

# *NEWS LETTER*

*JANUARY 2010*

ST. MONICA'S NURSERY & PRIMARY SCHOOL

P. O. BOX 144, CHIMALA

MBEYA-TANZANIA

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## **1. Dear friends and Family,**

The Year 2009 Had a lot to Remember, But my Cash Book Shows that You are One of the Essential People to Carry Forward as Friends in 2010. Thanks Very much for being so good to me. HAPPY NEW 2010.

## **2. Progress of St. Monica's school**



*St. Monica Nursery School in the front,  
And behind is girl's dormitory construction  
In progress.*



*From behind are five classrooms for  
St. Monica's Primary school and in the  
Front is an administration office.*

Your generosity to the poor and helpless children in Matamba, helped me a lot to build St. Monica's Nursery and Primary school as it can be observed from the above pictures. Your donation has made possible to construct five classrooms, administration office and girls dormitory which is in progress.



**Girls dormitory roofing in progress  
And now is completed**



**Girls dormitory at plastering stage**

### **3. Sturdy Tour to Ruaha National Park**

On November 17<sup>th</sup> 2009, Fr. Augustine Mbiche, the school teaching staff and school children conducted a study tour to Ruaha National Park which is the biggest national park in Tanzania and second to the whole of Africa. The study tour was very educative to school children especially those who are residents to the highlands of Matamba who have never gone out from their villages. The study tour gave them opportunity to see different attractions, especially wild animals like elephants, giraffes, lions, buffaloes, greater and lesser kudus, hippopotamus, and crocodiles. Their encounter with wilderness of Ruaha National Park will never get out of their minds as talk of everyday.

We thank very much the two families from New York who kindly sponsored all the costs of the trip which included hiring of the bus, food and refreshments and other entertainments to and from the park.



***School children having their Lunch at Ruaha head office***



***Elephants photo as seen from the bus***



**Hired Bus got stuck on the sand river inside Ruaha National Park on the way to see elephants, some school children are outside while waiting for the Bus to get towed by the park wheel loader.**



**Fr. Augustine Mbiche with school children in Ruaha Nat. Park at tree top Observation point to see the wider view of the park resources.**

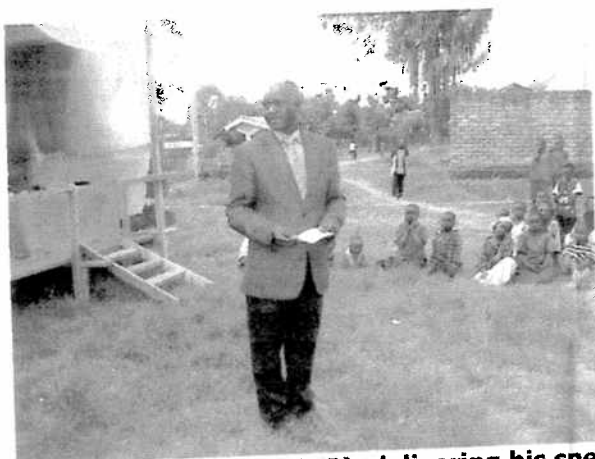
### **4. Graduation Ceremony for 2009**

The 2009 graduation ceremony for St. Monica's nursery school was attended by the Member of Parliament (MP) from Makete District, where Matamba Parish is

located as a guest of honor. We were delighted for him to attend the event as he left all other commitments and obligations in order to officiate the function.

In order to facilitate the continuity of the school, he contributed USD 650 which made possible to purchase 30bags of cement and two sewing machines for children's school uniforms. Also he conducted a fund raising from parents and invited guests and the function managed to get USD 520.

The MP in his speech he appreciated very much to the Americans who are highly committed in supporting orphan children and St. Monica's school. He emphasized by saying that he thanks Fr. Mbiche for being the bridge for relationship and having the school which is very modern in the whole of Makete District. He said God Bless the benefactors from America.



**Dr. Binilith Mahenge (MP), delivering his speech**



***Fr. Augustine conveying his word of thanks to the MP and parents and other invited guests for their Donations***

## 5. Challenges that Face St. Monica's School

### ❖ Financial

- (i) Parents around Matamba who have their children attending school at St. Monica's school are generally poor economically and therefore many of them can not afford to pay the tuition fees. Thus brings a big burden to the school for it to meet its important obligations to run the school smoothly.



*St. Monica's school Children at school in Matamba*

- (ii) Secondly there is a group of orphan school children who are staying at school and being fed with food and attend classes without any body supporting them materially and financially. This burden is being shouldered by the school out 50 orphan school children; only 3 are being sponsored by three different families in America (New York and Utah).



*Above picture is Jomila Sanga among the three sponsored school children. Other two not in this picture are: Ephata Mbilinyi and Rukia Mbilinyi.*

### **Current Costs Incurred by the school to run day to day activities**

- i. The ongoing construction of girls dormitory is expected to cost **\$ 25,000**
- ii. Salaries of teaching and non teaching staff costs **\$ 1,500** per month
- iii. School uniforms for orphan school children costs **\$ 2,200** for every six months
- iv. Food for orphan school children costs **\$ 200** per month
- v. Bills for electricity and water **\$ 75** per month
- vi. House rents for teachers **\$210** per month
- vii. Costs for tuition and boarding for one orphan school child **\$ 430**
- viii. Stationeries **\$ 400** per year

### **❖ Possible solution to problem**

(i) Currently the school runs by using school fees from parents who are able to pay their children fees on time and **Donations from different generous people in the US.**

(ii) In the future for the school to support itself, I have conceived an idea of acquiring a farm. To start with I have acquired 10 acres 250 miles on the highway from Mbeya to Dar Es Salaam in Iringa region where people engage in onion and tomatoes farming. The farm is in the stage of clearing and will need a lot of initial capital investments in terms of cash money to meet labor costs, farm inputs and purchase of irrigation water pump. The farm is located along the Great Ruaha River which will facilitate easy irrigation system.

I thank very much some of the Parishioners from St. Rita's Catholic Church who have started supporting the initiation of the project and I do hope that more people will be moved in supporting this project in order to enable the school to be self supporting in the future.

I'm optimistic that if this project once takes off, the school will have a reliable source of income to support its different needs.



***Proposed farm area after  
Being cleared ready for tilling  
The soil. Standing on the farm  
Is Mr. Gadau the retired agricultural  
Officer giving advice on the best  
Agricultural practices.***



***Great Ruaha River close to the  
farm its water will be used for  
irrigation.***



***Young Tanzanian's employed  
To work on the farm.***



***Fr. Augustine Mbiche standing  
In the front of a small hut where the  
workers are staying.***

**I thank you all for taking your time to think about others who are in need. I do hope that you have enjoyed a lot reading this News letter that shows the progress of St. Monica's School. If you are moved with this news letter, please pass on to your family and friends.**

***MAY GOD BLESS YOU NOW AND ALWAYS FOR YOUR GENERATION***

***Your Friend in Christ***

***Fr. Augustine Mbiche***

**Fr. Augustine Mbiche**

