers. In spite of this most of our children excel in most subjects due mainly to the encouragement and extra education they receive at Bethany.

Students in the UK; All eight students are at various stages with their studies but are looking forward to returning to Bethany Tanzania in July for 6 weeks where they will apply all that they have learnt by teaching at Bethany and also at the local government primary and secondary schools. They return to the UK mid August to resume their studies at Blackburn College.

Summer Visitors; We are happy to welcome Majorie Rylands, Joan Mclvor and Gill Garner to Bethany Tanzania for two weeks in August. Marjorie was one of our early pioneers who has visited Bethany many times, is a midwife/nurse and also enjoys working with young children. Joan is an RE teacher who has been helping our UK students preparing them for their GCSE RE exams. Joan is a long term supporter and is now visiting Bethany to see for herself the work we are doing. Gill Garner is now helping three of our girls prepare for their IELTS exam in May, is a friend of Joan's and together they have told me that many years ago they promised one day to visit Bethany and now eventually the opportunity is here and the visit only weeks away.

Students at Colleges/Universities; We have several students studying at various places. Elijah is our first boy to attend University in Tanzania at Dar-es-Salaam. He is doing a similar degree course to the one the girls are doing in the UK and hopes to be a qualified teacher on completion. Hamsa finishes his engineering course this June and so we hope he will be gainfully employed very soon. Emmanuel and Ntare are both in High school boarding schools and if they do well enough they too may move on to University.

Sophia's Farewell Celebration; Last year we held a Farewell Party for Jesca and Emma's return. This year we are holding a celebration in the evening for Sophia. Please see the attached invitation for further details. It is being held at Ernest Street Baptist Chapel, Wlamsley Close, Church, Accrington. BB5 4HL on Wednesday the 24th June 2015 at 7.30pm. Once again the format will be similar to the farewell party held the previous year with an interval at about 8.15pm for tea and biscuits. An opportunity to hear the senior Bethany girls singing and to hear Sophia's short life story as well as short video clips from Bethany Tanzania welcoming Sophia to take up her role as teacher at Bethany. Everyone is welcome to this event without charge.

24 years ago; October 1991 was when the first 12 men from the UK visited The Bethany site which was just a stretch of land of about 30 acres on the banks of Lake Victoria. The plan was to build an orphanage and help in other areas as much as possible. The first visit was for about 4 weeks and the men shared one building with one toilet and shower and they all slept on the floor (no beds). Water had to be filtered and the food was basic. Everything for the building work had to be brought by bus including the bags of cement for making the bricks etc. After 4 weeks the first building had been built to roof level and all 12 went home exhausted. Since that time many groups have visited all adding their contribution to make what Bethany has become today. We now look forward and pray for the next stage - the registration of our school.

Fund raising events:

A sponsored Cycle Ride; around the famous TT course on the Isle of Man. Saturday 27th June 2015. See attached flyer or see our website for more information. Also contact Derek Hartley direct on 01254 676545 or email: derekhhartley@btinternet.com (please note the double 'h')

Quiz Night; Saturday 12th September 2015 7pm Ernest Street Baptist Chapel Wlamsley Close, Church, Accrington BB5 4HL. Ideal for church teams. Details to follow on our web site. or contact Derek Hartley direct on 01254 676545 or email: derekhhartley@btinternet.com (please note the double 'h')

Great North Swim; Rebecca, Vicky and Bella are three of our supporters looking for sponsors. Details of how to sponsor them are on our website but if you would like to sponsor them directly without accessing the internet phone Graham on 01254 879694.

FINANCE

We continue to rely on individuals monthly donations and various events to support our work and wanted to let you know of the progress being made. We felt it important to say thank you for all your faithful support over the years.

Without you none of this would have been possible.