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The development of the Namanditi nursery and primary school is our present priority. The aim is to build a well equipped school offering a high level of education, with an ethos that encourages pupils to recognise that the future success of their region and their country depends on their ability to work for the benefit of their community. This would mean that once they finish their education they would develop local resources and see the potential for growth in their own region. A climate of co-operation and honest working will ultimately produce more rapid development and a higher standard of living for all.

There are many underachieving schools in Tanzania, and parents in Songea who have the means will pay for their children to have the benefit of a first class education. These fees would provide a strong financial base for the running of the school while there will be scholarship places for those who cannot afford fees. This would be funded by sponsorship of children by individuals and groups in Scotland.

Update on the Namanditi School

During this year's dry season the first two classroom block has been roofed with clay pantiles from the Magima village ceramics factory. A second classroom building has its brickwork completed and the roof timbers in place. An administration building and maize mill house also have the brickwork completed and the toilet block foundations have been laid.

A licence was obtained and one hundred timber trees at Mhukuru, a little over 100 kilometres to the south were felled and the timber cut to size. This saved 25% of the cost of buying the timber from local suppliers. They have also made bricks for the building on site having constructed a 100,000 brick kiln.

Ken Anderson

At the Drymen show in May we were approached at our stall by Ken Anderson who expressed a wish to learn about our charity as he had been supporting the building of an orphanage in the North of Tanzania and was looking for another project to be involved in. At a subsequent meeting at his offices in Glasgow, he donated £5000 which has helped greatly with the progress of the building. However, the present world wide financial situation has much affected his business sponsors and affected his ability to help further at the moment.

Magima Village Ceramic Factory

At Magima the limited number of drying forms for use in the manufacture of the clay pantiles meant that production was limited to about 400 tiles a week. Since the cost of purchasing further plastic forms is very expensive, Alice has produced two reinforced plaster moulds which can be used as a template. These templates were taken to Dar es Salaam as excess baggage by a Tanzanian student. They are now at Magima where the forms made from them can be tested in the next kiln firing if this is successful, continuous production becomes possible.

TAS Group

After another season of very heavy rains The TAS Group, who are growing rice by the paddyfield method, have increased their membership. They have discussed the possibility of manufacturing bricks in the dry season and are thinking of producing a higher quality brick. A donation of £130 would enable them to buy a brick press and thus extend group's activity.

Coal Mining

Five years ago when our friends in Ruvuma introduced into the region the technology of firing bricks by coal instead of timber; their aim was to prevent some of the rapid destruction of the forests. They were encouraged to set up a coal business by the Regional Commissioner, however their refusal to give bribes in order to get a licence for a good coal site has prevented this from happening. A prospecting licence in a distant area was offered and they get a limited amount of coal from this site which they use for firing bricks and for the Magima tile kiln. They were also given a licence for a site in an area which is completely unsuitable at this stage. Under the present Presidency some high level corruption cases are being dealt with, although many of our Tanzanian friends believe not strongly enough. The lower level of corruption, that operates throughout the government and administration, is perhaps harder to deal with and has severely hindered development in the country.

It has also affected the Namanditi school group who propagated a large number of forest tree seedlings and hoped to receive a large order from the local forestry department. When the planting season arrived the department purchased 300 seedlings in the first instance with the large order to follow but a few days later the larger order was cancelled. The expected proceeds, a considerable amount, were to boost the school buildings funds. A thousand or more of the tree seedlings will be planted in the school grounds soon as we have been raising funds through the sale of badges with this in mind.

Wind Power

We are still working towards raising enough funding for the wind turbine project. Ruvuma is a region similar in size to Switzerland yet the only public electricity supply is in a 10 km circumference of Songea Town. We require a further £2000 in order to arrange the visit of a Scottish wind turbine specialist to Ruvuma where he will construct a prototype wind turbine with an enthusiastic production group. There are many schools for which a simple windmill could provide adequate energy for lighting.

Ntimbanjayo Millinga

We would like to end this newsletter by paying tribute to our dear friend Ntimbanjayo Millinga who sadly died this year. It was Ntimbanjayo who initiated the development of Ruvuma, his home region of Tanzania. Alice Macfarlane, through her involvement in the Magima project and her visits to the region, knew him well and had a great respect for the man and his vision for his people. When she heard that Ntimbanjayo was terminally ill, Alice flew to Dar es Salaam to say her farewells. During her stay there she was able to arrange for him to leave the hospital and be flown back to Ruvuma to end his life at home, surrounded by family and friends.



The work that Ntimbanjayo started carries on under the management of Baraka Ndakidemi, his son-in-law. Baraka is developing the Namanditi school project and has proved himself to be extremely capable and dedicated to creating employment and development for the people in this region of Tanzania.

In honour of Ntimbanjayo it has been decided that the school at Namanditi will be called the Ntimbanjayo Memorial School of Excellence.