

# Mission Morogoro Newsletter

January 2020



## Introducing MM

Since 2013, Mission Morogoro has been working to transform the lives of those living in the remote and very beautiful area of Tanzania called Tunguli which is set within the Anglican Diocese of Morogoro. Its nine Trustees, Tony, Tricia, Ann, Margaret, John, Helen, Sue, Sheila and Dave have been working together with a small number of close associates, a huge team of supporters in Worcestershire and a Tanzanian NGO to transform the lives of those living in the villages and hamlets of this



*MM Trustees*

scattered rural community. Now we are well underway in our number one priority of transforming the health of the local people by providing them better access to cleaner and safer drinking water. Above all, our vision is to help all those who live in this remote area of Tanzania to grow in confidence and awareness, so that all that we are able to achieve as a charity will be sustainable in the longer term.

## Tunguli village - the people and places at the heart of our outreach

Tunguli village is at the centre of a small ward which consists of a number of villages and some scattered hamlets. It has a population of about 5000 people and lies in the Tanga region of Tanzania. The very remoteness of this area means that its people are often bypassed in the support systems that may be available to others who live on the main 'sea lanes' of this massive and beautiful country. In addition, it has few natural leaders or people of influence who are able to promote the needs of its residents. This has provided MM with the very real challenge of finding partners who will work with us in servicing the vital developmental needs of this wonderful community.

As our pictures reveal, Tunguli Health Centre lies at the heart of the village and is its most important building and the place that is sought out by those who are unwell and by mothers who have complications in pregnancy or labour. The village doctor, Dr Simeota, and the midwife are based here, as is Tito, who is in charge of driving the ambulance which was provided through a generous gift to MM. The ambulance connects Tunguli to the main hospital in Berega, which is about three hours away across rough roads and tracks. The ambulance has already come to the aid of many who would have died without it.



*Preparing to take patient to Berega Hospital*



*Completed shell of new church*

St Elizabeth’s Church is the home of the Christian family and is in the process of being totally rebuilt thanks to the generosity of MM supporters. It has just had a new parish priest who has been welcomed by the Tunguli community. We wish him much happiness in Tunguli and look forward to working with him as discussions continue on the next steps in the rebuilding process.

Thinking of the younger members of the community, there are a number of both primary and secondary schools in the Tunguli area which members of the MM team look forward to visiting on their regular support visits to Tanzania. Over the years we have supported the learning of the children in many ways, including the provision of female hygiene packs and equipment for a science lab in one of the secondary schools.



*Delighted teachers receive the Lab equipment*

## Introducing SAWA (Sanitation And Water Action), our NGO partner

The work of MM has been greatly advanced through working with this amazing organisation which has its base in Dar es Salaam on the Indian Ocean coast, about ten hours travelling time from Tunguli. Charles Mutoka is the leader of a team of wonderful Tanzanian nationals who have been working with us to install new wells and water pumps to increase the supply of clean and safe water as well as educating the local population on the necessity for good personal hygiene.



*Members of SAWA with MM trustees*



*Washing hands at the Primary School*



*Crowd gripped at the football*

As part of this we are well advanced in our determination to stop the necessity for open defecation as more and more members of the local community now have the skills to install latrines in their homes. Now let us tell you the story of Stefania and how WASH has changed his life!

*It’s not often that we can report what really amounts to a small miracle in one person’s life. But Stefania has had his life changed as a result of the combined efforts of SAWA and MM. Since childhood he has been disabled by polio and has had to move around using his hands. Of course, this has turned normal toilet routine into a living nightmare. Now he has an adapted toilet and washroom built specially for him. As part of the training given to local builders on the*



*construction of latrines he was chosen by the students to be the recipient of the first latrine. It would be impossible to put into words how much this means to him!*

## The power of football to change lives

Changing attitudes to health and hygiene takes time and is never easy. However, the SAWA team amazed us by suggesting that, because football is a universal 'language' which includes so many of the younger members of the community, the creation of a Football Cup Competition in Tunguli could be used to spread the message that personal hygiene is vital to the health and wellbeing of the whole community. Well, thousands of people attended the final of the competition where this vital message was broadcast to all those present during breaks in the exciting football. Now the younger people are helping to educate the older members of the community on the significance of good personal hygiene.

Thank you SAWA for this remarkable contribution to our work in Tunguli. SAWA are also helping us with other areas of our work in Tunguli, including the support of sewing groups, help with agriculture and training local residents in the basic skills of small-business management.

## Learning to sew

MM is proud of the way that we have encouraged both women and some men to learn sewing skills. Here is a very joyful picture from a recent graduation ceremony as another very happy group arrive at the end of their training.



*Celebrating sewing success with Angelina*

## The tractor in action



*Tractor ploughing*

MM has been working tirelessly to provide a good governance system for managing the tractor which was provided jointly by MM and the Diocese of Worcester. Here is a picture of the tractor at work in the fields of Tunguli.

## Tushikamane - women's groups 'standing together'

MM has played a significant role with others in the medical profession in the creation of these self-help groups to enable women to understand more about the issues surrounding maternal and child health. We rejoice that some of these groups have now taken on a life of their own and MM stands poised to offer continuing support and advice to the wonderful women who seek ways to not only to enrich their own lives, but the life of the whole community.



*Kwiboma Tushikamane group*

## Looking to a sustainable future



MM will continue to work with SAWA and with local hospital doctors and managers and with representatives from the Tunguli area and wider local government to build on all our existing projects. Then, as a result, the people we serve, and now call our friends, will be able to develop their confidence in living life to the full as they are enriched by new understandings and business skills that are both life-enhancing and sustainable into the future.



## Tell us what you think

We are always interested and excited to have suggestions and advice from our supporters. Please do contact us if you have thoughts and ideas about how we may best serve our friends in Tunguli. To do this and to find out more about our work and ways of supporting us:

email: [contact@missionmorogoro.org.uk](mailto:contact@missionmorogoro.org.uk)

web: [www.missionmorogoro.org.uk/contact](http://www.missionmorogoro.org.uk/contact)

## Thank you

Without you, our supporters, there would be no report to write and no accomplishments to list! Numerous individuals have given us wonderful financial gifts, lump sums and regular giving, both great and small. Others have given generously of their time in arranging fund raising events and yet others have deployed personal skills and creativity which have blessed us in all that we are seeking to achieve. So many of you have attended events and concerts, during the course of which you have put your hands in your pockets and dug deep to help us. On behalf of the Trustees of MM and of those whose lives you are helping to change for the better please accept our profound thankfulness. You are the power for change that lies at the heart of the 'miracle' that is MM!

Once again, thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!

