

Report on visit June 2022 by Graham Pountain: The visit was for just over two weeks starting 26th June to the 13th July 2022.

During the visit and in consultation with the senior management team and the Bethany Tanzanian directors it was decided that an audit of both Bethany in Tanzania and Bethany in the UK should be taken. This should include evaluating the various priorities and the future vision.

Bethany Home: We presently have 147 Children on site (93 girls and 54 boys) and 9 older children (young adults) off site being helped through further education (see below).

Bethany Primary School (English Medium): There are presently 370 of children at our School comprising of 228 girls and 141 boys. 108 children from Bethany and 261 from the local village. (We try to maintain the ratio of 2 girls to 1 boy as girls are more vulnerable than boys). We provide free education for all 370 children and also provide breakfast and Lunch (FOC). The std 7 children have just completed their mock examinations and will take the government exam in October, we are hoping for outstanding results!

Secondary school: We have 30 Students at Secondary School. 18 resident at Bethany and 12 Boys at boarding school. Secondary School starts at the age of 14/15yrs and so it is inappropriate for our older secondary school boys (14-18yrs) to be housed on the same site as our younger children especially the girls.

Further Education: 1 girl at High School (Sarah John), 4 are training to be Teaching Assistants and 4 boys on vocational courses

School Staff: Altogether we have approximately 24 staff including Ta's, Secretary and Caretaker.

Home Staff: Altogether we have approximately 30 staff some of whom work a rota shift system. Included in this figure are careworkers, site workers, cooks and security staff.

Senior leadership team: Jesca Paulo (Coordinator), Mwita Marwa (Assistant coordinator) and Emmakulatha Bujiku (Head teacher).

Agriculture: Tanzania is in the dry season and so very little is growing at present. However, on the plus side there were fewer bugs, midges or mosquitoes. The only crops that were growing were those that could be watered by hand with water from Lake Victoria. Many of the children have their own small plots of land where they grow a variety of vegetables. Jesca has also introduced a number of fruit trees including: Bananas, Oranges, Avocado, Pawpaw, Lemons and Mangoes. Also down by the Lake Mwita is experimenting with growing rice but has had problems with birds eating the rice and a family of Hippos visiting in the middle of the night and eating the rice plants.

Meals provided by Bethany: As part of the audit we decided to work out just how many meals were provided for our children and staff at both the home and the school. It works out that on a normal 30 day month when our Bethany Primary school is open we provide approx 28,500 meals. The present cost of providing the food, the fuel and the washing up detergents etc. is approx 21p per meal.

Effects of the Russian invasion of Ukraine:

Prices of all items in Tanzania are on the increase especially basic food items including Maize, cooking oil, beans, sugar, soap etc. etc.

Diesel has increased from just over 2,500 Tsh a litre in February to 3,300 Tsh per litre in June.

Buildings: The 3 new toilet blocks added to the 3 wings of the small girl's dorm were nearing completion. Presently waiting for our regular joiner to appear and fix the doors on the cubicles.

Tasks whilst I was there: I helped the Pre school teaching staff with pronunciation and how to make reading out loud dynamic. I had meetings with the School teaching staff to discuss the present financial difficulties and the purpose of having an audit. I also did a couple of sessions with all the teaching staff again on pronunciation where we all had turns speaking out loud various tongue twisters. I spoke to the home staff again to talk about the present financial difficulties. I also had a short slot in the Sunday service where I spoke about the importance of the New Testament (The Gospel) as compared to the Old Testament.