

TANZANIA LIFE PROJECT

Our Beginning 2005

Tanzania Life Project is a non-denominational 501(c)(3) charitable organization that was created after witnessing the need and realizing the success of an initial mission trip that occurred as a result of a chance meeting.

Bethuel (Ben) Mlula, an Episcopal Priest from Mtumba, Tanzania, attended a conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2004. Janet Wheelock, an Episcopal priest from Wayzata, Minnesota was also attending the conference. The two befriended each other, and Ben told of the plight of his people, with no water, electricity, etc. Janet was moved by Ben's story and decided to organize a Mission Trip to help the people of Mtumba.

A non-denominational team of 9 was formed (8 Workers and 1 Advisor), raised money, made plans and visited the village of Mtumba, Tanzania in June 2005 (All workers paid their own expenses including plane fare, hotels, and meals).



THE INITIAL MISSION TEAM

Top row from left: John Boyer, Ward Bauman, Janet Wheelock
Center row: Nick Vanderheyden, Katie Vanderheyden, Jim Vanderheyden
Bottom row: Lisa Vanderheyden, Lisa Ness
Inset photo: Keith Olson (Advisor)



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Our primary goals on this first trip were to repair the village well and educate the villagers on how to use solar ovens instead of the firewood which had become scarce and created many health issues. After tremendous efforts of everyone on our team and the local villagers in Tanzania, we were able to accomplish the following during the June 2005 trip:

- 1. Restored the village well, motor, and pump to get clean water flowing**
 - * Installed a new 3" water main (700 meters long) for improved distribution**
 - * Renovated 10 non-working distribution points**
 - * Added one new distribution point and the very long line leading up to it**
(Villagers dug miles of distribution trenches)

- 2. Furnished 12 solar ovens and instruction on how to use them**

After seeing the problems first hand, and having success dealing with them by empowering the villagers, we were extremely motivated to continue the work. We could see that with organization, funding, and the will of these people to help themselves, much good could be done to help make their lives better.

So we officially formed *Tanzania Life Project* by creating a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation getting approval from the State of Minnesota on July 20, 2005 and the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on September 30, 2005 (EIN#68-0611130).

We made significant progress in a number of other areas in a follow-up visit in December 2005. Please see our Trip Report for December 2005 for more information. Our success is based on empowering the villagers to help themselves, providing experienced mentors to educate and work cooperatively with them and keeping the size of our projects within the means of our support.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A PART OF OUR TEAM? PLEASE CONTACT US TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN SHARE YOUR GIFTS AND TALENTS TO EMPOWER THESE WONDERFUL PEOPLE. THANK YOU!!!