

Cranbrook School visits Nzega District

July 2015

In July 12 students and 3 adults travelled to the Nzega District to work on projects which had been recommended by The Friends of Urambo and Mwanhala (FUM). This was the latest in the biennial trips by groups from the school first started by Rod Smith in 1984 and was sanctioned by the school despite the ambush which some students and staff endured during the 2013 trip. The group of students had been raising funds for the past two years to pay for the projects and were also supported by Cranbrook School's Lenten Appeal.

The first project worked on was in the village of Semembela, a very isolated village within a forestry reserve. FUM had become aware of the Secondary School being in need of a dormitory for girls. Boys seemed to cope with walking to this isolated school but very few girls were on the school roll. The District Council, FUM and Cranbrook School had provided the funds to build the dormitory and the 2015 team from Cranbrook School raised the money needed to complete and decorate the building. The team spent a few days painting the dormitory and are hoping to have enough money left to buy the beds, mattresses and mosquito nets for 48 girls. Hopefully this will enable more girls from around Semembela to gain their secondary education.



While in Semembela the team also spent two days cleaning and painting the veranda and two of the rooms in the clinic. The clinic nurse was overwhelmed by the improvements achieved in such a short time. Johari Hassan has been the nurse in Semembela for many years, indeed she and her husband have built their own house in the village - although she does seem to run the clinic with little help at the at the moment, just some women from the village. It was very good to see the new maternity delivery building at the clinic. We were told this had been funded by "World Bank" but maybe it was actually "World Vision" which has funded other similar projects in Tanzania. This building is fantastic, tiled throughout so it will be easy to keep clean. It has a delivery room, a room for mums to rest and recuperate after giving birth, a reception and even toilets for patients and another for staff. Of course

the sinks and flushes do not work as there is no water supply.

Maybe Cranbrook School and FUM can find the funds for some rain water harvesting at the clinic as currently water must be fetched from a well 4km away.

One holdup in these two projects was that the District Council had not released the money previously sent by Cranbrook School to pay for the Contractor to complete the dormitory with much needed plastering at the clinic and to make and fit new windows and doors. The local government Executive Director , Mr Mndeme, has promised this money has now been released, and he and Mr Gomegwa, in charge of building works, have guaranteed that the projects will both soon be completely finished.

While in Semembela the school group was very well looked after by the team of cooks provided by the District, by Japhet Morugu the Head Teacher at the Secondary School, and of course by our friends Mr Tegile and Mr Gomegwa. We slept in one of the new science labs in the school and used one of their classrooms as our eating room. The Tanzanian government is having science labs built in all secondary schools in Tanzania, 3 labs per school, and gradually they are being staffed and equipped.

Part way through our time in Semembela we got permission to return to Mwanhala for a day. This was to attend the visit of the National Torch to Mwanhala; a most prestigious event.

Mama Malyeli, who has looked after Cranbrook School groups for many years, wore the Official Tracksuit for the event and once the Torch left Mwanhala she fed more than 100 people who had been at the ceremony. She even managed to get permission for all the members of the Cranbrook team to touch the Torch; a true honour! The message presented with the Torch this year was:

- Today's youth and AIDS parents, let us be responsible
- Let us care for future lives; get rid of malaria
- Drunkenness and drug use is preventable and healable; take action
- Break the bribery and corruption chain; elect a good leader

These messages were given across the country and were listened to attentively by all. "Elect good leaders" refers to the National election which will take place this October.



Mr Mndeme and Mama Malyeli

The other main project the team worked on was in the village of Mwanhala. Here a link is being set up between Cranbrook School and Mwanhala Secondary School. This is financed by the British Council under their 'Connecting Classrooms' scheme. Agatha Mwaliwale, the head teacher, visited Cranbrook School in April and in July our group took lots of science equipment with them from England. Students and staff visited Mwanhala Secondary school for about 5 days and taught lessons, mainly science based. Cranbrook School students learned a lot from doing this and their confidence in sharing information with their Tanzanian peers, in English of course, grew enormously through this time. The students and staff at Mwanhala Secondary School also gained a lot, not just new facts but also a more interactive way of learning. Initially the Mwanhala students sat and listened but by the later lessons

they were interacting more and even asking some questions. Hopefully the science staff will gain confidence in using the new equipment and this link will continue in the years to come.



Members of the group visited clinics supported by FUM in the villages of Mwanhala, Mwashala, Malilita, Isagenhe and Mbooga. They also visited the District Hospital in Nzega. Information on all of these visits, and the plans to start to offer sponsorship for the training of nurses will be given to FUM Officers at their next meeting.

The final project for the 2015 team to work on was refurbishing the dining room and the kitchen at Mwanhala FDC. This was a total success and Mama Malyeli is delighted with the new doors, very smart paintwork and new murals painted by the Cranbrook students. The Farewell Reception for the Cranbrook team was held here and was attended by officials from Tabora and Nzega including the Assistant Regional Commissioner and Janeth Mazimba from Tabora and the DED, Mr Ndeme from Nzega. The Assistant RC officially opened the dining hall by cutting the ribbon before anyone else could enter the room.



Neema Malyeli, Mrs Mwaliwale and Mary Duffa

The day before this event the Cranbrook team, helped by Mrs Mwaliwale from the Secondary School and FUM's team of cooks, held a Retirement Reception for Mama Neema Malyeli. She has been the Principal at Mwanhala FDC for many years and is a true friend of FUM. She has cared for many teams of students from Cranbrook School, all of whom are proud to call her "Mama". Mr Mjbele, husband of Agatha Mwaliwale and a teacher at the secondary school was a fine Master of Ceremonies and led the evening very well. The room used was beautifully decorated in the Tanzanian colours; Jo Taylor gave a speech on the behalf of FUM and Cranbrook School to which Mama Malyeli replied. There was music, singing, dancing and even a beautifully iced cake to mark Neema's retirement. FUM gave her a smartphone which she was delighted to receive. During the Reception students from Cranbrook School took many photos on this phone so she has a record of the evening. Cranbrook School gave her a framed print of the school, a clock made for her in the school's DT department, and a school pennant. Mama Malyeli

loved her evening which was also attended by her grandson William and her good friend Mary Duffa.

Mama Malyeli will be a great loss to the FDC, to FUM and to Cranbrook School but she very much deserves her retirement and she is looking forward to living at her house in Mwanza with her husband Kabaya and her grandson William.