



2018 Annual Trip Report

This year's traveling team was comprised of Paul and Catherine Trescony (MN), Henry Croll (MN), Peter and Sam Vanderheyden (IL), along with John and Mary Vanderheyden (TX).

We arrived on a Sunday afternoon and enjoyed some time in the home of Ben and Agnes Mlula. We used the time to introduce our first-time visitors (Peter and Sam) and to discuss differences and similarities between Tanzanian and U.S. cultures.

As usual, the next day began with a stop at the TLP office to review the week's itinerary and discuss concerns about TLP operations. Ben and Vincent explained their process for recommending subsequent villages to consider and made recommendations on adjustments to our current process once engaged with a village.

Paul also walked the TLP (T) team through how to use a nut/seed grinder we brought. They will test it to see if it has practical application in the villages for future consideration.

We always appreciate the time we have together to discuss best practices for TLP. As usual, Ben, Vincent, and Agnes did an excellent job of coordinating the visits during each day of our stay.

Ramadan, Water Agent

Ramadan is the water agent in seven of our villages. He is very dedicated to the mission of providing clean water to the villages we serve. We met with him to discuss the village water reports. We learned how average rainfall impacts water consumption over the course of a year. Ramadan has a good plan to hire people from each village and fully train them as technicians over a two year period so they can run and manage the water systems. This will allow him to spend less time in each village, expanding the number he can oversee while creating more employment in the village.

Dodoma Christian Medical Center (DCMC)

In 2001, retired Medtronic executive Bob Griffin and his wife Barbara were invited to Dodoma. During their stay they toured Dodoma's general hospital. The disparity of health care they witnessed there compared to that in the West, propelled them to establish DTHD, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit to help fund and support Dodoma Christian Medical Center. Today, DCMC is a thriving regional referral hospital with inpatient/outpatient services, dental clinic and community outreach. In addition, the hospital's community health program trains village health workers in a WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) program.

Our interest in DCMC is four-fold: 1) the Minnesota connection, 2) a similar impetus to TLP's beginning, 3) the fact that Paul is a Medtronic retiree, and 4) our interest in learning more about the WASH Program. We were happy to have Ben and Vincent arranged for a tour. We

met with Edward Emmanuel, Chief of Administration and Human Resources, along with Dr. Cyrialis Mutabuzi, Chief of Community Health. We hope to have our Tanzanian colleagues trained in DCMC's WASH Program so they can then train others in the villages where TLP has installed water systems to further promote healthy living.

Banyibanyi High and Banyibanyi Low (total population 8,000)

The Villages of Banyibanyi High and Banyibanyi Low are our current water installation projects. They say they have always been without clean water. In the past they have experienced cholera, dysentery and deaths due to unhealthy water. They are very happy about the new water system and want to assure us that they will take care of the project by protecting it. With the work they have done (digging the trenches, preparing gravel) and what they will continue to do, they feel a sense of ownership in this project.

Many of the men and women of the village have attended the empowerment seminars intended to teach villagers healthy changes to cultural human rights issues to improve life in the village. We held separate follow-up meetings with the men and women to assess the impact and changes resulting from these seminars. A very friendly and enthusiastic new TLP associate, Navo, helped translate for the women's seminar feedback. The women say the seminars have helped them implement many positive changes. They also report men and women now communicate with respect for each other as equals to maintain peace in their marriages.

One of the most interesting comments from the men's follow-up session came from a man who said he remembers observing abusive behavior as a child and how much he hated it. The culture of the village still supported these behaviors as an adult and it bothered him. The seminars provided him a chance to learn new ways to live and promote positive change in the village. He said it has changed his life and relationship with his wife and children.

The consensus of the men and women was the old behaviors have stopped and a new way of life was emerging with everyone showing respect for one another and treating each other as equals. This change is manifest in simple ways such as boys and girls, men and women, all fetching water and doing chores, something unheard of in the prior culture where this fell largely on women and girls. We understand this is a process and will continue to follow-up and monitor commitments and trends to ensure the adoption of these new practices continues to grow.

Sam Vanderheyden Interviews Students

Sam spoke with the students in three different villages to understand what it's like to be a student in a village, discussing their favorite subjects/activities, hopes and dreams. Their answers were similar to students' in the U.S. Most want to go to college and many want to explore life outside the village. Sam will make a formal presentation of his experience/lessons learned at the next Board meeting.

Ngutoto

We were warmly greeted by the villagers of Ngutoto (including a large group of the Maasai tribe) and participated in a celebration for the newly completed water system. Our entire team spoke our personal introductions in Swahili thanks to translation help from Navo!. The songs and speeches of the villagers essentially asked God to bless us as they are so thankful for the clean water. With the new source of safe water they are building houses and classrooms, animals/cattle are able to drink, and the people are clean and able to eat healthy food.

Days for Girls

Our team brought 200 Days for Girls kits this year. Since Ngutoto's water system was now completed, this was a good time to introduce the DFG kits and education on personal hygiene. We only had time for one session, so Agnes taught about 110 girls and women. Agnes and Grace will return to Ngutoto to do a more comprehensive training and distribute the remaining kits to those who did not receive them at this visit.

Mtumba

We made a visit to Mtumba, the first of the 14 villages TLP has served (2005). They had received facilities and equipment for carpentry and grain grinding in addition to the water system. We discussed the water system which has continued operation since 2005. We also discussed why the other various resources provided by TLP were not in operation. It provided support and affirmed our earlier decision to focus primarily on water for all subsequent villages.

UDOM

Henry found a way for us to meet with William John Mwegoha, Associate Professor and Principal of College of Earth Sciences at the University of Dodoma. The hope is to engage some of their students in an internship with TLP combining classroom knowledge with real world experience.

Zepisa

This looks to be the next village once Banyibanyi High and Low are complete. This was our second visit to Zepisa. When we visited them last year, their pump was working but they only had one distribution point. The system was built in 1973 using old methods and we were amazed it was still operational. Unfortunately, last year they tried to clean the well but it collapsed. They are now using a hand pump to draw water from the well which has substantially decreased the amount of water that can be drawn from the well.

The village is prepared to do all TLP tasks in preparation for the water system. We will work with the District Pump Engineer and other experts as we proceed with this system.

Celebration Dinner

The whole TLP group (including Navo and her husband) had an enjoyable dinner to celebrate a successful week of work in Dodoma. We were able to FaceTime with Jim and Katie and that was very special. During the dinner, Ben and Vincent told the story of how TLP began.