

## Annual Report for Friends of helper 2022-2023



It gives me great pleasure to summarise another year of the work of 'helper', our Tanzanian Trust, incorporated in 2010, and now in its 13th year. We have enjoyed benefitting from The Lord's leading and provision for our work, seeing His goodness touch families as they have gained access to medical care, and their being able to enjoy seeing the children they are responsible for progressing spiritually and academically.

We make it clear that one day they will be able to raise their own families without being in poverty, unlike the broken families they come from, as well as being in a position to help those that helped them as they become more frail. We pray that the name of Jesus will be lifted high and that they will give Him the credit for enabling their achievements. 'helper's aim must always be to grow these children up into Christ, so they move out into the world, carrying His light wherever He takes them in His purposes and not hiding it under a bowl.

This year we are happy to announce we now have a third student who has won a place at university. What makes this success particularly special is that she is the first one to achieve a place at university from those children who started with us at Sunshine the very first year we opened in 2010. She was aged 7. This was when Beryl Ebbs was with us as Headteacher and Elisia, our current headteacher, her Classroom Assitant. Glory to God! We also have 2 students at Teacher Training College and one who withdrew from the Pharmacy College we sent him to. He is about to start training as an operator of hydraulic machinery! We have two at High School studying for their 'A' Levels in the 6th Form and 6 more in 5th Form. helper also continues to support 5 students who are at Secondary Schools in Form 4, which is the 'O' Level exam year. We have 2 in Form 3, 13 in Form 2 and 1 in Form 1. There are also 9 primary school students in government schools whose uniforms and personal kit we help with and our own Sunshine Tuition Centre with 55 children. These are all growing, of course, and their continuing academic success clearly indicates the need for a step-change in support in order that helper can sustainably provide not just for these but also for those The Lord brings to us in coming years.

We also began this year with our newly-certificated teacher inaugurating our new chekechea (pre-school). This was under the guidance of Aggie, the Head of Lower School. It worked well until Aggie had to leave to have her baby. This left the chekechea and Standards 1&2 weaker. Until now we are doing our best with a temporary teacher and classroom assistants, which is not ideal. Aggie is unable to return at the moment, but we all hope and pray she will be back with us, soon.

We decided we were not in a strong enough position to have another Chekechea until we have the staff to run it and the children who joined the chekechea are now Class One. Classes 4-7 are running well with Class 7 taking their '11plus' national exam in September.

Elisia, our headteacher, married last year to a faithful Christian whom we hope will soon be able to get a transfer to Kigoma and come and live and work here. It is a slow process. Wonderfully she has been able to remain in post in the meantime.

Morning staff bible time has been a time of closeness, learning about The God we worship. It has been more of a blessing than any of us expected it would be. We give thanks to God for His work through The Holy Spirit.

The 'Saturday Students' are now a mix of ex-Sunshine students attending Secondary and High School and the others in Further Education together with the government-supported primary and secondary students. Mixing them together has been a great success and hasn't resulted in a diluting of helper values and attitudes which was in the back of our minds as we merged the two groups. Indeed, after a time of studying The Word, wonderfully, 25 of them came to faith in one day and gave their lives to The Lord, with one more, a classroom assistant, who has been struggling with yielding to and receiving Christ, following a short time afterwards. The group dynamic has been as good or better than before the merger. Glory to God.

#### Medical Support

We have sponsored 12 operations, which either have been at the local 'district and regional' hospitals, or at the three mission hospitals we send to. These three hospitals are no more than a day away by bus. We also sent 4 patients to Dar es Salaam who had more serious issues, having been referred to Dar by the regional government hospital, but who lacked the means to travel there or pay for the treatment. There have also been 2,652 less-serious cases which we have sent to local clinics or chemists. This has kept Edisa busy as she runs the office with help from Elisia.

## **the helper (msaidizi) trust**

Incorporated into RITA in 2010 No: 3899

And although not strictly a medical issue, we have also helped 3 infants this year whose mothers died in or shortly after childbirth, by paying for the particularly expensive Lactogen Milk. However, one of our Kent supporters wonderfully volunteered to pay for this, bless God.

For any who would appreciate it, helper's externally audited accounts (in Tanzanian Shillings) are available on request.

Andy Blake, Founder Trustee