



UPDATE FROM DODOMA Tanzania



October 2017

I feel so blessed to be sitting outdoors in October in my shorts, soaking up the sun on a warm Saturday afternoon in this truly beautiful place. We're heading into summer and it's starting to get very hot, even at night, but thankfully it's a bit 'cooler' today at 90°F/32°C. Of course the summer is the wet season and we are hoping for a good rainfall this year. Even though the ground is still very dry and hard, the families are starting to prepare for planting. Please pray for a consistent rainfall this season; the families desperately need a better crop yield than last year in order to be able to survive.



It's hard to believe 2017 is almost at a close; the year has flown by and although we've been kept very busy we still have much to do before I return to Northern Ireland for Christmas. The building work at the Kids4school academy site is continuing well. The 2 VTC buildings are completely finished, and the administration block is almost up. Our Lord has been faithful in providing an addition to our team; I met with and interviewed her a few weeks ago and she will start work on Wednesday 1st November. I'm excited to be expanding our team here and believe she will be an asset to the work in Tanzania. This will also allow us to start the preparations for the school opening as she will be a great help in assisting to prepare proposals and applications to the school board, as well as be involved in interviews and inspections.



This summer we had 3 separate teams visit for 2 weeks, each carrying out different projects and programs. It was an intense and tiring couple of months, but everyone had a great experience. We had such fun and it was wonderful to meet many new friends and welcome back a few return visitors who have clearly also been smitten with the beauty of Africa, and the vision and work of Kids4school.



Over this year we've managed to capture about 90% of our sponsored children at re-registration, which is pleasing considering the often sporadic attendance levels at the village schools for various reasons. We have added over 300 new children onto the program across main stream and special needs schools. We have provided food to over 700 individual families as well as sourcing and distributing hundreds of alternative gifts donated by sponsors ranging from scholar packs to mattresses. We have also been alerted to many needs in various areas and, through the generosity of supporters, been able to identify ways to provide help. There have been six new rain water collection tanks built at schools so far this year which, once the rain comes, will provide clean drinking water for the kids for a number of months.

Many of you know of our partnerships with the blind schools/units here in the Dodoma region. It has been wonderful to be able to provide assistance in different ways throughout the year to these



special children, and we are continually receiving details from the Belfast office of requests from supporters and funding for more projects. This month we have also sought out and established a relationship with the Dodoma Deaf School (Viziwi Shule ya Msingi) and we look forward to developing that relationship further in the future.

Nothing is straight forward here and we seem to meet obstacles even when dealing with the most basic of tasks. However, thankfully we serve a wonderful God who has provided for us every step of the way. My residency was finally processed and approved in August. I experienced a few days of uncertainty due to inaccurate advice from an immigration officer and I discovered, to my horror that I was in fact in the country illegally. However, that was sorted out fairly quickly and I now have no further restrictions on travel or concerns over the legal status of my visa.

I know there are many people praying for me and the work here in Tanzania through Kids4school, and I want to thank you sincerely for your continued support and prayers.

Asante sana kwa kuomba, na Mungu awabariki!
Thank you so much for praying, and God bless!

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