

TANZANIA LIFE PROJECT

Tanzania Trip Report – 2009

On September 19, 2009, four of us made the trip to Tanzania: Jim & Katie Vanderheyden along with son John and wife Mary. We left the U.S. September 19 and returned September 29 with seven days on the ground in Dodoma and the surrounding villages.

The TLP(T) office has been relocated within the same building complex and is now twice its former size, which is just about right for us. A fair amount of money was spent to construct two small offices (7 x 7 ft.) within the larger one, and to add security measures to the door and windows. We use this office a lot when we are there, and it is now very satisfactory.

In each of the following villages, we met with village leaders and various committees in order to understand project progress and to assess any additional needs.

Village 1 – Mtumba

In Mtumba, we learned the villagers had spent their operating reserve on well system repairs, which ultimately were unsuccessful. Upon our arrival, we learned the pump head was broken and the diesel engine that drives the pump will need a complete overhaul. The cost to correct these problems is around \$6000. Also, there was a serious issue of poor water system management, so the village is electing to have an outside agent do the job in the future instead of local officials. This approach has been successful in other villages.

The 24 Mtumba women who had each received \$25 last year (in order to obtain micro loans of \$75 for new business ventures) were all successful. There are 20 more women who would also like \$25 each to obtain micro loans for new businesses.

The group of ladies who received money to start a vineyard were well on their way to getting it going. The trenches were dug and the seedlings were waiting to be picked up from the village of Hombolo. Planting will begin during the rainy season in order to get the seedlings off to a good start. Victoria Ndahani is the contact for this group.

The Primary School in Mtumba saw a very successful renovation of two classrooms which included new floors, door and windows and paint. This was all funded by the “Friends of Tanzania,” a wonderful non-profit from the USA who answered our application for help on this project. Seven more classrooms and the principal’s office still need the same repairs. We will discuss this further with the FOT. As always, more desks and books are badly needed. The milling operation was not running due to poor management and not paying their electric bill. The intended goal of this operation was to



TANZANIA LIFE PROJECT

provide income for the Primary School while also paying its electric bills and keeping the equipment in good repair. We now believe this can best be achieved by using an outside agent.

The Mtumba Agriculture committee is requesting more help this growing season. Last year's lack of rain during the growing season proved to be a real problem resulting in little productivity. The Lutheran World Relief organization will be sponsoring some farming seminars. We hope to get some Mtumba people involved in these sessions.

Village 2 – Chisichili

The people here were very happy and full of celebration for TLP because they now have water. We still need to get the automatic feature working on the water pump, and still need to construct a cattle trough to complete this village water supply. They are now also asking for some security items like covers for their valves and fences around the pump house and the reservoir. This would add another \$5000 or so to the project.

While in Chisichili we met also with villagers in the neighboring village of Chikola. Chikola has about 500 people and they would like to connect to the water system of Chisichili. We had a meeting on this subject and it looks like things may work out at a nominal cost to furnish these 500 people with water.

Village 3 – Kisima cha Ndege

The new reservoir has been completed and is really a beautiful structure. All of the trenches in the village have been dug, including the one which runs for 3.5 km. As the water lines were about to be added, an error in the engineer's calculations slowed things down. It was discovered that about 600 meters of pipe (running directly from the well) needed to be strengthened. The water pressure in this portion of pipe is the greatest but then lessens somewhat as the water flows farther towards the reservoir. Newer, heavy-duty pipe was ordered for this section and the original section of pipe will be used on another project where pressure is not an issue. Shortly after we returned home, the project was completed; however, the pump and engine were so weak they could not get the water pumped up to the reservoir 3.5km away. Thus, a new submersible pump and generator are needed to complete this project.

Three small business groups (up to 25 people each) were seeking some seed money for their income generating projects. The CARE program bought each group a large metal box with locks to hold their money and CARE trained them on how to put money aside and then to loan it to each other when the amounts get big enough for projects. The SACCOS micro loan efforts which are working so successfully in Mtumba, had failed in this village.



TANZANIA LIFE PROJECT

Next Possible Village Water Project – Matumbulu

In a new village of Matumbulu (they applied for help), they have a well which is sorely in need of a new pump and a renovation job on the diesel engine. The engine and pump now are so weak they can just barely get the water out of the ground much less pump it any distance to a reservoir. Some 10,000 additional people from neighboring villages come to this source of water. They recently had to borrow \$1000 to get their pump and engine working again, but as in other villages, these old systems are just worn out and need complete renovation. This looks to me like a need for a submersible pump and generator. Money is the answer.

Miscellaneous Village Visits

- In Vikonje a large women's group was seeking TLP's help, requesting a shelter for their chickens. They are having some success with a revolving fund they started. Vikonje also has many needs in the school area, with renovation, books, desks, etc.
- At the village of Ihumwa, a farming group of 30 wanted help with a new well with an estimated cost of \$50,000. The head of Ihumwa's new Paralegal group (who is also the village chairman) gave a very great report on the good this program is doing. This is part of TLP's HIV/AIDS program. Among other things, it helps mediate problems between people to prevent cruelty to one another and to resolve troubles locally before the matter requires court involvement.

We visited a new village called Zanka. They have applied to TLP to help them with drilling a well and constructing a water system. They were teaming up with three other villages at a well some distance away using a windmill for power but that system is now very inefficient. The costs will be very large as usual if we consider a new water system for this village. We have asked for advice from Fr. Tim (an American) who has a contract with the four villages

