

## SPECIAL FOCUS: HEALTH AND EDUCATION MINISTRIES IN TANZANIA

Greetings from Tanzania! As we get ready to close out our second year in Tanzania, we want to take this opportunity to share a bit about our MKLM colleagues. In our regular newsletters, we keep folks updated on the work that Katie and I do around Mwanza. However, we are not the only Maryknoll Lay Missioners here doing good work. So this month we are taking time to spotlight the ministry work that our local Maryknoll Lay Missioner community does within the areas of health and education in TZ.

**Health and education are two of MKLM's priority areas in Tanzania**, and for good reason. Teacher shortages, poor infrastructure, and a lack of resources are just some of the major issues that combine to leave the education system in Tanzania in shambles. Among the diseases that plague Tanzania are HIV/AIDS, malaria, typhoid, leprosy, and a mixed bag of STDs, stomach problems, fungus, and rashes. Many cannot afford treatment for their ailments. **The toll these two issues take on the population is huge.** For this reason, the MKLM community uses their expertise to help address these issues as best we can. From providing one-on-one tutoring support for children to working on a diocesan level to eradicate Female Genital Mutilation, MKLM is working to improve the lives of the most vulnerable populations in Tanzania.



*Katie meets with the facilitators of the Mabatini girls' group to work on the group's curriculum.*

As you are receiving this newsletter, undoubtedly you are familiar with some of the work we have been doing here in Mwanza. As part of our ministries, both of us work to provide learning opportunities outside of traditional educational settings. **Katie** has recently started a group in the Mabatini parish to **teach girls and young women** (age 15- 20) about small business skills (budgeting, marketing, etc) and such topics as self-respect, healthy relationships, and issues of personal health (HIV/AIDS, pregnancy, etc). After several months of planning and recruiting, the group officially launches in early December.



*Chris with the children of the Chanua Group.*

Through his work with Capacitar Tanzania, twice a month **Chris** helps provide academic support and learning activities for a group of **orphans and vulnerable children**. He collaborates with outside groups to provide trainings on topics such as batik-making and entrepreneurship to members of **several local women's cooperatives**. Additionally, he serves on the Board of a newly-registered local organization that will begin offering homecraft training to **local street kids** in 2014.

Joanne serves as the director of Uzima Centre, which provides hope, health care and education to **orphans** from first grade through high school. The center also assists over **300 people living with HIV/AIDS**. Joanne feels that regardless of age or circumstance, education is the key. She believes that education gives the children at her center a chance at a brighter future and that when given proper information, the HIV positive adults are enabled to have **healthier, happier and more productive lives**. The word "uzima" means "fullness of life" and that is what Joanne helps people to achieve.

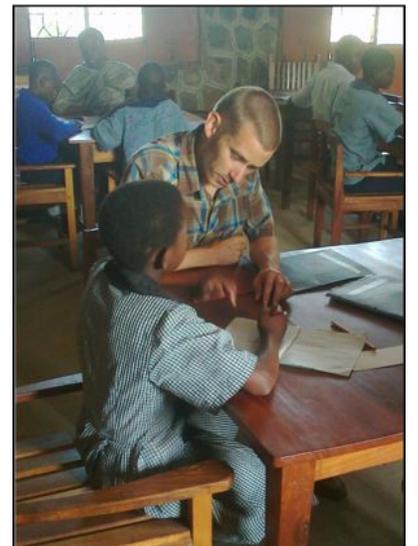


*Joanne Miya*

**Caitlin and David Rosser** both work in education in several different arenas. Caitlin's fulltime ministry is at **Butimba Parish Preschool and Special Education Program**. Her work in early education is very important as many of her students will later be placed into primary school classrooms with upwards of 80 students where they could easily get left behind academically without a strong foundation of reading, writing and math. David's fulltime ministry is at **Huruma Special Unit, a school for children with disabilities** started by Maryknoll Lay Missioner Bertha Haas in 2008. Huruma Special Unit serves one of the most underserved populations in the world- African children with disabilities- and **confirms their dignity and right to education**. Both Caitlin and David spend time working one on one with children in their classrooms as well as with teachers and administrators on curriculum and best practice. Additionally, they teach catechism on weekends and provide informal educational support to kids in their neighborhood several afternoons each week.



*Caitlin Rosser (above) and David Rosser (below)*



For the past 37 years as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner **Liz Mach** has worked in a health related field to utilize her nursing degree. Currently she works for the Diocese of Musoma in the **Planning and Development Department** as Assistant Director where **her main focus is health, social services and education**. The diocese currently has a hospital, health centers, dispensaries, outreach to HIV/AIDS victims and their families, homes for disabled children, primary and secondary schools and an ever-growing response to work for the end of Female Genital Mutilation. All of her cultural knowledge learned here in Tanzania, **her medical skills and her passion to work to end Gender Based Violence against women** come together in her present work for the diocese.

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*Liz Mach*

**Richard Ross** believes that education is the hope for the children at Lubango Center. The parish outstation where he serves provides many learning opportunities through formal training programs, as well as through play. Richard gives a hand where he can in the center's **morning and afternoon chekachea (preschool)**, as well as the Center's **home craft school**, which teaches sewing, cooking, and herbal medicine **for girls between ages 15 and 23**. He also assists in the center's library that provides books and a quiet study area for local secondary students. Richard also keeps busy at Lubango Center taking care of maintenance when necessary, organizing extracurricular activities for students and **teaching English to the teachers**. The most important thing Richard tries to do is keep the students and teachers feeling encouraged.



*Richard Ross*

As you can see, Health and Education ministries play a vital role in the work of Maryknoll Lay Missioners in Tanzania. Each and every one of them strives to make God's love visible through their ministries each day. If you would like to support them in their very important work **please consider making a donation to the Maryknoll Lay Missioners General Fund**. MKLM funds our travel, medical, and living expenses, and other costs associated with keeping us in mission. We ask that you consider donating to the Maryknoll Lay Missioners so that we, and missioners like us, can continue to serve those in need world-wide.

**To make a donation to the MKLM General Fund, click on this link:**  
<http://reidsinafrica.weebly.com/donate1.html>

As always, thank you so much for your prayers and support. God bless! **ASANTE SANA! THANK YOU!**

Chris and Katie Reid