

Working Visit to Tanzania by Sue and Tony Pace in January 2012 on behalf of the Bugbrooke East Africa Trust

Dear All, 10th February 2012

We're still here and working because the missing money finally arrived mainly thanks to great efforts by Dave Clayson (our charity's chairman) and a lovely lady called Carol in Co-op bank who just refused to give up until we got it. Thank you both for your support. As a result we have launched new project to repair three very old classrooms – when we say “repair” we actually mean pulling down most of the walls and rebuilding them while the roof is on props – and build a new kitchen and food store.

The toilets and the first two classrooms are finished and in use. Despite many promises the girls new toilet was finally finished 3½ days late – but hey, this is Tanzania.



The latest problem is water. The school is getting water from the adjacent orphanage who have said they can have 7000 litres a day. Sadly their pump has developed a problem which they are trying to fix but in the meantime the students fetch what they can in buckets. They seem very willing to do this because they know they will benefit. The atmosphere in Uraki seems much different to other schools where we have worked – both staff and pupils get much more involved and are more willing to talk than before – which means we sometimes pass quite a lot of time just talking to people. Partly as a result of this chat, Tony taught a class on the solar system , latitude and time in partnership with one of the geography teachers.

Sue has spent some time helping the English teachers in classes. She found one literature class of 60 had only 4 books, so she got more from the book shop in Arusha (only £2 a book). Also when she played the organ at Arusha Cathedral on Sunday (2 hour service!!) they had SUCH old fashioned hymns and she was told someone had walked off with the Mission Praise book- so she'll buy another for them! There are so many simple things one can fix very easily- but also so many requests (help me with my children's school, orphanage, buy me a computer etc.) one has to learn to say “no” most of the time. We do realise that we are only scratching the surface of all the problems but if enough scratching goes on then things will really change. It is noticeable that Tanzania is improving but it still has an awful long way to go.

This week Sue got fed up with looking at the appalling state of the paintwork in the admin. block (actually some of it had never been painted) so she decided to smarten it up (i.e. repaint it)! It now looks lovely and clean, but will it stay that way?

The treat of the last week has been the Colobus Monkeys. They were in the trees around our garden for about 36 hours. One whole after noon was spent watching a mother and baby; It is lovely to see how they cling on but also how sometimes the mother just lets the baby get on with it – precariously balanced on thin stems 100 ft above the ground but confidently leaping about.



The smaller projects at Kimnyak are going well. The electricity line is complete though not yet connected; the connection is paid for but Tanesco will do their thing in their own time. The water to the Primary School was delayed by about 10 days but is now working – for one day before it stopped. There is some local dispute going on about who gets water and when even though there is lots of water on the mountain. Another of Tanzania's problems is they have no idea how to work together for their mutual benefit.

We are off on safari next weekend to Tarangere, our favourite park where we hope to see lots and lots of elephants. We will be home in 5 weeks and we hope your weather will have warmed up a bit by then – the Tanzanians cannot understand or believe that children really love snow; they think it must be deadly

Best wishes to all

Tony & Sue

PS Can anyone in Bugbrooke tell us what the result was of the Johns Rd. planning appeal ?

Dear All, it's us again,
27th January

Well we have now been here over three weeks and are well settled. The weight is already dropping off because we walk at least 6km every day (sometimes over 10km) and eat a very healthy vegetarian diet – at least during the week! Can we keep it up when we return? We have used the Lutheran pastor's driver several times and , in exchange, Sue is helping the teachers at his private school. She also bought them some toys as they were trying to teach 3-4 year olds to read and write English and she thought they'd like to learn by play, as our children do, at that age! You won't believe what some Tanzanians call their children! The drivers name is Deo Gratias!!!

It starts getting light about 6:30 and our typical day starts with making breakfast toast and/or eggy bread over our one ring stove. Then a 5km walk to school before it gets too hot. Sue goes to the pastor's school one day each week so Tony gets a lift part way and then walks through the grounds of the local university to get back onto his path. Before 10 the climate is quite pleasant, we get wonderful views of Mt Meru and on many days we can clearly see the summit of Kilimanjaro in the distance.



School days are varied. Tony always spends some time with the fundi(builders) making sure things are going correctly, sorting any problems and planning the next step. He is also spending time with some of the science teachers and is helping them make a rig so they can do physics experiments and demonstrations. The one thing we can't find is a marble (for demonstrations of friction, acceleration and inertia) Got one today!! The school has pitifully little equipment but he is encouraging them to make the most of what they have. Sue has done some English teaching and "sex education" for form 4 (16-17 year olds) It is difficult as, when asked if they have any questions , there is very little response.

Of course the other big problem is money – as we write the missing money has still not come through but the Co-op bank now seem convinced it is stuck in Citibank Tanzania. Basically we just need Citibank to get their heads out of their *rs*s and get it moved. Right now we can continue work for one more week by when the toilets will be finished and two classrooms fully repaired. After that, when the money is here we hope to repair three more very bad classrooms and then build and a new kitchen.

This week on the walk to work we have seen a lot of work going on by the local community, including the school kids, digging a long ditch to take a new water pipe down the road to the school. We hope this will also solve the problem of the local orphanage though we don't know when it will all be finished. We hope to meet the local sponsor sometime – we have already met his dad. Really we are meeting many of the locals and make new friends every day We tend to walk home in the heat of the day (35°C+ but there are many trees) stopping on the way for some shopping and sometimes the local internet café. 15p for 15 minutes and plug our little netbook into their LAN because it is so much faster than their old computers. Mangos and Avocados are both 10p, bananas 5p and 5lt of drinking water for £1. If we have a lot to carry, one of us may take a piki-piki (local motor bike taxi without a helmet) to the house for about 70p.



For much of the late afternoon we sit on our balcony, reading, do computer work and listening to music (we brought about 100 hours with us on 2 SD cards). If we feel like it we may take a wander down our lane for about 1km to see the local colobus monkeys and Egyptian vultures (blue monkeys are just too common to mention). Last night we saw 40 hornbill in one tree where they roost overnight. Many of the local fields are rice-paddy full of herons, storks and hammerkops. The cameras are working overtime.

We usually eat about 6:30 and shower after dark (by torch if we have a not uncommon power cut!). We are usually in bed soon after 9. The only worthwhile TV is CCTV, the chinese equivalent of CNN. On Fridays we go to Kimnyak near where we have worked in previous years. The water project for the Dispensary and Primary School is well under way and we have given the go ahead for electricity to the Dispensary. We hope to repair some of the Primary School floors later. And then we go to a hotel in Arusha (the Impala which we love even if it is a bit chaotic) for the weekend, swimming pool, beer, meat ,bath and rest.

For those who asked we love getting news from home and thanks to all of you who have emailed.
Love to all

Tony & Sue

Dear All,

14th January

We are very happy to be back in warm Tanzania but it is chaotic as ever; sometime we wonder if it us!! After a weekend recovering we were taken to our house which is idyllic – sitting room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom. A wood boiler outside for hot water which we light every evening for 30 minutes (enough for showers). We have a girl who cooks and cleans for us for about 3 hours each day and its great. Back to Tanzanian diet of beans , rice, bananas, eggs, fruit and veg. On

Tuesday we dined in style with our French landlord who speaks Swahili and French but not a word of English. On Thursday we spent an hour watching a pair of hornbills outside our balcony.



But there are snags; we had a 48 hour power cut, caused by the main house, while the Frenchman is away for a week – and the water is pumped by electricity – so no shower but we managed a bucket shower !! Then on Thursday evening the gas cooker packed up so no breakfast – so we have decamped back to Arusha early for a prolonged weekend (with beer) while they sort it out.

Work at the school has started. After extensive discussion and much re-planning the first sod was cut on Wednesday. The first project is building toilets. We hope to then repair 5 classrooms and if possible build a new kitchen. Material prices have risen dramatically in the last 3 years but we have found a very good local supplier with a lady who speaks perfect English – pretty good seeing as she spent 7 years at Birmingham University! Her father who owns the business is a keen Rotarian and wants to give us all support.

One further problem is the bank, not all our money has got here yet. The Co-op bank who we (BEAT) bank with is being really helpful but it looks as if the problem may be with the intermediate British bank. For those who have not heard this (thank you Paul) the collective noun for bankers is “a wunch” (think about it !!)

Sue has distributed toys to an orphanage on the road to the school, which is VERY clean and run by a lovely lady, but they have no water! They get it from the local river and boil it but would love a pump. She’s also met the local Lutheran pastor who’d like her to teach English at his school, and he has 2 cars so we may do a deal!!?? Tony has met a pupil he taught 6 years ago who is now a student at the local university which we walk past every day – 1 hour each way to school. We really do feel totally at home after one week. We are sleeping better and Sue is already taking fewer pain killers for her back.

Today (Friday) we visited our other projects at Kimnyak – where we were 5 years ago. We have started the estimating process and hope to get electricity to the dispensary and water to both the dispensary and the Primary School.

Keep warm while we try to keep cool – over 30° every afternoon. Best to all
Tony & Sue