



2013 Annual Trip Report

Two years have passed since our last trip to Tanzania (due to last year's purchase of a new vehicle). It was good to get back on the ground to see the progress of our current water projects and meet with a new village to consider for our next project. Our traveling team was a bit larger this year and included Jim Vanderheyden, son John and his wife Mary, and first-time visiting granddaughters Maria McGinty and Hanna Vanderheyden.

The 2003 Toyota SUV we purchased last year accommodated our group quite well and appears to be in excellent shape. Ben and Vincent, as usual, did an excellent job creating a full itinerary for us. During our visit we traveled to the villages of Iwondo, Matumbulu, Isangha, Ilolo, Ihumwa/Chilwana, Igandu, and Mzogole. We also had a tour of the medical and dental facility at DCMC (Dodoma Christian Medical Center).

Thanks to our social media team of Hannah and Maria, we were able to post live updates of this trip to our Tanzania Life Project Facebook page (www.facebook.com/TanzaniaLifeProject)!

Igandu: A hydrological study determines the best site to drill for water. Sometimes the best drilling spot might be on the personal property of an individual villager as it was in the village of Igandu. We used this situation to be very clear with the villagers that we are working in partnership with their whole community. TLP does not compensate villagers for land. In addition, villagers are expected to work to dig trenches, provide security and maintain the water system for no compensation. Once the system is complete it needs to be self-sustaining. So villagers will need to hire a water agent who will then charge a fee for water in order to maintain the system. When we asked the group (villagers along with leaders) who would be interested in supporting the system given all these criteria, there was a UNANIMOUS show of support! Everyone has a stake in this endeavor!

Iwondo: This village has been without clean water for over 30 years! Shortly before this visit to Tanzania the drillers struck water. We arrived to the borehole site and witnessed the water being pumped from the ground. The village's cheering and warm welcome conveyed their thankfulness. The next steps will be to have the villagers dig the trenches and begin construction of the reservoir. This humble community bid us farewell saying they have "nothing to give us" but they "trust God will bless us and all of our faithful supporters!"

Ilolo: This was a very special visit. As Ilolo has a relatively flat terrain, there was no nearby hill on which to build a reservoir and utilize gravity to distribute water throughout

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the village. Thanks to the engineering efforts of Chitemo, TLP's good friend and business partner, an elevated reservoir was designed and constructed—a "crowning achievement" for both Chitemo and TLP! Next stop was the pump house. We were greeted with a large banner to inaugurate the completed water project and Jim had the honor of participating in the official ribbon cutting ceremony! Our engineering contact A.J. Tibby was largely responsible for designing and supplying the equipment for the pump house and submersible pump. He even helped us troubleshoot a better way to save on fuel for running the engine. This was a day to celebrate!

Matumbulu: In 2011 TLP helped provide clean water to this village by replacing the mechanical equipment for their existing well. Earlier this year we heard from a U.S. based group called Carpenter's Kids, led by Roger Whitfield. Roger and his group had been working in Matumbulu and during that time the Ward Councilor informed him of problems with the water system. Roger passed along the concerns to the TLP team so we could meet with the village leadership to resolve the issues. Apparently there were problems with some of the equipment shortly after the system was completed and the village spent large amounts of money to have it repaired. It was never our intent to install a system without some type of warranty on the equipment especially in the first couple years when the village is building their reserves to truly become self-sustaining. So we covered the costs for these repairs and are studying implementing warranties with all of our newer villages to manage repair expenses for a given period of time after the initial implementation. TLP has developed a great reputation in the area of our work, and this was critical in demonstrating our commitment to stand behind our investment in helping villages successfully manage the new clean water systems.

Isangha: Communication is key when trying to understand and solve problems--especially so when two different cultures are involved. During a meeting with the women, we were made aware that water from the well wasn't flowing to the people every day. In the end we were able to solve two problems at once. First, our engineer, A.J. Tibby, implemented a fix on the system similar to the one in Iloilo that saves on fuel when running the engine. Second, the TLP team realized there was a breakdown in the communication when the reservoir was near empty. We suggested the water agent and sub-agents review the water level every day, pumping more water into the reservoir as needed, to avoid a disruption in service to the villagers. Problems solved!

Ihumwa/Chilwana: We spent time in these villages reviewing the work of the HIV/AIDS programs and talked about successes and opportunities for enhancements. The gardening program is extremely successful with a well-organized system for growing, transporting and selling produce in the major city of Dar es Salaam. We will work with our partners at Abbott Fund to review many of the suggestions made.

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Mzogole: This wonderful village of 4,000 people greeted us and provided a tour of both past and present sources of water. Sadly, as we have seen in other villages, the natural shallow sources are completely inadequate and the reason for most illness and death in the village. During our meeting with the village, we walked through the requirements and commitments they must make in order for us to partner with them. They whole-heartedly agreed!

DCMC (Dodoma Christian Medical Center): This incredible medical/dental center in Dodoma was established through the efforts of retired medical industry (Medtronic) executives in the U.S. and is very impressive. Their operation is funded both by donations and with profits from a number of local income-generating businesses (brick-making, wine-making, water bottling). They provide care to local residents with fees on a sliding scale based on ability to pay. They have also implemented a training program for villages to teach them many simple ways to reduce the causes for very common and sometimes deadly illnesses (many of which are water-born). We discussed the potential of teaming up as we enter villages with the new clean water systems.

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