



## Seeway Tanzania - February 2012

Oh, February was busy! Don't think we ever have a dull month here...

During the month we said "Goodbye" to Faith, who has been with SWTz from the very beginning. He is taking some much needed time off to think about the next step in his life and career. He will always be a part of the work here, and is known as "Daddy" to so many of our children. He's already been back to visit much to everyone's delight! We wish him all the best, and thank him for all his hard work over the years.

With Faith leaving us, it has been a time for us too to think about the future of SWTz. We can only take in a limited number of residential children without diluting the quality of care we currently provide, but we CAN expand our home support programme and become more involved in helping vulnerable children (and their extended families) in our community. There is endless need so this is where our next efforts will be focused. Watch this space...

We have had wonderful visitors this month - Jay and Chris from N. America spent 11 days with us, and were a HUGE blessing, providing for and installing a solar system, for the nursery school for us, doing countless small electrical jobs, fixing our cars, putting up a rain awning for the kitchen...they are very much missed and we saw just how much more can be achieved having skilled craftsmen around. Hint hint...any experienced electricians, carpenters or plumbers out there wanting to spend 6+ months in Tanzania??!!

In addition, Jay brought soccer shirts from Guatemala (where he and his wife are directors of an orphanage), and lots of other goodies! Perfect for our Saturday morning soccer sessions with Saorlaith and her team of UN volunteers.

Kanuti and Johnson have been organizing the next stage of their education - Kanuti is applying to schools to study for A levels having got good O level results, and Johnson plans to retake his final O level year, having had a tough 2011 and not having done as well in his O level exams as he hoped (or is capable of...). Kanuti spent a week working with Jay and Chris and loved hanging out with them.

We also had a lot of visitors to our nursery school from Projects Abroad, the volunteer agency we partner with here - they spent a busy afternoon painting faces, playing with our nursery students, and we really loved the biscuits they brought! We already have 22 students enrolled in SWTz Nursery School this year (only 3 of which are from our residential centre, the rest being from the local community), and are steadily seeing the number increase each week.

Our new children have all settled in well. Fred had a visit from his grandmother which has really helped. They have all quickly made new friends and love their new schools.

Rebecca went to Academic Progress Day at Usa River Academy, where 7 of our children attend. James, Zainabu and Ally are all doing well in their class and are much loved by their teacher. Mahija is #7 in her class - a fantastic achievement, and all her exam marks were As and Bs. David is #5 and Arnold is #2 in their respective classes. Riziki is #7 in her class, and is also head girl for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row (elected by teachers and pupils).

The "long rains" have just started much to everyone's relief. As well as watering the earth and reviving dying trees and plants, it means the end of the dust for a few months (especially good news for our lungs). It is amazing to see green grass sprouting from what looked like dead soil. As I sit at my desk I can hear the thunder rolling by - a wonderful sound after praying for rain for weeks...



*Jay giving out goodies from Guatemala!*



*The SWTz soccer team!*



*Volunteers from Projects Abroad*



*Happy student!*



*Yes, there were more of them than us...*



*Mahija with her class teacher, Madam Dora*



*Mahija, James, Ally and Zainabu in their uniforms*



*Kanuti and Chris install a solar panel*



*Wendy supervises the guys...*



*Kanuti...*



*Finally, this is a greater galago also known as the greater bush baby. It was up in a tree at the children's house. Normally nocturnal, it was a treat to see it during the day. One of the amazing animals we have here in Tanzania!*

**Thank You for helping to make a difference in Tanzania!!!!**