

Mtwaralinks for families in Tanzania



Christmas
2021



Christmas Appeal Home for Christmas

Sister Tadea, head of the Holy Redeemer Sisters in southern Tanzania would like us to meet Oswald Kayombo and his wife Maria Lomba. They have no children and find themselves

now penniless and with no way of feeding themselves. Oswald is blind and Maria is lame. She has no use of her right leg. When they were introduced to the Sisters they were both severely malnourished. We know this region of Tanzania in east Africa is poor. In rural areas a large proportion of the population still rely on subsistence farming and when harvests fail hunger is common. But many of the communities we've visited are strong and vibrant in spite of those challenges. Families are strong support systems against poverty and

children carry a lasting responsibility to feed their parents and grandparents. If you are unfortunate to see your children die, there is no one to care for you as you become infirm.



This is a recent photo of their home. One hesitates to call it a home as in truth it's merely a shelter now with broken walls and no protection from the wind or rain.

Often the community will share the little they have to support the most vulnerable, but in Oswald and Maria's case there is no-one. Holy Redeemer Sisters are providing some food, weekly, but they need a shelter, a house, a home.



A simple brick built two room house, such as the one pictured here, with a corrugated iron roof can be built for £1000. It could be their home to shelter them from the elements. They are old and weak. Sisters will do what they can to feed them but without shelter their lives are perilously



The arrow indicates the approximate location of new kindergarten classroom and proposed home for Oswald and Maria.

fragile. If you can give something towards Oswald and Maria's home it can be built in a matter of weeks and crucially give them protection from the rainy season in January.



Grail Society gives £5000

Work will start this month on a new kindergarten classroom in south western Tanzania. The Holy Redeemer Sisters have



been asked to provide for pre school children as in the town of Lityambandosi there is nothing. Children are attending class in a temporary shelter. With a generous donation of £5000 by the Grail Society, the total costs of £11000 will see the classroom completed early next year. Your donations to Mtwaralinks will provide the rest of the funding.

As in many parts of rural Tanzania, where children attend primary school learning is difficult because of large numbers in class and ill equipped teachers. Pre school provision not only enables parents to work, but it also provides the

(Continued overleaf)

Grail Society (continued)

best possible start to a young person's education and aids learning in school. The Montessori method adopted by the Holy Redeemer Sisters makes use of locally available resources and offers a more child centred approach to learning.



If you'd like to support the work of Mtwaralinks and the Holy Redeemer Sisters in Tanzania please make your donation to:

Mtwaralinks
HSBC

Sort:40-27-33

Acc No. 21525409

or call **Adrian** on **07817388332**

or by email on

adrianfstrain@gmail.com

The Pharmacist

Our small charity, Mtwaralinks, was started with the unstinting help of a local retired school inspector, Mr Philibert Ngairo. He worked long into his retirement to pay for his son Simon to complete his studies.



Philibert sadly died before he could witness Simon's success. Mtwaralinks continued to support Simon's fees and expenses. Next



year his efforts and those of his father will bear fruit as Simon qualifies as a pharmacist.

Simon hopes, on qualification, to be posted to his local hospital in Mtwara, where he lives with his mother.



Since leaving Mtwara, Caroline and I have kept in close touch with friends and colleagues there. Although both my friends who helped me start this small charity are now dead, their work to support the development of their small community goes on. I learned just the other day that a rainwater

collection tank is to be sited in the neighbourhood of Kiangu where we first started distributing aid and registering families for health insurance. Justine Mkwara, the local government officer and a tireless worker in that district proudly made the announcement on Facebook.

Financial Report

Income		Expenditure	
Opening balance 16/03/21	1108.39		
Charles Watkinson	5000	Grants to Sisters	15500
Grail Society	5000	Student sponsorship	447
HMRC	2542.5	Website and sundry charges	76.43
Other donations	4034.5	Total Expenditure	16023.43
Total	16577	Closing balance (16/11/21)	1661.96

Note to financial report.

The period March to October 2021 has been an extraordinarily fortunate period for Mtwaralinks. Two donations each of £5000 plus the tax rebate from Gift Aid swelled the bank balance. Such good fortune is not to be expected every year. Although not itemised I should also thank everyone who has made a contribution; many of you through monthly standing orders, some of you with donations of your winter fuel allowance. Each and every contribution is gratefully received and I believe well spent.