

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

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The CK team had a busy moment Jan.-Feb., making sure that secondary school students are equipped with the school supplies for the year 2013. Thanks to all our friends who have made it possible. We are so proud to be the first ones to witness the results and the performance of the students. It makes us so blessed. Children who had no hope, now you can see from their faces how happy they are. It is a good sign that the impacts and the performances of some of them fill us with humility. Praise the Lord who does every thing possible. Please accept our thanksgiving on behalf of the CK team from the entire Diocese.

Rev. Canon Noah Masima

SECONDARY SCHOOL DISTRIBUTION



Brian O. handing out some supplies to secondary students.

Along with the annual rains, January is the month in which secondary school begins in Tanzania. For the sixth year now, through the generosity of our partners, the Carpenter's Kids Program has been blessed with the opportunity to provide secondary education for those Carpenter's Kids continuing their education beyond the primary level. Each year students from DCT's three districts (Bahi, Chamwino, and Dodoma Urban) come down from their villages to Mackay House to receive their school supplies for secondary school. Carpenter's Kids also pays school fees for these students, since unlike primary education in Tanzania, secondary education is not free.

On January 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, returning students and their guardians from Bahi, Chamwino, and Dodoma Urban, respectively, were invited down into our office in Dodoma to pick up their supplies. It was a busy three days with almost 1,000 students coming through the Carpenter's Kids office. Each day began with our staff welcoming and greeting the children outside Mackay House. We congratulated all the students on their excellent performances in school thus far and stressed the importance of their continued hard work at their studies, reminding them that we all are tremendously grateful for those friends who have made this dream of secondary education a reality. We also told the guardians how thankful we are for the work they have put in with their children, providing for them and giving them the support and encouragement they need to succeed in the classroom. The students then came up to Mackay House's second story to collect their notebooks, pens, pencils, compasses, paper, blankets, uniforms, socks, backpacks, t-shirts, bedsheets, and sweaters from the Carpenter's Kids office and storeroom. (The blankets and sheets are included because most secondary schools are boarding schools in Tanzania.) With Mackay House's small hallways, this distribution always proves to be quite an operation. Our entire team has to work long days seeing that all the children receive everything they need.

Following the days of supply distributions, Pastor Noah and members of the Carpenter's Kids staff need to go out to each secondary school and pay the fees for all the Carpenter's Kids. This can take many days, but this way we can ensure that all the students are registered and paid to begin school on time at the beginning of the academic year.

IMPORTANT POLICY CHANGES

We at Carpenter's Kids, who have always strived for low operational overhead, have had to learn to tighten our budget even further, in recent times. As the world economic recession has contributed to hard times for our friends across the globe over in the past years, we completely understand how sending support can become a challenge. But, this tightening of our finances has led to some necessary policy changes that we wish to share with all our partners.

In the past Carpenter's Kids has been blessed to have a small reserve in the bank, which we would use to fund distributions for parishes when their links fell slightly behind. At the end of 2012, however, our Board has passed a directive to discontinue distributing food or supplies to all unfunded parishes. That means we must receive support from our partners before we can distribute anything from 2013 onward. This will cause hardship for the Carpenter's Kids who live in villages that have been scheduled to receive their distributions early in the year but whose distributions will be delayed if their partners send their support later.

There has also been a recent change affecting the secondary school facet of the Carpenter's Kids Program. Seeing students through primary education was originally the goal of Carpenter's Kids, and it has always remained our top priority. The generosity of our friends has allowed us the opportunity to add a secondary school component to Carpenter's Kids to send many Carpenter's Kids to secondary school as well as primary, and we cannot express how thankful we are for that. However, in the coming years, our funding for secondary school will decrease, and we will not be able to support as many secondary students. With this in mind, Carpenter's Kids will be taking on no more new secondary students. Individual partner parishes are welcome to support the continued education of the Carpenter's Kids completing primary school in their linked parishes or elsewhere by sending additional funds to pay for their Carpenter's Kids with passing marks to continue on to secondary school. Fees vary from school to school and change each year, but sending a child to secondary school costs roughly \$320 per year. Some of our friends have already taken this initiative, and this has brought indescribable joy to those Carpenter's Kids.

And, finally, our vocational education, the counterpart to secondary school, has required an adjustment. Carpenter's Kids began vocational education three years ago to provide an alternative to secondary school for those students whose grades were inadequate to get into secondary school. Vocational education takes place at our Ibihwa center. For Ibihwa's first year, the school offered a yearlong program in carpentry, tailoring, and metal-working. However, in order to get government certificates of competence, they had to extend their program to two years. 2012 was the first year of the two-year program, and in January, during enrollment, Ibihwa welcomed a full class of students. For 2013, since all the students are now in year two, there is no room in Ibihwa's housing for new students, so Carpenter's Kids will be unable to add any vocational students in 2013. In 2014, however, Ibihwa will welcome another class of year one students.

If any links have questions about how these policies will affect the children in their partner parishes, please do not hesitate to ask us. If you would like to know what date your partner parish has been receiving its distributions in the past, to ensure you are able to send support on time for that, feel free to ask us that as well. We are more than happy to provide any information or clarification that we can. Our email address is:

ckdodoma@gmail.com.

More of this year's secondary students receiving their supplies



SPOTLIGHT ON CK SUCCESS

Frank Sakalani is one of Carpenter's Kids' best and brightest. Frank grew up in the village of Buigiri, 35km outside of Dodoma, and currently attends Mzumbe Secondary School in Morogoro. Frank is the youngest of three children, and sadly lost both his parents at a young age. Now Frank is living with his aunt. In addition to Frank, his aunt also cares for three of her own children and three grandchildren, which is very difficult for her, since she's currently without work.

Frank excels at Mzumbe, having earned division one with 13 points last year. (Division one is the equivalent of an A in the American school system; his 13 points is one of the highest grades in Carpenter's Kids' history.) Completing Form IV with such high marks, Frank hopes to go on to college next year. Enjoying math particularly, Frank wants to study engineering at Dar Institute of Technology. As an engineer Frank wants to work to develop more infrastructure for his country, but his ultimate ambitions include traveling beyond Tanzania's borders. In addition to studying, Frank enjoys reading, singing, listening to music, and surfing the internet. He also works hard to serve the Word of God in his daily life.

Carpenter's Kids has changed Frank's life. When he lost both of his parents, it looked like Frank may not have been able to finish primary school, let alone go on to secondary education. However, Carpenter's Kids made further education a reality for Frank. He has been in the program since he was in Standard Five (Grade 5 in America), and the program has seen him flourish through secondary education. Frank wants to send his sincere thanks to all CK supporters around the world. And maybe soon you'll see Frank in the US or UK, and he can thank some of you in person!



CARPENTER'S KIDS IS NOW ON TWITTER

This past month, the Carpenter's Kids office here in Dodoma has taken another measure to reach all of our friends directly; we've started a Twitter account. We'll be using it to post updates and links to photos throughout the year. It should be particularly active very soon when distributions start up again.

Follow us: @CarpentersKids! Tweet, tweet!

A SWAHILI LESSON

After spending two months in Dodoma, Brian O. and I (Christopher) were progressing slowly with Swahili, fully grasping some simple words, like *habari*, *nzuri*, *shikamoo*, *asante*, and *karibu* for example, but incapable of understanding most sentences we heard. However, in January we took advantage of the relative slowness of the Carpenter Kids office, which is brought on by the rainy season and the break in distributions and pilgrimages, and attended two weeks of Swahili school in Zanzibar. Our lessons were intensive and intimate, with only three students to one teacher. We learned basic Swahili grammar and expanded our vocabulary vastly. Thankfully, unlike English, Swahili has strict grammar rules that are followed consistently with almost no exceptions. Swahili's openness to adopting words from other languages also makes some vocabulary easier than I anticipated. Many Swahili words come straight from Arabic, and a number of English and Portuguese/Spanish words have made their way into Swahili with only minor changes. This month, I'd like to offer a little Swahili lesson to all our friends. (Writing this has been a great way for me to review a bit of what I've learned, too.)

Basic Vocabulary

Habari – literally “news,” but its meaning is more akin to our “How are you?”

Nzuri – good/well, a popular response to *habari*

Shikamoo – respectful greeting to an elder; the correct response is *marahaba*.

Asante – thank you

Karibu – you're welcome, both as a response to *asante* and as in, “you are welcome to come in”

Hakuna matata – no worries (which is familiar to anyone who has seen the Disney film *The Lion King*)

Some examples of foreign words in Swahili

Chai – Arabic for tea

Bisikeli – though it looks rather different, this word for bicycle is pronounced “bicycle-y.”

Simu – cell phone, from the English “SIM” card

Meza – table in Portuguese (which resembles *mesa*, the Spanish word for table)

Bandera – comes from the Portuguese *bandiera*, for flag, but resembles the Spanish *bandera*, too

Basic sentence construction and verb usage

Swahili verbs are conjugated with prefixes to indicate subject, tense, and even direct objects. That means an English sentence such as, “He is coming,” or “she is coming” can be expressed in just one Swahili word: *Anakuja*. *A* is the prefix for third person singular (he or she in English), *na* signifies present tense, and *kuja* is the verb “to come.” For an example of a slightly more complex sentence, *ninakupenda* is Swahili for “I love you.” Grammatically this word is made up of *ni* (the prefix for first person singular, or I), *na* (for present tense again), *ku* (to signify you, the direct object), and the verb *penda*, which means “to love.”

Swahili school taught me enough to grasp simple sentences and basic grammar, but I'm learning more words to add to my vocabulary everyday in Dodoma.

Nitahataji kujifunza kwasababu ninataka kusema Kiswahili nzuri sana.

I will need to study because I want to speak very good Swahili.

Prayer points	The coming month...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please pray for the continued health and success of the Carpenter's Kids.• Please pray for the future of the program, especially aspects like secondary education, which will undergo changes in the coming years.• Please join us in giving thanks to God for the generosity of our friends around the world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primary and secondary students have all begun their current school year in January and will continue settling into their new classes and schools.• In March we are beginning to plan the distribution calendar for 2013. To date, only a small number of partner parishes have sent funding for 2013, but we are confident more will be sending support.

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