

Bethany Report – Rebekah Jeffery

In September (2025), I had the pleasure of visiting Bethany for three weeks. Bethany is something that my family has been involved with for many years, including my parents living in Tanzania for 2 years, and visiting myself previously when I was 2 and 5. During my recent visit, it was amazing to see first-hand all the developments I have heard about over the years. It was especially lovely to see Jesca and Emma in their roles as coordinator and head teacher respectively, who I got to know quite well during their time studying in England.

During my three weeks at Bethany, I taught science and maths topics to some of the children in different classes ranging from standard 5 to form 3. I also helped deliver a bible study for children in standard 5 and above. Between organised classes, I spent time getting to know some of the younger children and learning more about their daily routines. The children really do interact with each other like siblings – they fall out occasionally but still love each other.

I was also able to meet Teddy and Kabula who are currently studying at high school about an hour drive away from the Bethany site. I commend their determination to achieve good results whilst living in the slightly-less-than-great condition of the high school dorms. This showed by contrast how well the children living at Bethany are looked after.

The building of the new secondary school seemed to be coming along well. The need for the Bethany Secondary School for Girls was made evident during a walk round the local secondary school, during which one of the Bethany girls said to me, “Welcome to our school – it’s really bad here”.

On the whole, the children at Bethany demonstrate good behaviour and are always willing to help out where they can. Their commitment to work hard on their education is also exceptional. Hopefully this attitude of hard work and good behaviour will still be important to them in adulthood.

September 2025