

# Mission Morogoro Newsletter

Autumn 2017



## Introducing our team – step forward the trustees

Mission Morogoro is a small charity dedicated to improving the lives of those living in the remote village of Tunguli in the Anglican Diocese of Morogoro in Tanzania. Our team consists of nine trustees and a small number of close working associates, who, together with a large band of enthusiastic supporters, have been able to make a significant difference to those living in the village and its surrounding hamlets.



MM Trustees (most of)

## Tunguli Village – at the heart of our outreach



Daily chore



Always a smile



Hard work

Tunguli is the centre of a small ward, which consists of four villages and a number of scattered hamlets. It has a population of around 5000 people and lies in the Tanga region of Tanzania. The village is so remote that it is difficult, if not impossible, to find it on any map! This is one of the real challenges that we face as we seek to find partners to work with us and the necessary skills needed to bring about change. The most significant building in Tunguli village is the Health Centre, which has been the focus of much of our work so far.

## Now let us introduce the Tunguli Community

The Tunguli community is privileged to have a doctor living in their midst as well as nursing staff and other members of the medical team who staff the Health Centre. In addition there is a dedicated group of village elders who order the life of the village and members of water committees who seek ways of addressing the life and death problems caused by lack of water. There is, also, a dedicated person who looks after and drives the ambulance provided by MM.



Alex, Doctor-In-Charge of the HC



Village elders at Neema House



Tito the ambulance driver

## Neema House – a base for our work and a resource for others

Over the past year MM has refurbished and re-equipped one of the more substantial houses in Tunguli village. We have provided new furniture, kitchen equipment and bought new beds and installed a flushing toilet, which works occasionally! In the past it has been difficult for MM members to stay for any considerable time in this remote and inaccessible area and this new base will not only help us to serve the community more effectively, but will be a resource for those visiting to provide support or expertise to those living in the village. The journey from Morogoro town takes hours and those making the journey from Dar es Salaam can be travelling for a whole day. Under these circumstances, there is a real need to have a working base within the village.



Delivering water



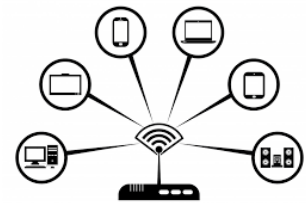
Neema House



Freda's bread

## Speeding up communications with the UK and the rest of the world

In recent months one of MM's great achievements has been to bring all the riches that the Internet provides to this isolated village. Maybe it is not the fastest connection on the planet and sometimes it fails, but there is no doubt that it has transformed communications and opened up a new world of possibilities for those who live locally and enabled us to stay in touch with our friends in the village.



## Tunguli Health Centre in the heart of the village and at the heart of our outreach to the local community

Mission Morogoro has been involved with the Tunguli Health Centre since our first visit in 2012. The Centre is a priceless gift to all those who live in this remote and inaccessible area and we are totally committed to supporting its care and medical support for all those who live in the village and the surrounding area. As the pictures below demonstrate we have been involved in many projects which have enhanced the ability of the staff to serve both the patients and the wider community.

New HC toilets



Clothes for new-borns



HC entrance





New gatehouse and security fence



Rainwater harvesting

## Not every crisis turns out to be a disaster, thanks to a new ambulance



Motorcycle ambulance

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous benefactor we have been able to provide an ambulance, fund its continued maintenance, and also find and pay for the services of a driver. Already it has saved lives and enabled many pregnant mothers to make the hazardous journey across unmade roads to the nearest hospital in Berega. Mission Morogoro is delighted that a growing number of babies have had a very safe arrival and a happy birthday into this world.

## Providing life skills and creating a better future for all



Sewing class

We have been thrilled to provide young women and mothers in the Tunguli area with sewing machines and the opportunity to learn how to sew. We hope that this venture will enable women to provide clothes more cheaply for their families and also the opportunity to form small business groups to make clothes for others. Our hope is that this will allow them to build up some financial capital to help lift them out of poverty.

## “Tushikamane, Women together”. A maternal health project empowering and educating women to take responsibility for their own health

Mission Morogoro is playing a part with the medical profession, both in the UK and in Tanzania, in enabling women to begin the process of taking responsibility for their own health by coming together in self-supporting groups to learn about family planning, pregnancy and childbirth. This home grown project is designed to lead to a situation where women will be able in the future to support each other in making appropriate health decisions for their own lives and bodies. Since the inception of the project MM has made two visits to the 11 newly formed women’s groups and has provided each group with the Tanzanian equivalent of £50 to enable them to begin a process of deciding how money should be spent in order that it will begin to make a difference to their health and lives. We hope that we will be able to go on supporting the women and that ‘Tushikamane’ will become a game changer for creating a new mood of optimism to challenge the fatalism and inertia which so often destroys hope and mitigates against change.



Women's group meeting

## Investing in farming and care of livestock

Those who live in this beautiful area depend on the soil for their daily food. Good farming techniques and skilled animal husbandry are vitally important for a healthy life. Bad harvests create famine and the possibility of starvation and so MM works with those who have skills in farming and agriculture to enable the rich red soil of Africa to provide the 'daily bread' for all who belong to the Tunguli villages and hamlets.



Traditional methods



Tractor and ripper plough



Raising chickens

## Looking to the future

MM is actively investigating how we can work with local Tanzanian partners on a major project to improve the supply of safe water. Those who live in this beautiful part of Tanzania live with the daily struggle to find enough clean drinking water. Day by day women queue for hours just to gather enough water from one of the wells. Then there is the backbreaking task of carrying the water to their homes. Often the water is dirty or infected by bacteria and viruses and every day becomes just a dreadful struggle for survival. Imagine if we had no water to shower with and we had to make do with splashing some cold water on us from a bucket, or if we were thirsty but had to ration our small amount of water with the rest of the family. Just imagine if you had queued all night to obtain a few buckets of water and the pump stopped working before it was your turn. MM wants to make a real difference here and if our plans develop as we hope we will need your support.



## Finally ...

Thank you to all our friends and supporters. Without your continued help we would not be able to achieve our plans to transform the lives of our friends in Tunguli. All of us at MM are conscious of the great debt of gratitude we owe to all who support us. ALL of your money goes to support our aims and objectives. Thank you so much for supporting our fund-raising events. Please keep in touch and follow us on our website and facebook page – see below. We would love to hear from you with any thoughts, ideas or questions.



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