

2010 Annual Trip Report

This year marked the fifth anniversary of Tanzania Life Project. We've been very fortunate to have a large number of dedicated partners in the support of our mission. We've also been blessed with a very committed team on the ground in Tanzania working through Tanzania Life Project (T), a Non-Government Organization (NGO).

Rather than make our usual trip to Dodoma, Tanzania this year, we decided it was a good time to have our partners from TLP (T), Ben Mlula and Vincent Chiwamba, come to the United States. The cost of their trip was made possible through special donations from private donors. Thus, as in all years, no TLP funds are ever used for travel either way to or from Tanzania. The purpose of this trip was twofold:

1. Allow Ben and Vincent to meet personally with the TLP Board of Directors to give program updates, answer questions and help strategize on the next steps for work to be done in Tanzania.
2. Allow our donors and others interested in learning more about the work of TLP to meet Ben and Vincent, hear their stories first-hand and have their questions personally answered.

Ben and Vincent arrived in Minneapolis, MN on September 8. They met with the TLP Board of Directors and several guests for an extended meeting. They also presented at three different donor appreciation events where they had the opportunity to thank current donors and meet a number of prospective donors. All events exceeded expectations and Ben, Vincent and the attendees were pleased with the outcome. They also recorded a special Thank You video which can now be seen on our website on the News Center page.

While in Minnesota, Ben and Vincent had the chance to meet with farmers, Galen and Carla Stumpf of Pierz, MN to see a very successful farming operation and become familiar with the tools and talents used here in the states. They asked many questions and learned a great deal. We appreciate Galen and Carla's warm reception and hospitality.

We enjoyed introducing Ben and Vincent to a number of the cultural events and special locations they've often heard us describe. It was great to have them meet the extended family and finally put faces to the names they've heard about over the years. Ben and Vincent have truly become a part of the family and it was nice for them to put faces with all the names they've come to know.

On September 14, they boarded the plane to return to Tanzania with new plans laid and new donors enlisted.