

## **Tanzania Teaching Foundation 2023 Annual Report**

### **Mission**

The Tanzania Teaching Foundation (TTF) began as and continues to be a mission of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. TTF is dedicated to improving the lives of individuals, families, and communities in Tanzania through a targeted education program. Our “Pre-Form 1 English” program enrolls students who are about to enter secondary school (high school), where the medium of instruction is English. The program gives students the necessary skills to succeed and excel in secondary school. The Pre-Form 1 English program is “*teaching them to fish*” – so that they will develop culturally appropriate solutions for the challenges facing their society. TTF works to sustain long-term relationships with members of the Manow community and to enrich the lives of both Tanzanians and our American volunteers.

### **Conduct successful Pre-Form 1 English for 40 Tanzanian Students**

In September 2023 TTF three Americans (Martin Werner, Jordan Johnson, and I) traveled to Manow, Tanzania to teach the Pre-Form 1 English program. Each year there are joyful reunions with community friends and former students. As Martin had taught in 2010 and 2015 the community embraced him warmly. Jordan Johnson joined us in teaching. He is the grandson of Marty’s oldest cousin on the Werner side, which made teaching family relationships much more real to the class. Jordan is a powerhouse of energy and athleticism, which the community and kids loved. The loving and welcoming Manow community, as always, sustained us through the intense work of the program.

As in previous years the volunteers selected 40 students from 70 applicants based on the results of an entrance exam. The students ranged in age from 11 to 14 years old. Most of them lived within a 6-mile radius around Manow. Four female students and one male who lived some distance away boarded in the dormitories of Manow Lutheran Junior Seminary (MLJS). At the end of week five, the class was reduced by 8 students. These students were sent to the Pre-Form 1 program at Manow Lutheran Junior Seminary, where they thrived with the greater Swahili fluency of their teachers.

Some program milestones this year.

- This was the first year that many more girls than boys tested into the class! And the girls generally out-performed the boys! This is the second year we have observed this trend.
- We continued the tree-planting to conclude the curriculum and reinforce the concept of planting trees to help reduce the impacts of climate change. On our last day, the students planted approximately 100 trees on the hillside adjacent to the classroom. This area had been clear cut for the timber revenue by the former pastor. We had planned to plant an additional 200 trees adjacent to the road construction project, but due to very heavy rainfall that task was delegated to the school.
- Thanks to our Olympia dentist, Dr. Walker, for his support of our oral hygiene unit by sending toothbrushes for each of the students. The students wrote Dr. Walker a thank you letter with pictures.
- Thanks to very generous sponsors, TTF was able to support six new scholarship students for their 4-year



secondary education at Manow Lutheran Junior Seminary (MLJS), currently a boarding school of 82 students. One additional sponsor was recruited by Martin Mwakaje for one of our students. He will correspond with his sponsor on the same schedule as our students, so we will be able to watch another one of our graduates as he matures. TTF scholarships will support a total of 20 students enrolled at MLJS beginning in January 2024.

- We met often with Joshua Mwalukosya, who facilitates the email communications between the scholarship students and their sponsors. We learned that he had been personally paying for the internet connections for the scholarship students' emails monthly for the past 10 years. We had assumed that MLJS was paying for this cost. The recent lack of salary no longer allowed him to assume the cost. In fairness to Joshua, TTF paid for his personal expenditures (\$100). We also bought a new modem to allow monthly communications to proceed smoothly.
- We met several times with Head Master Mwambapa. These discussions helped Mwambapa gain a better understanding of the autonomy of TTF within the partnership between TTF and MLJS. The discussions included:
  - A reassurance to Mwambapa and the staff of MLJS that neither Joshua Mwalukosya nor Martin Mwakaje receive financial support from TTF for their assistance to the program.
  - An explanation (with the assistance of Joshua) that the six computers we brought were dedicated by the TTF BOD for use by students in the computer lab rather than for his or staff use.
  - A request for re-instatement of Joshua Mwalukosya as the communications lead between scholarship students and their sponsors. Mwambapa's June appointment of another teacher had led a break down in email communications between scholarship students and their sponsors between June and October. He not only re-instated Joshua, but also promised to pay for internet (\$1/month) and for fuel for the school's generator when power was out on days the students are scheduled to correspond with their sponsors.

### **The Pre-School Program**

In 2019, the pre-school teachers approached TTF asking for support to pay their salaries. We worked with the pre-school teachers to develop a plan for gradual self-sustainability over a five-year period. The teachers would gradually raise the tuition over five years to pay teachers' salaries. In the intervening five years, TTF would support the teachers' salaries gradually diminishing as tuition increased.

The local pre-school program has increased from 45 to 70 students since 2019, which helps pay teachers' salaries. However, the tuition had not been raised in accordance with the grant plan. In 2023 was 8,000 TSh (\$3.20) per month due to the poor local economy. At the pre-school graduation Ngwitika, the lead pre-school teacher, announced that tuition would increase to 10,000 TSh (\$4.00) /mo. This amount will not completely cover the teachers' salaries because a number of parents cannot afford and do not pay the existing tuition costs.

TTF added pre-school height sinks in the bathrooms that we, the pre-school, and the local congregation use. The classroom windows in the portion of our building that the pre-school uses



were badly warped, broken, and were leaking. To prevent further deterioration of the building, we contracted to have the northeast wall of windows replaced for a cost of 1.2 million TSh (\$480). Additional phased in replacement will be proposed in the 2024 and 2025 budgets.



### **Raise up to \$35,000 or more to support the program**

TTF exceeded its goal raising a total of \$43,593. This includes net income from the June 17<sup>th</sup> fundraiser as well as other donations. Of the total, \$12,506 was dedicated to the four-year scholarship program, \$16,410 was Adopt-a-Student contributions (a fundraiser “ask” that approximately funds one of the Pre-Form 1 English students (\$350/student), and \$11,082 in undesignated donations. In addition, TTF received donations of auction items and services (\$2,929) and a designated donation for trees valued at \$100.

### **Reach out to the Manow and Olympia communities**

#### **Manow**

In addition to teaching, we focused on strengthening ties with members of the community. The highlights are bulleted below:

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  - A request for re-instatement of Joshua Mwalukosya as the communications lead between scholarship students and their sponsors. His June appointment of another teacher had led to no emails being sent between June and October.
  - A reassurance to Mwambapa and the staff of MLJS that neither Joshua Mwalukosya nor Martin Mwakaje receive financial support from TTF for their assistance to the program.
  - An explanation (with the assistance of Joshua) that the six computers we brought were dedicated by the TTF BOD for use by students in the computer lab rather than for his or staff use.
- I met with the Konde Diocese Bishop Mwakihaba, and Assistant Bishop Njinga. The discussion centered on the status of MLJS, the managing the multiple priorities of the Diocese after the “conflict” and loss of half of the diocese membership, and the need for consistent financial support for teacher salaries at MLJS.
- We shared meals and family gatherings with the following members of the community:

- Mwaikema (retired teacher at MLJS), his wife (Mama Heri, one of the two pre-school teachers), and his son (Emma, a 2014 Pre-Form 1 English program graduate).
- Owden Mwabuluma, brother to Mwaikema and Pre-Form 1 English program supporter.
- Peter and Lucy Mwabuluma's wedding and reception –a joyous celebration with a number of former and current Pre-Form 1 English students.
- Juma, former Head Master at MLJS and Pre-Form 1 English enthusiast with whom.
- Reverend Mwasamwaja, the founder of MLJS, who is now over 80 years old.
- Elieza Mwalwiba, (a 2009 Pre-Form 1 English program graduate) his family, and his wife Elizabeth, and daughter Talia. I also attended the baptism of baby Talia.

### **Olympia**

- TTF planned and conducted Super Tanzania Sunday on May 21<sup>st</sup> to celebrate Gloria Dei's support of this mission. Interim Pastor Dan Wilson whole-heartedly supported this event.
- Lucy and TTF BOD president, Laurie Schaetzel-Hill gave engaging presentations at the June 17<sup>th</sup> fundraiser.

### **Gratitude**

TTF is successful only because of the financial, spiritual, and emotional support as well as hard work of each and every supporter. To each of TTF's supporters, I want to express my deep gratitude for your support (*nashukuru sana*). I am also indebted to the work of TTF's current and former Board of Directors (Joe Boyer, Ernie Malick, Ivy Metz, Kirsten Rue, Victoria Metz, Jacob Mwaipaja, Martin Mwakaje, K Seiler, Laurie Schaetzel-Hill, George Spencer, Ginny Stern, and Martin Werner.)

Blessings and gratitude to the many people who make this mission possible.

Nancy Winters

Executive Director