

Living Waters International, Inc.

Winter 2009

Jesus replied (to the Samaritan women): *"If only you recognized God's gift, and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would have asked him instead, and he would have given you living water."* - John 4:10

Update from Stephen Zimmerman just back from visiting the East African Missions Looking into the Heart of Africa

It had been almost 18 months since I visited our supported missions in Tanzania. In Ipuli, where only bare ground existed in April of 2007, housing for primary school age girls nears completion. Recently completed are classrooms at the *Fransalian* Mission School at Mkuza in the Coast Region. These private Catholic schools and hostels run by religious congregations are the pathway leading to a brighter future for many youth coming from impoverished families. Actually, you were also there with me in Africa. You provided the funds, prayers and support that helped to make all of this possible. The missionaries are more appreciative than this letter can reflect! Fr. Samy, Director of the St. Francis de Sales Children's Home in Ipuli told me: ***"Our aim is to abolish poverty by providing affordable education and to take care of homeless children."***



New Classrooms at Fransalian
Mission School



Girls' Hostel at SFS Children's
Home - Ipuli



Students at School Assembly



Children at SFS Children's
Home - Ipuli

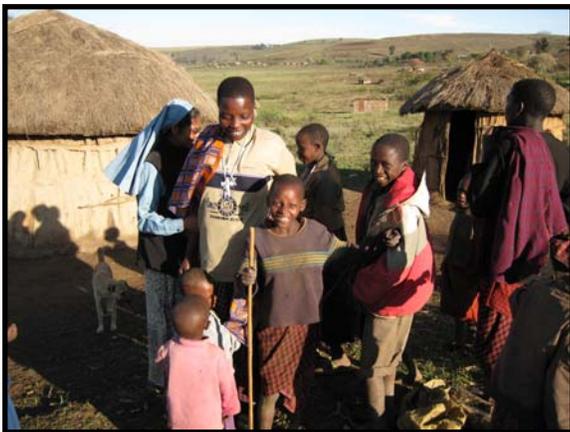
At Monduli Juu in the Arusha Diocese, at the Enyorrata E. Ngai Secondary School for Maasai Girls, additional residential quarters are now complete. The school graduated its first class of twenty-six Form IV students in 2008. One hundred sixty students are currently enrolled for 2009; all board on the school campus. Since its opening just five years ago, many Maasai girls want to join the school. Sr. Denis, St. Ann Sisters, Headmistress at the school tells me: *"We find some of the girls are too poor intellectually to complete their secondary education. After studying one or two years at the school, if they are too weak to continue we help them to find another path for their lives, like tailoring or a career in the home sciences. Here, on this Holy Mountain at Monduli, we have at least helped them to get a beginning, directing them in a spiritual life and helping them to establish a foundation for their lives. God has indeed worked in miraculous ways leading us to humbly minister to and serve the Maasai in this remote land."*



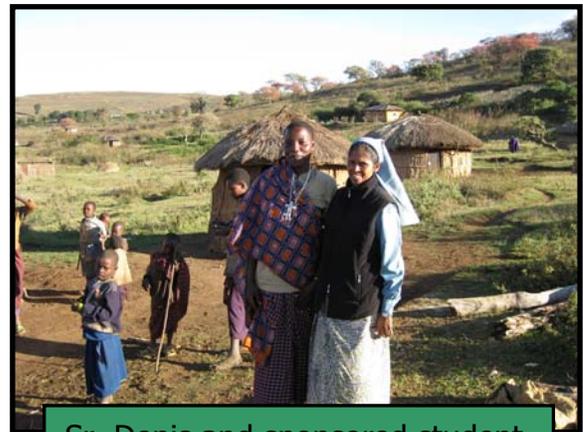
Students assembled to greet me at Enyorrata E. Ngai Secondary School



Girls' Hostel at Enyorrata E. Ngai Secondary School



Children in Maasai village



Sr. Denis and sponsored student, Naishorwa Sumuni Laizer

These were some of the high points of my recent travels to Africa: seeing the new infrastructure and *breathing in* first hand the zealous determination and Holy Spirit-filled joyfulness of the missionaries with whom we work. On this trip, however, I was once again reminded that children become orphans (winding up on the streets of urban communities to wander aimlessly and beg) often due to the death of one or both parents from AIDS or malaria. But also that other children are forced from their homes by abusive parents or stepparents. In the Tabora region of central Tanzania, recent reports cite as many as one thousand children living on the streets, most between the ages of 5 and 15. **Can you imagine your own child living without you, without family, without food, medical or emotional care?** That vision is a hard one to bear. That's why bringing these children to a safe, caring haven matters so much to us. ***Our goal with your help is to provide a refuge as well as education for these children.***

In this light, hostels for young girls remain a very high priority at many of our mission sites in Africa, as primary school-age girls lead a very vulnerable existence. Living with parents or extended family in their home village, there is an endless stream of tasks around the compound: fetching water and firewood, cleaning, cooking, and hoeing in the garden plot. That routine leaves little or no time for study in the evening, especially with no electricity or artificial light. More insidious are the social pressures inherent in the African culture where young girls are often expected to marry and bear children at a very early age. Providing a clean and secure environment for these girls to study, eat well, sleep and practice good hygiene is important for their academic and social development.

A letter from Maria

Maria Massaburi Jackson wrote to her sponsors at Christmas and told about her studies and her family of six.

"We are living in a small village called Makoko just next to Lake Victoria. My Daddy's name is Jackson Massaburi. He works in Lake Victoria as a fisherman. My Father left for fishing in July and he is not back and no information..."

Maria ends her letter: ***"May you be under the protection of the Almighty God and you are most welcomed to Tanzania."***

Our missionaries share with us their needs in terms of finding support for school-age children like Maria, support for educational expenses and basic needs. I left Africa with a list of 20+ such school-age children, many of whom are not presently in school because of lack of financial support, and some lacking family support as well, either orphaned by AIDS or abandoned by their parents. The more fortunate ones are left to live with grandparents, other extended family, or in hostels for *street children*. The less fortunate ones - to live *in the street*.

Please allow me to share with you just one of these children.

Flora Stephen Bhoke

Current age: ~ 5 Gender: female

Flora lives in Kitenga village in the Tarime District of Tanzania with her parents and three siblings. She is of the Kuria tribe.

When one year old, Flora was treated for malaria with quinine. She has never spoken. Flora's health appears good, although it is not known with certainty if she is hearing impaired. Her parents are very poor peasant farmers unable to send her to school. The approximate family monthly income is 5,000 Tanzanian shillings (about 4 US\$). The family lives in a 2-room mud hut with a thatched grass roof and earthen floor. There is no electricity or running water. There is an outdoor pit latrine. Sleeping is on grass mats on the earthen floor. Cooking is out-of-doors over a wooden fire.



**Flora Stephen Bhoke with IHSA
Srs. Mechtilda and Rosamystica**

Never enrolled in a school, we wish to enroll Flora in Class I of the Mwembeni Primary School in Musoma. The school has a special section for mute (non-speaking) students such as Flora. The benefits to Flora from student sponsorship would be a primary school education, Christian formation, food, shelter, clothing, and health care.

I know many of you already provide support for one or more children in East Africa. We at Living Waters International and the missionaries in Africa appreciate this greatly. But there are so many more children that need our support and love. If you or someone you know is willing to offer support for one of these children, please contact me. To view other students awaiting sponsorship, visit our website at www.livingwatersinternational.org

Your charitable donations provide these children with clothing, medical care, books and items they need for school. Our goal is to provide religious education to all of the children, teaching and modeling Christian values. Please do what you can. Perhaps you can share a child's story with a friend or co-worker. I truly believe God will ultimately judge us on how much we have loved - and these children are some of the most in need of our love.

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REFLECTIONS ON EAST AFRICA

By: John Katkish, Washington, DC



From December 4 through December 18, 2008, I had the unique and rewarding experience of visiting Kenya and Tanzania. Having been invited by Steve Zimmerman, I had the opportunity to visit many Cities/Missions where the successful completed and ongoing work of Living Waters International, Inc. radiates comfort, hope and joy into the minds and hearts of those who are in such need of the basic necessities for existence. Moreover, the dedicated and humble providers of care, including many Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, Sisters of Charity, and various Diocesan members, with whom I

visited, gave me a true and enlightened understanding of the team efforts that are required to fully carry out the many projects with which Living Waters has become involved.

Perhaps most telling during this my first trip to Africa, were the many visits to the homes of families and friends who are being helped by Living Waters. Also, of great interest were my visits to the schools and interaction with students who otherwise would not have a hope of education and reasonable living standards if not for the charitable work that is being done for them.

I hope to return soon to East Africa and continue gaining understanding of the work of Living Waters and the wonderful people of East Africa. I hope that each reader has a similar opportunity.



John with his sponsored student, Agnes Mueke.