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## 2011 Annual Trip Report

As in every normal year, a group of us went to Tanzania during September to review all of the happenings at the villages since we were there last. (During 2010 we had our staff from Tanzania come to the US to brief us on things.) The group this year included Jim Vanderheyden with son John and his wife Mary, their son Jacob and his fiance – Emily DuFour.

Not having been there for 2 years meant that we had to be on the road doing more reviewing and visiting than normal. However, it was well planned by our Dodoma, Tanzania office staff of Ben and Vincent, and we got a lot accomplished.

The villages we visited were, Ihumwa, Vikonje, Mtumba, Chisichili, Kisima Cha Ndege, Matumbulu, Isangha and Iloilo. In all of these, except the last one, we had to review the many things we have accomplished over the past at those locations. The last one, Iloilo, had been requesting that we visit them for a few years now, and so we finally obliged. With some 60 villages on the list of those needing help, it is very difficult to decide on the next one to work with, which may be Iloilo. We have developed a selection criteria process to help us make this decision.

It was common that in all the villages where we had done or are presently doing water works, we were met with huge Arican celebrations of warm welcome, dancing, singing, and thanksgiving. These wonderful people are so extremely grateful for the help we are giving them, they just express their thanks for hours on end. Their contribution is always digging and digging and digging trenches for the pipes.

In Ihumwa, Vikonje, and Mtumba, we will be setting up some new small scale development projects as part of the HIV/AIDS program initiated by and sponsored by the Abbott Fund. These will be primarily for those with HIV/AIDS, but also for others, to help remove their stigma. These will be beeskeeping, making pottery, and vegetable gardening. We visited some of the sites where these things will be taking place – right next to similar small businesses in the area.

In Vikonje, we also visited the new Chicken House which we helped build for the 4 groups of 10 women each, who started the chicken business with some 800 new chickens. Unfortunately most of these chickens died of a disease which we now believe was Newcastle disease for which chickens must be vaccinated in Tanzania. We are working with some agencies to see if we can help improve the situation for them to continue raising poultry.

In Mtumba, (village # 1), some water system problems have developed which are being corrected. Long term, this well will need to have a new submersible pump with electricity to be run from the roadway nearby, to the pumphouse. So far we have been nursing along an old motor and mechanical pumping system, but these are not going to last much longer.



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In Chisichili and Chikola, (villages # 2&4), a Chinese temporary settlement has set up right next to the village, and has tied into the main line from the borehole. They have contributed by installing a larger motor and generator to the pumphouse, as these had been undersized since our first efforts there. They will be working on building a new road between Dodoma and Iringa some 150 miles to the south.

In Kisima Cha Ndege, (village # 3), the water system was all working fine, except we need to upgrade some of the pipes which tend to burst, as they were of an inferior quality, not known to us at the time. We have issued a relatively small work order to correct this problem. We also received good reports from 4 groups which we had given seed money to, to begin some small business enterprises. As expected, they all would like some continuing help. These groups include males and females and were started by the CARE organization.

In Matumbulu, (village # 5), our work is basically finished, with new submersible pump, motor and generator, new reservoir and many extension lines and new distribution points. One segment of the village (548 people) at quite a distance from the rest of the village, has now also requested service, and so we are looking into this matter. 4 women's groups were assisted in startup activities, and are also looking for some continuing help.

Isangha is the new village (# 6), in which we have just begun our work. Already though, we have replaced the faulty pump and engine with a new submersible electric pump, plus the new generator and engine with cooling tank to make it run. The villagers have already started digging the new ditches for the expansion needed to add another reservoir and more distribution points.

We also were lucky to have run into a gentleman who is working for a company in South Africa. He is selling and installing new intelligent water meters which are badly needed in all of the villages we are working with. Using these items we will tend to resolve the many problems which continually occur getting the villages to use outside agents to run and manage their water systems. Collections of money for water used is a perpetual problem. Using these new meters at the distribution points pretty much automates the whole matter of collection for water used. Much more on this later.

Courtesy of Totino Grace High School in Fridley, Minnesota, and SoccerZone of South Austin, Texas – (for Austin Community College Intramurals), we were able to get some used soccer jerseys, shorts, and shin guards to take to the young people in Tanzania. Adding a few soccer balls meant a pretty professional looking game could take place which we watched on the last day there. The young men were so extremely thankful for these small treasures. The small children on the sidelines also really loved the candy passed out by Mary, Emily, Jake and John.