

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

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Dear Friends of The Carpenter's Kids, 2010 has been a very busy year for the CK team so far, but we are doing wonderful work, God's work, on behalf of our children. We, together with all of you, are helping them to get an education.

No one can deny the importance of education for everyone.

In January, hundreds of guardians and Carpenter's Kids came to MacKay House to turn in their enrollment forms and receive their supplies and tuition funds for the new school year. It was a very busy time for the whole CK team, but it was a blessing to see so many happy faces ready to go to secondary school. We as a team still have much to learn. We hope that you will all be with us and learn with us. Our children are blessed to continue their education. The opportunity to go to school means that the children will continue to learn, grow, and be supported by their friends and family here in Dodoma and around the world.

We give grateful thanks and praise to our Lord Jesus who helps us to continue to support all of The Carpenter's Kids. Thanks to you all and may God continue to bless you.

The Rev. Noah Masima, Program Director



2010 Secondary School Report

2010 got off to a busy start for CK Education Coordinator Noel Chomola. When the office opened again on Tuesday, 5 January, after being closed for a week and a half for Christmas/New Year, dozens of Carpenter's Kids and CK Committee Members were there to greet Noel.



A Team Effort

The Carpenter's Kids program is very blessed to have a Secondary Education Fund which enables children who have finished primary school to continue their education at secondary school or at a vocational training center. In January of each year, the whole team works together to ensure that the kids who come to the office get the supplies and funds that they need. 2010 was no different.

Willy Saimoni, our Supplies Specialist, is highly involved in the secondary education program. Each year he helps us keep costs down by visiting various vendors in Dodoma to figure out who will give us the best product at the best price. Thanks to Willy's hard work, all of the Carpenter's Kids attending secondary school or vocational training have a durable backpack, a compass set, pens, pencils, socks, a year's worth of notebooks, and a

ream of paper (all students are expected to contribute a ream to their school).

With Willy handling the supplies, the rest of the team was able to support Noel by focusing on paperwork and finances. Each student in secondary school or vocational training is expected to pay tuition fees. This ranges from 20,000TZS (approximately \$15USD) at a public government-run secondary school to 400,000TZS (\$308USD) at a private secondary school. Vocational training fees can be as high as 500,000TZS (\$385USD) per year. The students are also expected to have uniforms, gym clothes (or workshop clothes for vocational training), shoes, gym shoes, mattresses (if the students are boarding at a hostel), and toiletries. When students have to live in a hostel, they are also required to pay room and board fees. The Carpenter's Kids Secondary Education Fund covers all of these costs.



At press time, there were over 400 students enrolled in secondary school or vocational training. We anticipate that the number will increase slightly in the next few weeks. Please keep an eye out for updates on the students' progress in future newsletters!

Interview with Buck Blanchard, Diocese of Virginia



Buck Blanchard is a long-time friend and advocate of The Carpenter's Kids program. As the Mission and Outreach Director for the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, Buck has been to the Diocese of Central Tanganyika numerous times in the last few years, often bringing visitors from Virginia with him to see the work of the various ministries of the DCT first-hand. He is also a member of the "Friends from Colorado" group which is linked with the DCT parishes of Hombolo Mleche and Chilonwa and supports 301 Carpenter's Kids.

As Buck was our first visitor of 2010, we thought it would be fun to talk with him about the changes he's seen take place here in the last few years and get his thoughts on the future of the program

CK: *How many times have you visited the Diocese of Central Tanganyika? What was your first impression of the Diocese during your first visit?*

BB: I think I have visited now 7 or 8 times, the first being in October of 2006. That was also my first trip to Tanzania, and certainly I was struck by the incredible needs of the people in the Diocese of Central Tanganyika. But I was equally touched by the warm welcome I received, the friendliness of the people, their joy, and their love of Christ. I had never met Bishop Mdimi and yet he invited me to stay at his home for several nights. I'm fortunate to travel all around the world and to meet a lot of bishops – and let me assure you that that *never* happens to me. So my first impression was: "I love this place."

CK: *What inspired you to get involved with The Carpenter's Kids program? How has the program evolved over the last few years? When compared with other programs/ministries, what makes CK unique?*

BB: During my first visit, Pastor Noah invited me to visit Mundemu. At that point I had never heard of The Carpenter's Kids. While there, we visited the home of a granny who was taking care of 4 or 5 grandchildren, one of whom was in the CK program. The grandmother, who was struggling for her very survival, insisted on presenting a gift to me – a gourd -- thanking me with tears in her eyes (even though the Diocese of Virginia had nothing to do with supporting that village or her grandchild). That gourd still sits proudly on my desk – it's my favorite touchstone. From that moment, I was hooked. That night I e-mailed some old friends and told them: "this place will change your life." Those buddies are the group now called Friends from Colorado, linked with two CK villages and supporting 301 Carpenter's Kids.

Obviously the growth of the CK program has been phenomenal. But the sophistication and efficiency of the administration has been the biggest change. CK has a staff that stacks up against any group on the planet in my opinion. Taking care of over 5,000 kids in 100 parishes takes an enormous amount of work, but the leadership and staff have evolved into a group that handles those tasks with professionalism and a sense of humor. But what makes the CK staff unique is how they meld their deep compassion, faith, and expertise. These folks come from across Tanzania and around the world, but they work seamlessly because of their common commitment to Christ and their desire not for credit, but rather to focus on the best interest of the people of DCT.

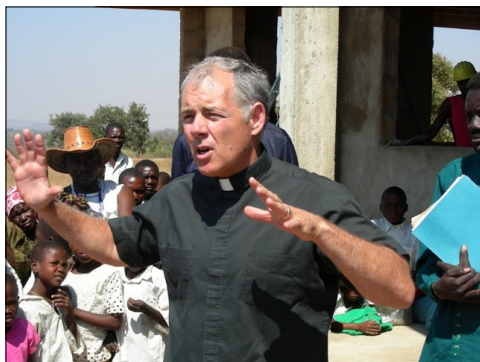
CK: *The Diocese of Virginia is a very mission-driven diocese. How do you see The Carpenter's Kids fitting in with what many of your churches are already doing?*

BB: Under Bishop Shannon's leadership, and previously under Bishop Lee, our hope is that the Diocese of Virginia can facilitate the ability of churches and individuals to follow God's calling, wherever that might take them – across the street or to the other side of the world. Like elsewhere, our churches want to be engaged in partnerships with others. Carpenter's Kids offers an opportunity to visit an area of the world where many would otherwise never go, and work with a program that involves mutual partnerships in Christ. The combination of a spiritual base and professional administration takes the fear out of working with others so far away. We like to say that, as Christians, "we're in the fear-not business," but it sure makes it easier to live into that when you're dealing with a quality group like Carpenter's Kids.

CK: *Where would you like to see The Carpenter's Kids program in the future?*

BB: Of course the primary goal now is to link all 200 DCT parishes with parishes or organizations abroad. What the Diocese of New York (and in particular Bishop Catherine) has done to accomplish that is truly awesome. But to reach 200 parishes, and to maintain links for years to come, I'd like to see the program aggressively opened up beyond New York, Atlanta, Virginia, and Rochester. Undoubtedly some parishes will not renew after their initial five year commitment, so we'll need a much larger pool of potential partners to draw from if we are going to reach – and then maintain – 200 parish partnerships. In addition, thanks to a few generous donors, CK now has a secondary school fund and a health care fund. Those are both excellent and much needed programs, but CK will need to find long-term strategic solutions to funding those efforts. Relying solely on a few donors will not be successful. So I think we'll need to have an open mind concerning other ways of funding those ministries. Some of those ideas (like an endowed fund) sometimes feel more like business than church, but I think the right solution probably involves a healthy balance between the spiritual and the practical. In this case that means finding the right balance between the relational goals of the CK program and the financial realities of providing meaningful support to the Carpenter's Kids. And the kids, of course, are what it's all about.

CK Program Finds New Audience



The Rev. Duncan Burns, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Kingston, NY, is a great friend and tireless advocate of The Carpenter's Kids program. St. John's was the second parish to join the program and is linked with Nala, located about 15 kilometers outside of Dodoma. As a member of the EDNY-based Carpenter's Kids Steering Committee and CK representative on the EDNY Africa Relations Committee, Rev. Burns has a great deal of experience with sharing the Carpenter's Kids story. His two visits to the Diocese of Central Tanganyika (he led the very first EDNY pilgrimage Tanganyika in 2006 and was the clergy lead for the July 2009 EDNY/UK pilgrimage) have also provided Rev. Burns with stories about building relationships with Carpenter's Kids face-to-face—not to mention lots of pictures. It's no surprise then, that Rev. Burns continues to seek new audiences to tell about the program. In December 2009, Rev. Burns did two presentations about The Carpenter's Kids in a new setting: the Ulster County Jail in Kingston.

We spoke to Rev. Burns about the presentations at the jail and about The Carpenter's Kids and St. John's Church.

CK: *What gave you the idea of doing CK presentations at the Ulster County Jail?*

DB: I believe that the message of hope in the Gospel is best understood in mutual relationships between the haves and have-nots, the free and the captives, the oppressed and the oppressors, the excluded and the included. Jesus Christ came that all might have abundant life (and for all to share in this abundance, all need to work together). 83% of those released from jail in Ulster County will be back in jail within one year. For those that are released that stay active in a church when they are released, the recidivism rate goes down to 23%. Why? The same reason it takes a whole village to raise a child. The Gospel is most effective when everyone works together towards abundant life for all.

CK: *Where the presentations well-attended? What did your audience think about the ministry?*

DB: We had three times our normal attendance for Bible study. The room was absolutely packed for both presentations. I told them that a child from a village in Tanzania sang, danced, and explained this passage to our youth group from the United States when we visited Tanzania:

*"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor."*

Our youth realized that they were sent to bring this message back and I believe that they were anointed with the Holy Spirit to share this Good News to the rest of the Diocese of New York when they returned.

I explained the whole story of how 5,675 orphans are now given hope through the dedication of the villages, through the organization of the missionaries and by the support of 98 churches in the United States. Those attending the presentation were amazed with the hope, faith and Spirit of the people of Tanzania, despite their situation, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and the current famine. They realized that we need to work together to reach the abundance that God promises and were amazed at how many in the village were needed to make this hope a reality. They found the story transforming.

CK: *Do you plan to do additional presentations in the future?*

DB: Yes. I have arranged to give a presentation to the youth at the jail next week.

CK: *St. John's was the second church to join CK in 2006. This year is your 5th year in the program. How have you been able to keep your parishioners interested and active in CK during the last 5 years?*

DB: I think that visiting Nala village three of the last four years and writing an e-mail back and forth have made us feel like we are friends with the people of Nala. We have received far more from them than they will ever know.

Asante sana Mchungaji Duncan (thank you very much Rev. Duncan)! Blessings on your continued ministry of hope.

CK During the Rainy Season



John Joseph tries to keep dry before heading back out into the rain.

The rainy season began in earnest right after Christmas 2009. Once the rains begin to fall regularly, traveling on dirt roads becomes a challenge-even in Land Cruisers with four-wheel drive. This is one of the reasons we take a short break each year and don't conduct weekly distributions during January and the first part of February.

While there's a short period without distributions, all of the other aspects of the program continue-rain or shine. This includes the distribution of lishe flour to Mama Lishes so the Carpenter's Kids can eat breakfast each morning before school. For Mama Lishes, traveling during the rainy season means early mornings and lengthy waits. It takes longer for many of them to walk, or attempt to ride a bicycle, to the nearest bus stop. Many times, they have to wait for buses delayed by mud. Once they arrive in Dodoma, Mama Lishes have to get to MacKay House to pick up an average of 150 pounds of lishe flour, buy sugar to sweeten the uji (the kids don't like bitter porridge!), get back to the bus stop in town to wait for the bus, which may or may not be late, and then get all of their supplies back to their villages. In some parts of the Diocese, Mama Lishes have to change their non-rainy season routes and take a less direct route due to flooding or washed-out bridges. And yet, when they get to the office, the Mama Lishes are full of cheer and news about the Kids. These women are some of the most-dedicated people who serve the Carpenter's Kids. Did we mention that they do all of this on a voluntary basis?



The rain poured down on the morning of the January lishe flour distribution. Thanks to some creative thinking by Willy and John Joseph, and Bishop Mhogolo's open parking spot, all of the Mama Lishes were able to get their flour without getting too wet. We were able to keep the flour dry too so there was no uji (porridge) before its time!

Hidden Talents: Alistair Hookings, Financial Controller



L-R: Matthew, Vicki, Jonathan, Emma and Alistair Hookings

In the last year we've highlighted CK staff members in our monthly "Staff Spotlights." In the next few months, we'd like to introduce you to some people who work behind the scenes to ensure that The Carpenter's Kids program is able to function at a high level. Enjoy!

It's no easy task to oversee finances for a program that is constantly growing and receives funds from multiple countries. We are extremely grateful for the help, skills, and experience of Alistair Hookings, our program's Financial Controller. Alistair is a Church Missionary Society (CMS) missionary from New Zealand. He and his wife Vicki, who is principal of Canon Andrea Mwaka School (CAMS), and their three children Emma (10), Matthew (7), and Jonathan (4) have lived in Dodoma for the last three years and are planning to stay here for another three years. Alistair's main role with CMS here in Dodoma is Property and Finance Management at CAMS.

In his spare time Alistair enjoys cycling with his wife, reading, playing with his children, and wants to get back into rock climbing. He is passionate about education, which is one of the reasons he accepted the role as CK Financial Controller. Alistair is a fan of CK as "it encourages children in education, changes their worldview and gives them an opportunity they wouldn't otherwise have." We at the Carpenter's Kids are very blessed to have Alistair as part of our team and thank him for the integral role he plays in keeping CK financially transparent.

The coming months...

- Carpenter's Kids begin the 2010 school year.
- The CK Screening Panel will begin interviewing potential new Carpenter's Kids in Mphangwe, Kizota, Veyula, and Itumbi.
- Kizota will become the 100th DCT parish to join the Carpenter's Kids program in late February.
- CK staff member Scott Wheeler returns home to New Zealand in February.
- Bishop Mhogolo will visit the UK and the US.

Prayer points

- Pray for rain!
- Pray for the Carpenter's Kids as they return to school.
- Pray for safe travels for the Screening Panel and John Joseph as they visit the first four new parishes of 2010.
- Pray for Scott and Nikki Wheeler as they begin to finish up their work here in Dodoma and start packing to go home.

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