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Newsletter Nr 22



*Picture of me taken
writing my newsletter*

Dear Everyone

Summer is at its height: and I will be leaving the Uk tomorrow. I have had a very 'moving' 3 ½ months since the last newsletter –in the truest sense of the word!

I have travelled about 9800 miles to get here and moving around and will now travel another 5400 miles to go home...to Tabora. I have managed to visit over 18 churches: Meaning visiting **you all!** And enjoyed amazing experiences of friendship, hospitality and true Christian love being extended to me.

I have worked as a GP- mostly fulltime, but also managed a very encouraging Christian Medical Fellowship Seminar for over a week giving me a chance to update professionally.

Also amazing was the chance for me to participate in the CMS Missionpartner 'conference': which was a real spiritual oasis as well as a chance to 'connect' with some people who I only rarely see.

I even had 2 weeks of holiday: one in the beginning and one at the end.

Amazing.

And now it is time for me 'to go home' -however hard the goodbyes. I am only sorry that I have not been able to see everyone and some not long or often enough. (Please forgive me).

Leaving is always hard.

What has happened in Tabora in my absence?

Here are the up-dates from Gill and Steve who kindly shared their news and pictures from their visits to Tabora. Steve only returned last week.



Juma = my temporary foster child

Juma is doing very well- amazingly so. He recovered from the very serious drug reaction he had in April. He stayed with Mama Ndugu and her family initially (she is the Nurse in charge) but when Gill got there Juma decided to move back home with Gill and my cook Mama Samweli and her whole family. He has finally started the anti retroviral therapy (ARV) and despite

worries about its toxicity and side effects has been faring **remarkably** (to me miraculously..) well.



Farm progress

A new house –unit has been built. It has been built to accommodate the first of our families that need re-housing. The first family it is meant for is actually Juma’s grandmother as her chronic untreated Asthma makes her life very difficult in the bush with the added responsibility of looking after Juma’s sisters. She is not yet very sure

whether she can adjust to living in a house with corrugated iron but we are hoping....

Steve has erected the long overdue toilet and shower block. In Tanzania that is always placed well away from the main buildings (lack of water makes smelly toilets.. not even thinking about the flies,etc!)



We have also finally secured a small well and hope in this way to prevent contamination of this water source.



The team has also have started again to make bricks: The dry season is the time for this.

Tabora and Water

The famine that has been so wildly publicised for ‘Horn of Africa’ is also concerning many parts of Tabora region. While some districts had sufficient

the

rain the previous year: this year all districts have been short of rain.

A food shortage is already noted in some villages where some families are already running out of food.

In the towns the water supply has been particularly short and there are now more the half of Tabora town for example that receive no water from the reservoirs. The women are getting up at 2 am to start queuing for water (shallow wells etc) but sometimes they can get nothing... .

In the villages it was not so bad initially, but I hear that even there many sources are exhausted and the villages are beginning to struggle as well.

Because the rainfall has been poor nationally the dam that produces 75% of Tanzanian electricity is nearly empty and so regular power cuts cripple the country further.



Prayer Requests:

Please pray for the families that are now under existential threat because of the water and food shortage. This problem exempts no-one in Tabora.

Please pray for the churches in Tabora will find creative ways quickly to help prevent a 'real famine'spreading'.

Please pray that the water supplies will hold out till the next rains as otherwise many will have to move, many may become sick.

Please pray for our vision for Familia moja: farm and 'clients' as well as mobile clinics, also that we will not burn out.

Please pray for me and our whole team that we remain close to God in the knowledge of his care and provisions at all times.

God bless for now

Ruth