

**TANZANIA  
LIFE  
PROJECT**

**Annual Trip Report  
Conducted  
September 8 thru 22, 2008**

This is a report on the 4<sup>th</sup> annual trip to Tanzania. This trip included Jim Vanderheyden, Brian Vanderheyden (Jim's Grandson), and John and Mary Vanderheyden.

As our organization continues to grow, the task of trying to keep this report reasonably short becomes more difficult. However, we will try.

The major items to cover are:

1. The purchase & use of our 1995 Mitsubishi Pajero vehicle
2. 15 More villages have now applied for our help – we visited 3 of them
3. Mtumba – successes & challenges
4. Chisichili – successes

**MITSUBISHI**

The purchase of a good used SUV on August 28, 2008, was a real boon to satisfying our needs. We used it exclusively during our visit, and not only saved us hundreds of dollars on vehicle rental, but also permitted us to visit 3 new villages over hundreds of miles of the worst roads imaginable.

We visited Vikonje (10 km from Mtumba), Kikombo (20 km from Mtumba), and Kisima Cha Ndenge (40 km north of Dodoma). All 3 of them have sizeable problems relating to water, electricity, schools needing help, etc. Our board will be dealing with these needs as well as the continuing projects in Mtumba and Chisichili, to determine our short and longer range plans.

Mtumba successes include 20 ladies who received \$25 from us so they could deposit it and then borrow \$75 from SACCOS (a Micro finance organization) to start businesses. Loans are repaid over 6 months. The first 2 months are behind us with all 20 of these ambitious, energetic ladies having started businesses and made their first 2 monthly payments. Businesses include everything from opening a very small restaurant in Mtumba, to buying metal pieces from the Mtumba blacksmiths – fastening these to handles and selling as implements for digging, cutting, etc.



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457 Mtumba families benefited from the agriculture program we instituted to combat the hunger problems. Primary here was the uses of the tractor, plow, disc, etc. that we furnished to work 229 acres of land in 6 separate plots surrounding central Mtumba. The Ag. Committee is now formulating their proposal and plan for the coming growing season, trying to see how self sufficient they can be. 220 families did not get help, due to the total size of the need and the job.

The Mtumba water has had long periods of being off in the past year. They have a broken main – and have money to fix it – just poor administration. The village will now start hiring an outside agency to run their water business – dealing with repairs and collection of funds. Other villages with water have had good success doing that.

The flour milling machines are working beautifully, but the oil machines need maintenance and cleaning. The carpentry shop has done some business, but depleted the capital and released the first operator. The new person, Noel, is very sharp – and a quick learner – and also knows how to weld. The need is to repair many older desks in Mtumba and Chisichili that have metal welded supports – with broken welds. Also, other villages have brought similar desks for repair. We purchased a welder, which had to be made, and is now just about ready for delivery to us. We also purchased a large 3 phase motor for the big saw and planer in the shop. We purchased some plywood, and built 4 desks/tables of one design – the first batch to be for our new office site which we hope to acquire in the next month or so. We plan on selling more of these, as the need for them is very great for teachers, etc. As the head mistress of the secondary school is really too busy to run the carpentry shop, we have decided to run it ourselves for the next few months to get it to being a profitable venture. Vincent will do this.

We reviewed all of the following. We purchased 650 books for Mtumba and 500 for Chisichili primary schools. They still need several thousand each, but had only 1 book for 6 to 10 children to use. We also bought other furniture – tables & chairs for the teachers, and 70 desks for the Chisichili school.

The people of Chisichili are remarkable and ambitious. They have dug the most difficult trench I have ever seen – a 500 yard long one - up a 150 ft. high hill through trees, shrubs, rocks, stones, roots – a trench a foot wide and a foot deep. They have done this in 3 weeks time. This trench will house the water line from the well – which is now completed, and ready for access, up to the reservoir. From there the water will flow down into the various sites in the village. The pump house is just being finished, and we have ordered the submersible pump, and the generator which will generate the electricity for the electric pump motor. We will be mounting a float switch in the reservoir, and extending an electrical line down to the generator, where we will have a setup to automatically start the generator and pump, when the water level gets low in the



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reservoir. Our plan includes getting the total system operating in the next 6 weeks or so, and then installing 2 distribution points as phase 1 and 2. We can do more when more money is available. We are splitting the remaining 8 distribution points and the cattle feeding station, into phases 3 through 7. We hope to get a start on some of those yet in later 2008 if possible.

The incredible people in Chisichili gave us a huge thank you celebration, for all we have done for them and continue to do. At this time, we are classifying them as our model village. They are great to work with!!

