

# Living Waters International, Inc. Winter Newsletter – 2010

Website: [www.livingwatersinternational.org](http://www.livingwatersinternational.org) Email: [livingh2o@livingwatersinternational.org](mailto:livingh2o@livingwatersinternational.org)

Phone: 715.627.4782 – Toll Free: 866.220.8981

Address: P.O. Box 614, Antigo WI 54409

Jesus replied (to the Samaritan woman): “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

## IN GIVING, WE RECEIVE by Stephen Zimmerman, President

(This is an update from Steve, who’s been in Africa since November 2009.) Upon reflecting on my first year here in Monduli Juu on top of the mountain at Emairere, what have I learned? Well, I think I’ve learned a lot! My intent was to teach the young Maasai women at Enyorrata E Ngai Secondary School. We have made progress in biology and bible classes, but I must admit that I’ve received more than I’ve given.

I have learned to love God more, to be more dependent on Him, and to trust Him when I finally realize I cannot do it on my own. I’ve met real friends that I think will last a life time. Life is a little different here than back in Wisconsin. Life is simpler. The simplicity of lifestyle, the earthiness of the people and being away from commercialism are nice.



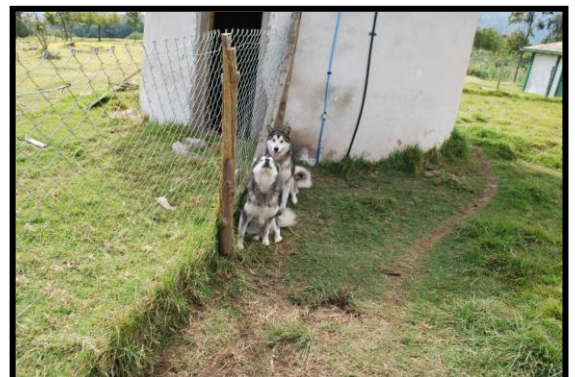
The women in particular are so hard working. Most every day that I hike into the forests I’m met by a group of Maasai women coming out of the forests with heavy bundles of firewood strapped to their backs. It is a standard practice for them. Firewood is their source of fuel for cooking, heating their boma (mud huts), and heating water for bathing/washing clothes and utensils.

One thing that keeps me here is the story and plight of the girls at school. They’ve not told me directly, but the Sisters have revealed to me that for some, if not many of these young women - 12, 13, 14 years old – they’ve been given this opportunity by parents to come to school. But if they should fail, or be dismissed from the school, they will be given in marriage upon reaching back home to their village. Many have already been pledged to an older Maasai man, who already has numerous wives. Polygamy is widely practiced among the Maasai people, though it’s not so acceptable among the younger generation. To be able to assist these young women to get an education and escape from this sad cycle is incentive enough for me to stay on.

Students seem to love to be here at the school. Some outsiders would say it is such a cold and windy place up here on top of the mountain, but there are many more applicants each year than rooms in the girls’ hostel or space in the four classrooms to accommodate them. And so, for these young women, many first generation students from their families, for them too it is a new experience, but one they seem to cherish, and for me a joy to share a bit of life with them.

Many really like our bible classes. They want to learn what the bible says. Every day and every class begins and ends with prayer. The Rosary is prayed every evening. It may be a “simple” faith that these young women possess, but is it not the faith that God asks of each of us?

Steve’s pet Malamutes, Monduli and Arusha have also made their home in Tanzania this past year.



## SPOTLIGHT

This issue's spotlight is on Emmanuel Makelemo, sponsored student of Mary Pat & Bob Wussler from Roseville MN.



Tumsifu Jesu Kristu! (Praise Jesus Christ!) I'm Emmanuel Makelemo of the Saint Francis de Sales Children's Home in Tabora Tanzania. My friends call me "Emma". In my early childhood, I endured many trials but on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2003, a new day's dawning changed all that. That was the day I reached the SFS Children's home with my then 80 year old grandfather.

I was born in the year 1993 into the family of G. Makelemo and Rose. An only child, I was born in the village of Kanyenye in Tabora region. Both parents farmed a small piece of land and tried to care for me according to their ability. But misfortune hit my family in the year 2002. My mother died unexpectedly. This was a big shock for me. And then the unimaginable followed ... I, being stricken with polio, was left to die alone in my little hut. My father found another wife and went with her to somewhere and no one knows where he is. Fortunately my grandfather rescued me and I lived with him for one year. Being too old to care for me, he appealed on my behalf to his parish priest whether his grandson, Emma, "could be helped by any good samaritan." Though I was very happy with Grandfather, my health was getting weaker day by day. So through the parish priest he got into contact with the SFS Children's home and I became a child of the SFS Center for Street Children.



Being a 10 year old boy and weighing 14 kg, I continued studying in class three, at Ipuli Primary School. Through the care of the SFS I was able to put up my weight but my body became weaker and weaker. By the year 2005, due to the lack of medical care received in my home village, I lost all strength in both legs. That is when I began using a wheel chair.

My grandfather passed away this year in the month of August. Though I grieve his loss, I've made up my mind to make up a better future for myself. Now I am studying form III at Ipuli Secondary School. I'm an average student in studies and hope to continue my education after secondary schooling. Someday, I

want to be a secretary. I'm also learning how to use a computer at the center. My hobbies are painting and repairing radios or electrical things. I'm happy to report that I'm really talented in those two areas. In closing, I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Living Waters International - Your Donation Counts



Student Sponsorship Program - Give a gift that lasts a lifetime – Sponsor a student's education in Africa!

In the part of Africa hardest hit by AIDS, many children are denied even the most basic necessities of life. **Your sponsorship of \$25/month will help one of these children to a brighter future.** Your contribution provides support for school tuition fees, books, and school supplies, clothing, food, shelter and health care.

**To sponsor a child or make a donation contact us at [www.livingwatersinternational.org](http://www.livingwatersinternational.org) or 866.220.8981 or see enclosed form.**



## **JUMP IN, THE WATER'S FINE!** By Eileen Hartl, Board Director

Remember the good old summer days when you and your friends would go off to the municipal pool, or the local watering hole? A brave one in the bunch would get a running start and be the first to take a plunge headlong? Were you one of the daring few to test the waters this way? I'd test the waters first by dipping a big toe. Invariably someone from behind would do a cannon ball and baptize my timidity by way of a showering rite. Likewise, there are people in my life that typify what it means to delve into the unknown and fully experience the exhilaration of creative and sacrificial living thus persuading me to follow.

This past summer, I visited missionary friends and the people they minister to in Tanzania. This was my third trip to East Africa since 2004 when six volunteers from Living Waters International made its first mission awareness trip to Tanzania and Kenya. Waves of hearty welcomes, songs and dance, smiles, kisses and handshakes poured over me. I was a stranger made to feel welcome, to "jump into the African way of life" and stay for a while. So it was just that ... a temporary visit as opposed to my friends, the missionaries' lifelong commitment. Truly, I was immersed in circumstances very unlike my Wisconsin life experiences and to my great joy!

I walked in the African bush in Kilema Village after the sun went down one night. No street lights or street signs just complete trust in the individuals we were with. Many people including children travel on foot day and night, just a constant stream of people along dirt roads between villages and paved highways. People transporting water, grass for feed, charcoal for cooking purposes ... or just moving from place to place.

Most of the time I received welcoming smiles and children would shout out, "Mzungu, mzungu!" That's Swahili for "outsider". I had hairs plucked from the back of my head while surrounded by children or they'd stroke my hair and touch my skin to "perceive" how it compared to theirs. I observed an angry sect of Maasai men marching down a city street with spears and clubs in their hands. I witnessed peace loving families working very hard, living honest lives, eternally grateful to the financial benefactors of Living Waters that support their children's education.

Some benefactors provide money for families to move from homes made of sticks, thatch and mud to homes made of bricks with tin roofs, homes that will last. Others give funds for the gift of livestock. Countless times they'd say, "Asante Sana." "Thank you very much", simply put. There's nothing that compares with their gratitude and humility.



Wahida & Walda: I made two new friends during a visit to Kibaha Village, TZ. The girls are being sponsored by James and Mary Ellen Draeger of Deerbrook, WI

Remember the old Zest commercial's line, "*Do I feel good today??!!*" You know that feeling after you've had your morning shower? This is exactly what I experienced as I approached the end of my visit in Tanzania. Things had been going very well. The food was agreeing with me, I adjusted to the time difference. People insisted I'd be very useful there and I felt like a new creation ready to "jump in because the water was fine."

Of course, staying with the religious influenced me. They would frequently direct me to their chapels that contained the Blessed Sacrament, as one Sister affirmed, "*... the source of our strength.*" - The strength through faith it requires immersing one's self in a foreign culture. I wanted to stay longer. If given a chance, I think I could handle a two or three month stint. However meantime, I have a variety of choices, different ways to be more deeply involved particularly through the activities of Living Waters International.



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May the light of Christmas grow in each of us this Advent, manifesting itself through flashes of insight that bring peace, hope, love and joy beyond all human understanding.

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## **LUMEN CHRISTI INSTITUTE** by Fr Thomas Kochalumchuvattil, MSFS

The concept of a Fransalian University in Africa was in principle accepted by the 2003 Extra-Ordinary General Chapter of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS, also known as the Fransalians). The Chapter envisioned the establishment of such an institution in Africa as a contribution of the congregation towards the holistic empowerment of local communities to accelerate the process of self-development.

LCI is the result of this Fransalian Vision for emerging Africa. The MSFS' experience in the continent of Africa has resulted in the formulation of this vision. In the context of the various painful and discouraging realities in Africa, the Fransalians in Africa are urgently confronted with the need to be well-equipped with knowledge and competence to adequately respond to the increasing demands of the many poor and marginalized groups.

Self-observation is the first step to self-transformation. This in turn leads to organizational and social transformation with lasting effects. This is the principle behind the LCI. All the programs at LCI are geared towards helping the individual to be effective agents of social transformation through this most demanding process of self-transformation. The mission of LCI is to help everyone to contribute further for the growth of goodness and beauty of the continent of Africa, by means of holistic education, developmental and training programs. Ours is a commitment in selfless love through justice, peace and reconciliation by means of quality education and formation aimed at renewal, progress and transformation.

The first phase in the establishment of LCI began with the launching of Bachelor of Philosophy Programme on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2010. In this academic year, there are twelve seminarians belonging to the MSFS Congregation, pursuing their philosophical studies and priestly formation at the LCI. They hail from Kenya, Uganda and Mozambique. There are four resident staff and few visiting professors from the various institutes in Tanzania and Universities abroad. It was a challenging experience to start the Institute from scratch. We have started the institute with the minimum infrastructure and resources and therefore there is an urgent need to expand further the infrastructure and the resources. Presently, the LCI has three modest buildings: the first one is the administrative building, the second one is the refectory and kitchen and the third one is the residence of the scholastics. There's an urgent need to build two more hostels so that more students and participants in the programs can be accommodated and given the precious opportunity to learn. St. Francis de Sales, our patron considered 'knowledge as the eighth sacrament'. The programs envisaged for 2011 are: HIV/AIDS Awareness Course, Empowerment of Women and Leadership Training, Pastoral Counselling, Swahili and Catechetical Training.



Living Waters received grant money through a charitable foundation for the LCI's Administrative building in 2007.

We urgently need books, journals and periodicals for our barren library. Therefore, we wish to appeal to readers of this newsletter. We will appreciate greatly any help to realize these projects. Second-hand books mainly in the domain of philosophy, psychology, theology and spirituality or subscriptions for a journal or a periodical will be gratefully welcomed.

Our official inauguration of LCI is May 14, 2011. "Karibuni Sana!" (Swahili = All are most welcome!) Thanking you in advance for your support and please keep us in your prayers. God bless you and your families abundantly!



Fr. Thomas in the Library

