

Annual Report for Friends of helper 2020-2021

Greetings in Jesus' name.

Despite being made atypical with the changing COVID situation, we are grateful to The Lord that we have had another successful year. Having been flown out of Tz into a UK lockdown on the BritGov repatriation flight in 2020, the Resident Permit that had been renewed that September was largely wasted while Andy was in UK but equally unfortunately unable to visit friends and churches. On rearrival in Tz there were only 5 months remaining on the Res Permit and so as February arrived, a decision was made not to go to Burundi and get a 3 month re-entry extension as Anecdotal news of Covid suggested it was worse there, but also the Burundian Gov wasn't reporting at that time. So after only 5 months, Andy flew back to UK to obtain the booster vaccination.

However, with the advent and regular use of WhatsApp, meetings were held and general office back and forth communication proved to be surprisingly effective. The original plan of Andy being in Kigoma for 6 months and UK for 6 months, preparing helper to be independent and begin the process of handing over was unexpectedly accelerated by Covid issues.

Even so, praise God, prayer and financial support proved to be enough to continue and though a struggle and concern for Friends of helper, enabled us to continue well. The 7 students we had at St James Sec doing their 'O' Levels all passed and a longer holiday commenced due to the country's preparations for the Census. This delayed and sometimes led to cancellations of other exams and universities/colleges starting times. This was an unexpected blessing to Sunshine as we gained classroom assistants! So helper was able to release the rented house and Hamenya who was part-time school cook as well as matron, joined helper full-time as cook. We were also joined by ex-Secondary student Bernadetha, who had failed her O Levels earlier and had been unable to find work. She is second cook. Theresea continued as helper house help and had her second baby.

A decision was made to take on a new Class 1 at Sunshine and also a Chekechea (Pre-school class). Teachers had been observing the pre-school we had been supporting was not delivering much in the way of preparation for the children joining us and so with Pili returning from Tabora Teacher Training College, we were able to start the new Chekechea with Aggie and Elisia giving Pili support and students/classroom assistants also helping her.

Our ex-Sunshine students at Nkurahanga (Nyamasovu) progressed from Form One to Form Two and the girls together with one boy who had health issues were transferred back into Kigoma town to stay with their families. The remaining four boys choosing to continue there.

Ben was unfortunately delayed in his application to study Pharmacy, again partly due to government plans being in a state of flux and partly through a local issue and continued as night guard to give him a job and an income as he waited. Avida joined the 6th Form at her school in

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Mwanza. Ishimwe and Geoff began Form 5 - Geoff in Kigoma and Ishimwe in a High School far away in Mtwara Region which was initially a cause for concern.

Meliana one of our Sunshine Staff left us and Elisia our head became engaged. Our land, still among several being held back from development by the Municipal Council has been missed of the new beaconing arrangement. This is despite it having been done about ten years ago by the council and by also by helper hiring an independent surveyor out of town. All local areas are being re-surveyed at the moment as the local landowners were unhappy with the councils' previous work. Even so and despite paying for this extra survey we are one of several plot owners to be missed off this current process. Two of those involved in this from Town Planning and Regional Land have been moved away from Kigoma to a different part of the country, but this hasn't opened the way for us, to be beaconed and received permission to start building our school yet. To further complicate our situation, the level of Lake Tanganyika rose unexpectedly and has spilled into the surrounding area. Our land is also affected by this, at one time being about 50% underwater.

We have continued supporting local poor people with minor ailments to get what they need and for more serious cases to get operations in town at the District or Regional Hospitals. We also sent patients to 'local' mission hospitals for various operations. We sent 5 to Muhimbili, Dar, 1 to Bugando, Mwanza, 18 to Matyazo Mission Hospital, 3 to Heri Mission Hospital and 1 to Kabanga Mission Hospital and 1 to Kasaka Mental Health Ctr.

Our security has been an issue with many break-ins on the second compound by thieves cutting through the chain link fence. Even when this has been repaired, later it has been cut open again numerous times. It was decided to use some of the rent money on beefing up security in the corner but that had not helped as much as hoped for. Further, two project proposals to our landlord to request the repair of the results of long-term neglect and exterior decoration were applied for. Further works on plumbing were carried out, again using rent money, which has meant buckets of water no longer need to be carried from one compound to the other.

We continue to thank The Lord for those He has put alongside us and He has used to do this work. Glory to God.

Andy Blake
Founder Trustee
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