**PROPASAL FOR BUILDING A SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AT BETHANY**

Hello everyone,

Below is a short report on our proposal to build a secondary school for girls at Bethany. This proposal was raised during our annual directors meeting which took place on the 19th of October 2024. The proposal was positively received and unanimously agreed to present it to the UK team for further discussion.

Why propose to build a secondary school for girls only?

Despite the effort made by the Tanzania government to improve the quality our education system, many girls still face barriers such as poverty, early marriages, unwanted pregnancies and cultural norms that limit their access to secondary education. The lack of adequate facilities further exacerbates the issue, leading to high dropout rates and limited career opportunities.

In an interview done by Graham, with two of our secondary school girls who attend our local government secondary school ( I am sure you have all watched it), they explicitly explained what really happens at their school and this is the reality to many girls especially who attend secondary schools in rural areas. Hence we believe the proposed school will provide a safe and supportive environment for our girls to pursue education, strong Christian values, develop leadership skills and prepare them for day they leave school. According to my recent research and the interview with Dorca and Evaline (done by Graham) girls are more likely to drop out of school due poor backgrounds, early pregnancies, unsupported/unsafe school environment, inappropriate male teachers behaviour towards girls(male teachers approaching girls) ect. Establishing our secondary school will address these issues by creating a safe, clean and supportive environment for learning, offering mentorship and guidance, providing quality education tailored to girls’ needs. The school will offer opportunities where girls can be empowered which will enhance them to make positive and good choices. There is a saying “if you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate a nation”. Providing a safe and supported learning environment for these girls at our secondary school, will be more than transforming one individual at a time, it will eventually bring about changes in their families, communities and our nation. I together with other 14 girls were fortunate enough to have studied in the UK, it gave us an opportunity to be where we are today, I really pray and hope that these girls will also learn in similar environment, of course it will never be anything like England, but at least they will be safe and supported in their learning journey. It is my hope that we succeed to make this vision a reality because it will offer better opportunities. I do understand that we will face many challenges along the way, but I remain positive because with God all things are possible!

Thank you all very much for your continuous support to Bethany, I never once imagined in my life that we will be where we are today.

May God bless you and keep you safe.

Emmakulatha Robert