



ILULA ORPHAN PROGRAM (IOP)



NEWSLETTER – January 2015

Dear friends,

We would love to share with you the new events of which IOP Tanzania has been involved with over the month of January!

Enjoy reading!



PASTOR'S SEMINAR

From January 5th until January 14th, a group of United Methodist pastors from all over Tanzania came to stay at IOP Center for a seminar led by two American pastors (John Windell and Steve DuCett). The seminar was supported by Emerging Mission Ministries which develops solutions to alleviate global poverty. The seminar included pastoral training in topics such as Theology, the Bible, Christian Education and Pastoral Leadership as well as presentations by people from Ilula on topics like HIV training and Stop Poverty. The seminar, transportation and accommodation are free of charge for pastors who serve impoverished communities. Some pastors traveled for three days to attend the seminar! We interviewed Alfred, one of the participants from Dar es Salaam about his experience.

The pastors listening the word of God in the United Methodist Church at Ilula

What have you learned from the seminar?

I have learnt how to prepare sermons and how to put illustration with the passage I want to use. Some of the illustrations are very interesting to the audience and the church members because it may be something that they know or a story related to the subject. Another thing I learnt is about unity. We are all pastors from different tribes. I'm with Chaga, there's Hehe, Ngoni, Sukuma...lots of tribes but because we are here to learn about Jesus we put our differences aside and focus on Jesus. I also learned about the things that cause poverty and what we as pastors can do in order to alleviate poverty. There are many different causes of poverty like lack of education, sickness and disease, lack of employment, climate change and bad leadership. I think that religious leaders can promote both Christian and secular education. We have a good position to teach our people.



Why is training like this important?

It is very important for a pastor to attend the seminar because it is like a refresher course. When you stay in one place you can become bored and teach the same service over and over. Coming here gives you new ideas so you can teach new things and be renewed in your mind.

Have you enjoyed the seminar?

Yes because different pastors and instructors came from inside and outside the country. There were new experiences and different cultures. I'm learning from others and I hope they are learning from me.

YUI PROJECT

Hi there-

My name is Yui Uenishi. I'm from Japan. I've stayed at IOP for a year. Mainly I was a volunteer for Ilula YWCA because I was interested in women's issues. I joined a lot of activities and also I had my project called "YUI CARDS PROJECT." I started this project for fundraising. I really enjoyed it. I will miss IOP. It felt like home. I hope I will come back here to say hello! Asanteni wote (Thanks for everyone.) I learned a lot and I will take the experience forever with me. Nitaishi Tanzania milele! (I will live in Tanzania forever!) Napapenda Tanzania kwa sababu pana amani, upendo, furaha na raha tele. (I love Tanzania because there is peace, love, happiness and I enjoy my time here.) Asante sana! (Thank you very much!)



PROTECT ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUR LIFE

Interview with Lynn Christine

Can you describe your job at IOP?

I'm a project officer and branch secretary in Ilula YWCA. I do two different jobs because then I have more to do.

We heard that you put an Environmental Public Event. What was the event about?

In December 23rd, 2014, there was a tree planting event in Kipaduka village and on January 9th, 2015, there was an event in Ilula. There were sports and games at this event. The aim of event was to raise awareness about the environmental concerns. The theme of this event was "Raise your voice, not the sea levels". We also gave materials to 5 different schools so that they can prepare tree nurseries.

How many people attended each event?

There were about 50 people at the first event and the second event attracted about 700 people.

What do you expect in the future concerning environmental conservation?

We do not want to stop people from cutting down trees because many people make money from trees but we want people to plant trees after cutting down some trees.

Where did you learn about environmental conservation?

I learnt about environmental conservation at school and attended the training about environment.



Lynnchristine (left picture) and Lameck (right picture) providing a speech about environmental conservation. Mr. Anod (Kipaduka village) planting a tree.

HOME FOR HOLIDAY

Interview with Belina

Around Christmas, most of the girls go to their relatives' houses for Christmas and New Year. We interviewed one of the older girls, Belina, about her holiday.

How old are you?

I am 16 years old.

Where did you go for the holiday?

I went home to my village and stayed with my aunt.

What did you do to celebrate Christmas?

We went to church in the morning and back home around 12:00pm. We made a nice lunch. We had chicken, potatoes, bananas and rice to eat together with soda to drink. In the evening, we told stories.

What was your favorite part of the holiday?

I really enjoyed meeting with relatives and seeing my sisters, brothers and friends.

What did you do to celebrate New Year?

We do not do much to celebrate. We had some relatives and we eat goat meat.



Belina and Rose at IOP Center

VOLUNTEERS PAGE

Jessica

My name is Jessica. I am from the Netherlands and I am 24 years old. I found out about IOP through Google and I saw that they were serving from the heart so I decided to come to volunteer for three months. I wanted to experience another way of life and serve the girls. In the Netherlands, I work at a daycare with kids from four to seven years old. Here, I look forward to help at the preschool and teaching and playing with the kids in the afternoon. But I can help where ever I can. I love meeting the people here because they are all so kind and friendly and make you feel very welcome. I'm feeling at home here and thank you for the warm welcome.



Emily and Laura

We are sisters from Minnesota, USA and we are 21 and 19 years old. We have been to the Iringa region once before but never to IOP and we are excited to spend two weeks here helping however we can. We are both in college at home and are enjoying a break from school. We are looking forward to work in the preschool, visiting foster families and playing with the girls. We received a very warm welcome to IOP and Tanzania. We wish, we could stay longer than two weeks!



Alida

My name is Alida and I'm from Holland. I have one son and a grandson. I live in a very small village in the country. I'm 64 years old and I like to travel around the world. Because I'm retired now I wanted to spend more time at one place and then I found IOP. I saw what a beautiful garden they had and I wanted to help for 2 months. Thank you for the warm welcome and I hope that I can help you with everything.

Barbara

I am Barbara, a mother and grandmother from Wisconsin, USA. I heard about IOP though the United Methodist Mission Trips. It has been my goal and desire to come to Africa to volunteer in an orphanage and I believe God called me to come to IOP! IOP is an amazing place that provides so much support to not only the girls who live here but also to the foster families and to all the people who are employed through IOP. You all make IOP the wonderful place it is. As I leave on Monday, January 26, 2015 I will take with me many found memories of my time here. I look forward to the day I may return and see all the new things you have accomplished. God bless you each and every day.
With Love, Barbara

Jake

IOP is a good place to be when it is cold in Indiana. Tanzania, Africa very hot this time of the year. I have been here for a few years and I will be coming back! I like it here and playing cards at night is very fun! And sometimes after dinner we put our red noses on!! Hahaa



Barbara (USA), Alida (Netherlands), Jessica (Netherlands), Berit MD- IOP Tanzania and Jake Richer (USA)

INTERVIEW WITH BERIT

Berit let all the children gather around in the hall, near the Christmas tree. Berit told them they will finish Christmas. They can take their own Christmas ornaments off of the tree, put it in their envelope, and take the tree down. At the end of the ceremony, they all stand in a circle and say Happy New Year to their sponsors. They also sang Silent Night (Usiku Mtulitu) in their own language, Swahili.

Can you tell us about your tradition to end the Christmas season and the old year?

I have been doing this for eight years. As a teacher, you think about what can children learn. I believe that traditions are important. They mean that there is a piece of you that belongs to something that will come again and again. Each year before Christmas the girls ask about all the traditions, "When will we decorate the tree?" "When will we put up the hearts?"

Traditions create values in us and enrich us in many ways. When you have created something you feel good about it. The end of Christmas tradition is to remember where their ornaments are. The oldest ones have had the same ornament for eight years so they recognize it. It creates values of recognizing sponsors, friends and caregivers. Girls should be a part of these things so they can feel like they are part of a home.

What are your goals for 2015?

I'm retiring on April 27. My goal and hope is that all the reports are in place, all the books are balanced, all the bills are paid and that I can hand over a good business to the next director.

My goal is to keep working on projects after I have retired and I will have more time so I hope I will finish many things! My big goal and hope is to see that people have better ownership of their jobs. Everyone should always ask, "What can I do next?" Initiative and innovation should come from the heart. People should ask themselves, "What can I do better and best?"



INITIATIVES

... And now we need YOUR HELP!

Do you have some **OLD PIECES OF FABRIC**

and you don't know what to do with them?

HERE at IOP CENTER they would be very useful for our girls!

Indeed they could be used as covers for our old chairs!

We eagerly await your reply!

IOP still has some projects that we need fundraising for. Some of these projects are:

- ✓ Annual running expenses \$ 25,000 for the IOP Center (Orphanage)!
- ✓ Finishing the new welding house \$9,800
- ✓ Annual running expenses of the IOP pre- school "Kids' Corner" \$10,500.

We have a good number of students waiting for Sponsorship so they can go to school
If you would like more information about projects and/or sponsoring please contact:

IOP TANZANIA	Berit – beritiop@hotmail.com
IOP NORWAY	Ingunn – iop.norge@gmail.com
IOP NETHERLANDS	Annelies – info@iopnederland.nl
IOP LUXEMBOURG	Margot – margot.botzem@education.lu
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IOP DENMARK	Emma – iop.denmark@gmail.com
IOP SWEDEN	Annica – annicarenberg@hotmail.com

*****GOD BLESS YOU - MUNGU AKUBARIKI *****



If you have any questions concerning new projects, please send an email to our IOP managing director Berit (beritiop@hotmail.com). Prepared by Jessica, Laura, Emily and Enicka