

An Update to the Diocese of New York about Carpenter's Kids and our partnership with the Diocese of Central Tanganyika

November 2015

Over the past decade the largest global partnership of the Diocese of New York has been with the Diocese of Central Tanganyika (DCT) in the Anglican Province of Tanzania. The centerpiece of this relationship has been the Carpenter's Kids program which has helped to provide access to primary education for the poorest children throughout that diocese. Links were established between congregations in the Diocese of New York and villages in DCT, and congregations from Virginia, Rochester, Atlanta and other dioceses joined as well. At its peak, about half of the congregations of our diocese were linked with DCT villages.

Over 7,000 children have been supported through the Carpenter's Kids program



Carpenter's Kids

The program as it was originally conceived envisioned a 5-year commitment at \$50 per child from New York congregations, with 50 children being selected from each Tanzanian village. An initial grant from Episcopal Relief and Development subsidized the administrative and transportation costs for the Carpenter's Kids program in Tanzania. With costs having risen over time, and with the ER-D grant having expired, the actual cost per child is now \$80. Some congregations in New York and other dioceses withdrew after completing their 5-year commitment, whereas others continue to support the program. Three years ago Bishop Mdimi Mhogolo asked that the Carpenter's Kids program "sunset" as

the children enrolled completed their primary education, so no new children have been added to the program since that time. Bishop Mdimi's untimely death in April 2014, just months before he was scheduled to retire, was a shock to us all because of the deep friendships that have developed between our dioceses.

Last year the Diocese of Central Tanganyika elected Provincial Secretary Dickson Cholongani as their new bishop, and he was consecrated in November 2014. In his first months in office Bishop Dickson, with support from Trinity Wall Street, had a review of diocesan organizations and structures performed by an outside firm to examine their effectiveness in carrying out the mission of the diocese. This past summer Bishop Dickson asked for a systems audit of the Carpenter's Kids program as well, and the Diocese of New York provided funding for that to take place.



Bp. Dickson Cholongani and his wife Pendo

The New York—Central Tanganyika Partnership: Charting a Way Forward Together

In September Bishop Dickson called together a roundtable discussion to celebrate the Carpenter's Kids program, which has helped educate over 7,000 children, and to share ideas for ongoing partnership with DCT. The Diocese of New York was represented at this gathering by Robin Newman, Chair of the Carpenter's Kids Steering Committee, Archdeacon for Mission William Parnell, and Judi Counts, President of the Board of the Global Women's Fund which has now provided higher education scholarships to nine Tanzanian women. We were joined by the Reverend David Copley, Director of Mission Personnel for The Episcopal Church, and Buck Blanchard, Director of Outreach and Mission of the Diocese of Virginia.

Based on the priorities identified by Bishop Dickson for the Diocese of Central Tanganyika, and our hopes to continue the life-giving partnership with the Diocese of New York, we offer the following opportunities for our congregations and schools, as well as individual supporters, to develop the next phase of our partnership.

Completing the Carpenter's Kids Primary Education Program

The Carpenter's Kids program audit conducted this summer revealed much to celebrate: Over 7,000 children have received access to primary education. There remain a total of 993 students receiving primary education through the program who have been linked to the Diocese of New York. Of these students, however, only 651 have *active* New York links. The remaining children (335 students) were supported at one time by congregations which have completed their commitments and not renewed. Additionally, there are 229 students who are in the program whose supporters from other dioceses have completed their commitments and not renewed. All but 17 of these students will complete primary school (Standard 7) by the end of 2017. The remaining students will complete primary school in 2018 and 2019. We project that the per child cost will rise to \$85 in 2016, and \$90 thereafter.

Goal #1: Complete the Primary Education Program

Our first priority is to complete the primary education of these 1,222 students who are either supported by active New York links or who are at present without link support. The good news is that we have all but approximately \$25,000 of the funds needed to accomplish this. If the New York congregations who are still active in the program continue to send in their support, we will have more than enough to complete the original vision of the Carpenter's Kids program. The Mission Office of the Diocese of New York will send to each active link



Carpenter's Kids gathered for a distribution of school supplies

*1,222 Carpenter's Kids remain in primary school.
All but 17 should finish by 2017.*

Investing in Secondary and Vocational Education

While Tanzania has a goal of universal primary education, secondary education is not guaranteed. Of the children who have participated in the Carpenter's Kids program, approximately 25% have passed the exams required to continue on to secondary school. That may not sound like a lot, but the national rate in Tanzania is 21%. In addition to this, students who have shown promise in primary school, but who have not passed the exams for secondary school, are candidates for vocational education. A generous group of partners have in recent years been providing scholarships to Carpenter's Kids for secondary and vocational education, but they cannot cover the cost of all the students who will qualify.

Goal #2: Provide Scholarships for Secondary and Vocational Education

A new priority for our partnership is to provide scholarships for Carpenter's Kids who qualify to attend secondary school and for those accepted into the DCT Vocational Training Center at Ibihwa or other vocational schools. The costs for secondary school vary (depending on the distance a student must travel, whether boarding is the best option, and supplies provided by the school) but we estimate that the average annual cost of a secondary scholarship is \$300. Basic secondary education is four years (Form I—Form IV), and those who pass additional qualifying exams may go on to Forms V and VI. A vocational scholarship for the two-year program at Ibihwa, where there is residential training in carpentry, metalwork, sewing and agriculture, is approximately \$1,200 per year, including room and board. Other vocational schools have a comparable fee structure. Our hope is to provide scholarships for all Carpenter's Kids who qualify, a commitment for the next decade. We will only provide a scholarship to a student when we have a commitment for the entire program.



A young woman studying at Ibihwa vocational Center demonstrates her sewing skills.

Educating the Clergy of Central Tanganyika

The Diocese of Central Tanganyika is the largest diocese in the Anglican Communion, with some 600,000 parishioners (that is approximately 1/3 the size of The Episcopal Church). Many faithful women and men have been called to ordained ministry in the diocese, many serving up to a dozen remote villages. 90% of the clergy have only a primary education.

Goal #3: Secondary-Equivalent Scholarships for Clergy

Msalato Theological College, located near Dodoma—the center of the diocese—has created a two-year program which will provide clergy of the diocese with a Form IV education. This training will be a tremendous boost to the mission of the diocese by strengthening the education and leadership skills of the clergy. Our hope is to provide scholarships to DCT clergy who wish to avail themselves of this secondary-equivalent course of study. We estimate the cost to be \$1,000 per year for the two-year program.



Clergy of the Diocese of Central Tanganyika

Investing in Higher Education

Goal #4: Scholarships for university study and professional certification

Several Carpenter's Kids have studied or are preparing to study at universities around the country. In Dodoma, St. John's University is an Anglican institution of higher learning, and Msalato Theological College operates under the aegis of St. John's University. The Global Women's Fund of the Diocese of New York has provided scholarships to nine Tanzanian women who have pursued degrees in fields as varied as civil engineering, education, nursing, accounting and ordained ministry. (To date, Central Tanganyika is the only diocese in the Province of Tanzania to have ordained women.) University-level and professional certification scholarships are needed for young Anglican women and men, both those who have participated in the Carpenter's Kids program and others as well. While costs vary, a good estimate of university tuition and fees in Tanzania is \$3,000 per year. Supporting the Global Women's Fund is one vehicle for accomplishing this, but a broader pool of funds for higher education scholarships is needed as well.



Global Women's Fund scholars who have studied at Msalato Theological College with (back row, l-r) just-retired TEC missionary and Msalato faculty member the Rev. Sandy McCann, Msalato Dean the Rev. Canon Hilda Kabia, Archdeacon William Parnell and Global Women's Fund Chair Judi Counts.

Investing in Theological Education

Msalato Theological College was begun as a Bible school for the Diocese of Central Tanganyika and has grown to be the primary center for theological studies of the Province of Tanzania. Women and men from all over the nation and from other countries in East Africa come to study with the faculty who come not only from Tanzania but from around the Anglican Communion. This year, the Reverend Canon Hilda Kabia was appointed Principal, the first woman to hold that office at Msalato.

Goal #5: Endow Msalato Theological College

A critical need for the long-term stability of theological education for the Province is the establishment of an endowment for Msalato. Last fall, the Reverend Canon Sandy McCann, who together with her husband Martin, a pathologist, served as Episcopal Church missionaries in Tanzania, spoke to a gathering of New Yorkers who have so far given or pledged over \$70,000 toward the "Footsteps in Faith" endowment. About \$1 million has been given or pledged from all sources, but the goal is to increase the endowment to \$3 million to provide scholarships and faculty salaries.



Graduation Day at Msalato

For information about the "Footsteps in Faith" endowment fund, contact Archdeacon William Parnell at wparnell@diocesenya.org or 212-316-7467.

Famine Relief and Sustainable Agricultural Development

Central Tanganyika is in the midst of a severe food crisis. Famine is a periodic reality in the central part of the country, depending on seasonal rains and crop yields, but it is presently at a severe level. Bishop Dickson reports that in some villages people are being forced to migrate to seek sufficient food. The famine is expected to be severe this winter.

The Development Office of the Diocese of Central Tanganyika is the only organization distributing food in the region, and its program has been certified by Episcopal Relief and Development. Our hope is to provide immediate assistance to the DCT Development Office for emergency food distribution in the coming months. Over a longer period, however, we want to work with them to encourage the planting of drought-resistant crops and alternative sources of food to alleviate the effects of these periodic famines.



A field of millet near a village well

Goal #6: Emergency Food Relief and Sustainable Agricultural Development

Walking and Growing Together

Many friendships have developed among the people of the dioceses of New York and Central Tanganyika. Some 400 New Yorkers have taken part in pilgrimages over the past decade. We want to continue to provide opportunities for congregations in New York to deepen those relationships through ongoing connections with specific villages in DCT and with the diocese as a whole. We are exploring ways to provide Asset-Based Community Development training to communities in DCT and New York, drawing on the resources and ideas of the people who live in them, and to have New York communities be companions to them using the Indaba model. Companionship on the journey toward sustainability, mutual encouragement, and seed money where appropriate, will be elements of this work.



A Tanzanian village welcome

Goal #7: Deepening Friendships

We hope to announce a Summer 2016 pilgrimage to Central Tanganyika in the near future. The focus of the pilgrimage will be to introduce New Yorkers to the goals mentioned above and the institutions like Ibi-hwa, Msalato and the Development Office which will carry out this important work, and to continue to build friendships between the communities and people of our two dioceses.

For more information about the New York—Central Tanganyika partnership, contact Archdeacon William Parnell at wparnell@diocesenya.org or 212-316-7467 or Robin Newman, Carpenter's Kids Steering Committee Chair, at robinewman@gmail.com