

# The Bethany Project (Tanzania) UK

UK Reg. Charity 517995



CHILDREN'S HOME AND EDUCATION CENTRE

[www.bethanyonline.org](http://www.bethanyonline.org)

In the New Testament there are several references to the village called Bethany. It was a place where Jesus withdrew to, when he felt the crowds were becoming too much and he longed for peace and recuperation. He felt loved, safe, amongst friends and able in quiet surroundings to pray to his Father.

The Bethany Children's Home and Primary School is also such a special place (apart from at times quietness!!)

The Home has a total number of 140 children, (93 girls and 47 boys). Most are resident on site with some older boys at boarding school and some (girls and boys) attending further education.

The Pre and Primary School number on the role has increased to over 400. The Trustees continue to fund children from the very poorest families giving preference to accepting girls (as they are more vulnerable and disadvantaged) in the ratio of 2:1 and try to accept only one child from each village family. Resources comprise such items as text and exercise books as well as helping with the cost of school uniforms and the provision of breakfast and lunch each school day. All these resources are provided free of charge (no school fees) due to the poverty in our area.

The Bethany Project is over 30 years old and has faithfully kept to God's vision for the poor and marginalised children. It has extended its operations from establishing and running the Home to providing the Pre and Primary School for both the Bethany and village children. However, even more importantly than that is we are introducing village families, staff and children to Jesus.

It is a privilege to attend prayer meetings, Christian teaching lessons and to have the opportunity to immerse myself in the Tanzanian culture of song and dance celebrating joyfully the Christian message of forgiveness, love, peace, reconciliation and salvation.

Bethany children and staff are engaged in village community work and the Coordinator administers the poor fund. In addition, Bethany is a major employer and therefore injects money into the community which is helping to lift families out of poverty.

At the beginning of the year the Bethany Trustees launched an appeal for funds to build a secondary school for girls. Notwithstanding the effort made by the Tanzania government to improve the quality of education, many girls still face life barriers (poverty, early marriages, unwanted pregnancies and cultural norms) which prevent them reaching their full potential. The lack of adequate facilities further exacerbates the situation, leading to high dropout rates and limited career opportunities.

In a recent interview two of our girls who attend the local government secondary school, detailed their experiences of learning within an unsafe environment. Girls leave school early due to poor backgrounds, early pregnancies and inappropriate behaviour by male teachers.

Establishing our own Secondary School for girls will address these issues by creating a safe, clean and supportive environment, offering mentorship and guidance, providing quality education tailored to their needs where girls are empowered to make positive life choices.

Such transformation will extend well beyond the individual student in bringing about significant changes and will raise the standard of living (for example overcoming poverty) amongst the community.

Emmakulatha Robert, our headteacher and a Bethany girl, together with 14 other girls were fortunate to receive a UK education. This enabled us to establish our Primary School, which has delivered outstanding results over the past 10 years and is now a leader in good practice.

However now is the time to take this success one step further and the Trustees are confident that a Secondary School for girls is within reach. To summarise the Trustees, believe the Secondary School for girls will deliver an outstanding education within a safe and supportive environment built upon strong Christian values and contribute significantly to raising living standards across the community. The Trustees estimate the build costs to be around £200,000. £28,000 has been raised so far and a further £10,000 has been promised within the next few months.

Bethany has a "Grow your own Policy" which isn't about planting and growing crops (which we do) but rather sending our young people to Teacher Training College to join our Primary School after qualification. It is in its infancy but so far is proving highly successful both in terms of raising the standards of education particularly in English and teaching practice.

There has been over the years significant difficulties not least clashes between Christian teaching and culture which Bethany have had to deal with in a sensitive and pragmatic way without sacrificing "What would Jesus do". There have been many failures but also achievements in maintaining the Bethany vision and strategy. It has been a privilege to witness what God has done and is doing in the lives of children, young people and families.

However, the Trustees could not have achieved any of this without our loyal supporters who faithfully donate (usually monthly) and sign up to gift aid where they can. 100% of the money donated goes to Bethany. Trustees cover ad hoc expenses etc from their own resources and visitors pay their own onsite accommodation costs.

If you would like to visit Bethany or know of anyone who is interested or wish to be a part of the Bethany journey and donate, please let me know. I can promise you will not regret it but rather be part of giving children a life that God intended

Finally, if you would like to keep in touch and have access to the internet, please click on the Bethany website at [www.bethanyfamily.net](http://www.bethanyfamily.net) and/or go to our face book page.

We thank God for his grace and provision and are greatly encouraged by the words in the Book of Micah which are "What does the Lord require of you?" To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God".

Bethany tries to do that everyday.

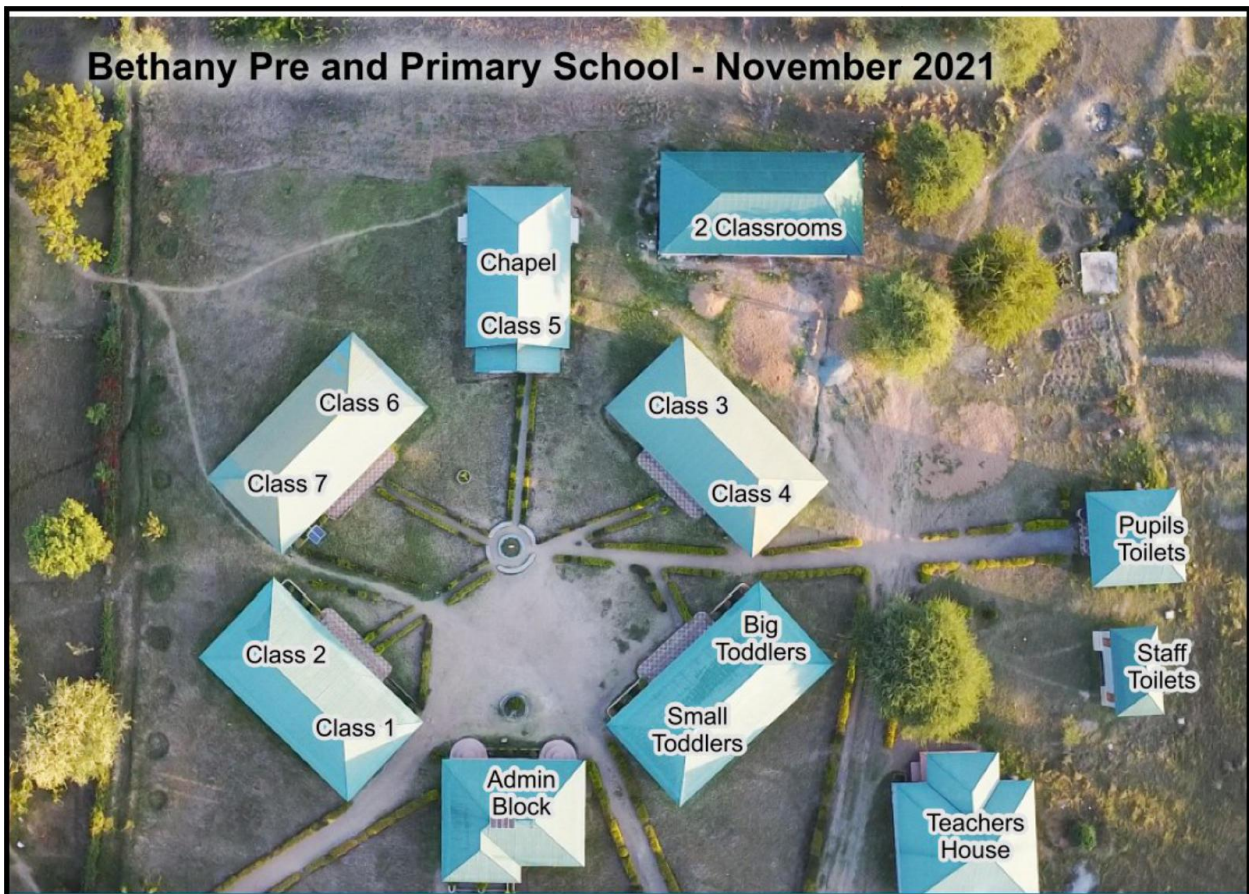
Every blessing

*DA Borland*

David Borland OBE  
Trustee and Treasurer



## Bethany Pre and Primary School - November 2021



## Bethany Children's Home



November 2021