

Nov 2017

Tanzania Journal Issue 68

Karansi—A Village That READS by Brian Halpin

Readers of this journal are already aware of the transformation that continues to take place in Karansi, both inside the schoolyard walls and in the village at large. We are excited to announce a new initiative to expand and accelerate that transformation. With the full support of the local District government, the Tanzania country team has partnered with our friends at PUNCHWMI to begin the process of establishing a village library that will enhance the lives of not only the PUNCHWMI primary school students, but also students of surrounding schools and village residents.



premise at their leisure. We are also engaging community figures, including local government and education leaders, to sponsor reading events and contests, so that the library becomes a community gathering place. Through these efforts, we hope to see the village embrace reading as a means of improving the overall quality of life in Karansi, and furthering the growing perception of Karansi as an emerging education center.



The vision is simple – a centrally-located library will provide books and other educational resources to the staff and students of local schools, for use in the classroom environment. Additionally, students and villagers alike will be able to view books on the library

select publishers of books that we are targeting as ideal resources to enable the educational goals of the PUNCHWMI primary school.

I'm sure many of you are asking, "How can I help this effort?" There are several opportunities to support the Library project. We are currently seeking volunteers to help our teaching team finalize a list of targeted titles and resources, and to begin an outreach campaign to the publishers of those works. We will



As of press time, construction and furnishing of the library facility is near completion, and plans are underway to collect and transport an initial inventory of books to Tanzania during the early part of 2018. This is a multi-tiered project whereby we are partnering with established non-profit organizations that specialize in providing books to African countries, as well as leading outreach to

also be seeking volunteers in the coming months to help us sort and prepare items for shipment from a local warehouse location to Tanzania. If you are interested in lending your time and talents, please contact Brian Halpin at brianhalpin@gmail.com, and look for additional communication in the Pulse Newsletter.

Christmas Gifts

As mentioned in the last TZJournal, rather than sponsors trying to send over gifts for their sponsored children each year we collect a special TZ Project Child Christmas Gift Offering. We are asking each of our sponsors to consider adding their sponsored child to their Christmas spending list, and since we have 27 children without a sponsor we are hoping that each sponsor will consider giving at least \$25 per child to our TZ Christmas Fund. You are welcome to contribute through the end of the year. Just include TZ Project Child Christmas Fund in the note field or in the online drop down menu. If you normally pay by ACH (automatic check handling) simply send an email to Debby Wood requesting the deduction. (debbyw@perimeter.org)

NEWS FLASH

One measure of the quality of education being provided in Tanzania is the performance of primary school students on the 4th and 7th grade National Exams. **We are excited to report that this year PUNCHMI School's 7th grade class was the top scoring school in their District and in the top 9% nationwide.** Significant improvement was also seen in both Mathematics and Science Curriculums reflecting the intensive focus over the past couple of years. **Congratulations to our students and staff for their continued pursuit of excellence.**

12 DAYS OF FACEBOOK

During the month of December we will be promoting the sponsorship of 12 of our students who still need a sponsor. Help us promote our Facebook postings by passing them on to your friends, family and neighbors.

Transformation by Mary-Katherine Blain (Team member July 2017 Teacher Team)

When is a picture not worth a thousand words and a thousand words not adequate to describe the picture? When describing PUNCHMI school. I have been at Perimeter Church for the last fifteen years as a church member, a school parent, and currently as Perimeter School's clinic director. I have seen pictures from Tanzania, heard testimonies, participated in fund raisers, contributed to Go Journeys and always thought the outreach program was awesome. But, none of that prepared me for what I experienced in Karansi over the summer. You will have to read these words with your heart, not your eyes. And even then, I doubt I can do justice to what God is doing in Karansi.

Karansi is a dirt village with little running water or electricity. Chickens and other animals roam the dirt streets. Except for the motorcycle taxis, you see very little transportation. People walk and carry large loads everywhere. It is hard to fathom how long it takes the people of this village to complete simple tasks without modern conveniences. Yet, when you enter the walls of PUNCHMI School, you see miracles of God all around you. You see administrators, teachers, grounds keepers, and ladies who cook, showing incredible love and service to the students. They govern and teach the school in English, which is no one's native language. It is hard to imagine the energy that requires, or the temptation to lapse into Swahili, in order to accomplish everything faster. But, for the sake of the children God gives them power, patience, and the ability to persevere. Secondary schools in Africa are only taught in English and PUNCHMI students must master the language to advance. Where, but here, could the children of this

village learn English?

Miracles do not stop with the teachers' dedication to teaching in English. The teachers at PUNCHMI School don't leave when school dismisses and neither do many of the students. Daily, teacher-student soccer games are played and students are in the library with teachers working on reading and educational games or crafts. Everywhere staff and teachers are with students talking, sharing, and problem solving. Life on life discipleship is being lived out daily. One life being poured into another, just as Jesus taught.



God is still not through with his powerful miraculous work, as the students leave the walls of PUNCHMI School. These God empowered staff and teachers find a way to serve and meet the needs of students and their families in the village. These dedicated servants even go to visit the secondary students who are outside of the village once a month to continue discipleship and mentoring. In Karansi, transportation is not easy or

affordable. But they find a way. God is at work in PUNCHMI School and your dollars are being multiplied. I wish that each of you could visit your sponsor child in person. I hope you are assured that you are truly part of a God ordained plan to transform Tanzania from the inside out.

The craziest part of this story is, why God sent me to PUNCHMI School. I have been teaching Abstinence Health Education for many years in middle school and high school. PUNCHMI requested this education be brought to their school. This could only come from God, because much of the material is counter to the culture in Africa. In God's grace and power the material was well received and plans for deeper training are being laid. The Headmaster said it well, "I am proud we are a Christian school where we can teach abstinence- a word many here have never heard."

The school is starting with the youngest students and teaching that human sexuality is a lot more than just the physical. All people are physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual beings. PUNCHMI school has now begun the incredible journey of teaching young people how to nurture, how to care for, and how to grow all parts of who they are, human beings created in God's image. All God's people, pouring our lives into one another, no matter where we live. God is good, all the time! All the time God is good!

Video Calls

Another round of video calls between students and sponsors was held Thanksgiving week. Following are Sponsor Comments

From Dennis & Linda Lee: "Queen's English was much improved since our last call and we were able to communicate clearly. She sang a beautiful worship song for us. We learned about her family, her favorite subject (math), her favorite game (net ball). We referenced her last letter and

art work which made her smile beautifully!

From Dan and Uma Haynes:

Yes, the call was successful. I received the call promptly on time and the connection quality was very good.

It was a great way to connect with Fredrick and Gift. Though our time was short together, I thought it brought our sponsor relationship to a new level. I walked away with a real connection to both of them. I am so

glad that this opportunity was set up. It was also very nice that the teachers/headmaster in the background helped with translation and new questions to ask. This really helped to have the conversation flowing. It would be great to have this opportunity more often!

Next Opportunity: We will try to have calls to Secondary School Students the week of Dec 18-21 (EXCLUDING FORM 4) let me know of your interest ASAP Tim Neet