



Rebecca & Wendy: May '09

Reaching out with God's Love, Power, & Truth
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It's been a while since we wrote. In fact, this is the first time this year...many of you have been asking us what we are up to, so here goes, we'll try and condense 5 busy months into 2 pages... Let's go...!

Our kids' project, Seeway Tanzania, continues to grow. As of today we have 3 houses, 23 children in residential care, 3 in home-based support, 3 additional toddlers for Monday-Friday day-care, and 12 full-time staff.

We have started a small kindergarten/day-care. We were recently asked to take a set of 2-yr old twins into residential care, as their mum just can't work and look after them at the same time, and she has spent the past two years begging from neighbours for food. We saw we could help her by taking the twins Monday-Friday for kindergarten/day-care so she can try to and find work, and still live with them. The arrangement is working really well, and both mum and the twins' countenances have totally altered from hopeless despair to huge smiles. There is a desperate shortage of day-care spaces here. We see it as an opportunity for us to help more families stay together...and also give toddlers a head-start in life by providing quality early learning and play opportunities in a Christian setting. We have so many cool kids' resources now. Some of our older kids like to attend our kindergarten on their school holidays...it must be fun!

We replaced our smallest house with a larger one, 'Magorofani B' in March – increased capacity for children, plus a large garden (lawn and banana/vegetable patch), and garage that we have converted into our music room/kindergarten class.



toddlers'/kindergarten class



outside at Magorofani B



boys room in Magorofani B

Read our latest news on www.swtz.org – it is updated every month...! Tell your friends!! Better still, come and VOLUNTEER!!! We do need volunteers for our kindergarten and also for a community music programme we are planning...

March saw us hosting our friends from New Life Church, Okehampton, UK. What a blessing and breath of fresh air they were to us yet again! They had a great time with our children playing, doing arts & crafts, tie-dyeing, dancing, eating, laughing and showering them with gifts. Thank you so much Esther, Sue, Jenny, and Julie!

We also spent two days on Mt Meru and our visitors worked with the ladies from James 1:27. They taught and ministered to three different groups, and also delivered mattresses to 15 elderly people (aged between 75-108) whose joy and excitement we cannot even begin to describe. Some were sleeping on almost bare boards and unable to get out of bed – a mattress was an answer to prayer.



preaching, teaching, and ministering to people's physical and spiritual needs...

We visited one man who only had one and a half walls to his home (about 10 sq ft in size). The rest was completely open to the elements. The corrugated iron roof was in good condition so it helped to keep the rain off his head but the rest of the house was

incomprehensible. He sleeps on the dirt or mud floor depending on the weather. The ladies, through the generosity of New Life church members, were able to pay to have his house rebuilt and he is now living warm and dry and sleeping on a mattress!



Can you believe this was someone's house...?



hand-washing station...

Last year, we joined our local Rotary Club as a way of becoming more involved in community work in our local town and villages. Our club is very small but the members are enthusiastic and there are plenty of good projects in motion.

In January Wendy managed a small project for Rotary – building a hand-washing station at our local primary school. This was much-needed at the school to help with sanitation. Rebecca is currently involved in a new \$100,000 malaria-prevention Rotary project.

Oh crumbs, too much to write...so much has happened this year, so here are some pictures...they speak a thousand words:



distributing backpacks on Mt Meru on behalf of JSMI



speaking to a youth group on Mt Meru



our first set of twins continue to thrive!



time off at the beach - we were "upgraded" to our own house!



Faith became a daddy!



some of our Mamas preparing lunch together...



New Year pool party put on for Seeway Tanzania by the Arusha Hotel - what a beautiful setting!



raspberry jam time...

We hope these pictures have given you some idea of our life here- it is impossible to convey in a short newsletter everything we do, and the challenges and adventures we face and experience, plus all the fun we have too. Our life here is so very full, and we feel very blessed to be involved in a huge variety of projects, which are all designed to assist people with their physical needs which in turn opens a door for us to be able to address their emotional and spiritual needs.

There is so much confusion here with conflicting advice given by different groups (whether government, witch doctors, tribal leaders, different religious groups, right or wrong...) - we see people struggling on a daily basis to make wise decisions for their and their families' lives. If we can make a difference in just one life it is worth everything.

We never stop thanking God for this opportunity to serve in Tanzania – what an adventure! And we never stop thanking you for your part in it, as our friends, family, and supporters.