



Rufiji Leprosy Trust

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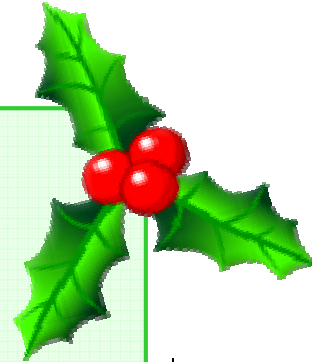
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News from the Village

sent to us by Salum Kipoloya, the orthopaedic shoemaker



Dear Readers

Ukoma Hutibiki = Leprosy is curable!

It is not for nothing that this is the motto of RLT! Let me tell you about a new leprosy patient: Saidi Mbwana Ngoengo. Mzee Ngoengo lives in Kibiti, which is quite some way away, but he knew of our leprosy clinic and when he suspected that he had leprosy, he came to see us himself. We are always pleased

when someone does this because it means that they believe they can be cured, they are not afraid of the stigma and they trust us. Mzee Ngoengo noticed patches on his face and chest and we also discovered that there were three places on the sole of his left foot with no feeling. Having been diagnosed by us,

he will receive his treatment at the Kibiti Health Center which is near his home.

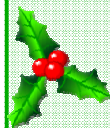
The Weather

Do farmers always grumble about the weather in your country? We certainly do here! But although it has been very dry in most parts of Tanzania until now, we have recently had plentiful rains, so we are hoping that this year will be good not only for rice (as I said last time) but also for maize.

Medical observation:

This type of leprosy is called Paucibacillary (PB) and those with PB have to receive treatment for six months. Leprosy patients are divided into two groups depending on the number of bacilli present in the body. Patients considered to have many bacilli belong to the Multibacillary (MB) group; those with few bacilli form the Paucibacillary (PB) group. Different multi-drug treatments are used for each type of leprosy. The classification is also important as it may indicate the degree of infectiousness and the risk of problems with different reactions to the disease and further complications.

The Trustees of RLT
join everyone in Kindwitwi
in wishing all our readers
A very Happy Christmas
and
a Prosperous New Year



Village News

Now let me give you our personal news: first some sad news and then some happy news.

I am sorry to tell you that our long term ex-leprosy patient Mzee Abdul Rashi Mponda died in November. He had a liver problem but

although he was transferred to Mhimbili National Hospital in Dar, his illness proved terminal. However, we were glad that, at the last, he was able to return home to Kindwitwi to be with us when he died. He was a notable member of our community and served on the Village Committee: we shall miss him.

Abdul Rashid Mponda
May God rest his soul in peace.
Amen!



We hope this photo will bring back memories for those of our readers lucky enough to have been to Kindwitwi, where they will have been made welcome by Mzee Mponda.

The Wards at Kindwitwi

When we say the 'Wards', we in Kindwitwi are referring to the collection of one room dwellings that open onto a square. Ex-leprosy patients live here when they are no longer able to look after themselves. (Most of them manage to earn some money from crafts such as basket weaving.) When a Ward becomes available, it is offered to an ex-leprosy patient who has been living more independently but is now getting too old to do so. In this way, we are able to offer security for many of our elderly folk.



Ex-leprosy patients sitting on the verandah which surrounds their rooms — the 'Wards'

And now for our happy news:

Another wedding

when, of course, the whole Village turned out to dance in celebration!



Young Mwajuma is shown here with her face painted in the traditional way. The paint is made from sim sim seed mixed with oil (usually coconut oil) and shows that the bride is undergoing the traditional 'Unyago'.

I remember saying in an earlier Newsletter that just before she is married, a girl stays at home so that she can learn how to take care of her new family, respect her elders and become more disciplined.

Editorial note:

We wonder if Western brides would take happily to being told that they had to respect their elders and become more disciplined!!

Marriage ceremonies

I thought that you might also like to know about the formalities of the marriage ceremony here in Kindwitwi. We have three types of marriage:



Traditional marriage



where the groom pays the cost of 40 to 50 cows to the bride's family, as in the Masai tribe.

Religious marriage



where the Imam or Priest officiates and a government certificate is issued.



Government marriage



which is carried out by the Government through the District Administrative Secretary. When marriage is between Muslim and Christian individuals, it allows the couple to follow their own religions.

The Polack Dispensary

For those of you not so familiar with East Africa: we use the word 'Dispensary' where, I think, you would use the word 'Clinic'.



In the photo you can see the Dispensary staff posing for a photo with a fine young chap, who is being weighed before having his jabs. They are from left to right: Mozah (Mother and Child Nurse); the Mother; Pili Mtukbi (Nursing Assistant); Shaban Nihuka (the new Clinical Officer) and Maua Kipoloya (Nurse Attendant).

The injections this time were for pneumonia, upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) and Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) and are given by a device called an 'X-PEN'.

Let us hope he didn't squeal too much because he has a name to live up to! He is the grandson of Mzee Mkopolela, the fisherman whose photo has featured in past Newsletters. He may well become a fisherman too, but his father, Amos, appears to have other ambitions for him because he has named him Torres Amos ... after the famous footballer!



A visit from the Directors of KLCCDA

Recently, Mr Burchard Rwamtoga, (Chairman), Mr Tanna (Vice-Chairman) and a new director, Mr Masunzu, came to visit us.

They had a busy schedule.

First they went to Utete to meet the Rufiji District Authority to thank them for their cooperation with the work of KLCCDA and for allowing an exemption from paying any duty on the new vehicle because it was purchased for charitable purposes.

They also met the Acting District Commissioner and the Acting District Executive Director (DED)/District Medical Officer (Dr Peter Sasi, whom the Newsletter has featured before). These officials expressed their appreciation of the work of KLCCDA in controlling leprosy in the Rufiji District.

Then they had a meeting with the villagers of Kindwitwi to clarify development matters.

Finally, they attended a KLCCDA Staff Meeting to be brought up to date on the work and answer questions.

Many of the KLCCDA Board meetings are held in Dar es Salaam, so all of us really appreciated having a meeting in Kindwitwi itself.

Thank you to the Directors who travelled down in their own time to be with us.



A KLCCDA Staff photo with our Chairman, Burchard Rwamtoga, fourth from the left and Vice Chairman, BK Tanna, in the centre.

Until next time:

*My best wishes to you all
Salum*



photo by Melanie Bumberger

Abdallah Nguyu, the Manager, writes ...

Recently, by email, I was reminiscing with Geoff O'Donoghue (RLT Chairman in UK) about his time with us that was more years ago than either of us care to remember!

After the rainy season when the grass is dry, people here go into the forest to harvest honey or cut timber and, although it is illegal, they

often make fires. But sometimes, the fire is natural, caused by the hot sun.

Anyway, this time Geoff and I were called out to a fire in the local orange farm alongside the Chemchem Lake. We were so busy trying to stop the fire burning up the orange trees that it was not until afterwards that I looked down to find my trousers were also alight! Luckily, the trousers were quite wide and I wasn't burnt.

Although we all had a good laugh – there was a lesson to be learned:



DON'T FIGHT FIRES

WEARING

NYLON TROUSERS!

Editorial note:

For those readers new to us, we should perhaps explain the relationship of KLCCDA to RLT. Kindwitwi Leprosy Care and Community Development Association (KLCCDA) is incorporated in Tanzania. RLT is a UK registered charity and sponsors the work of KLCCDA.

We are pleased to announce that

Burchard Rwamtoga (KLCCDA Chairman)
was recently awarded an MBA from the University of Dar es Salaam.



**Congratulations,
Burchard, from all of us!**

We know it can't have been easy as you are not only Chair of KLCCDA, but you also have a full time job with the German Leprosy Association in Dar es Salaam.

This more informal photograph shows Burchard celebrating with his family after the ceremony. His wife, Edvina, is on his immediate right, with his niece, Devotha, next to her. Opposite him is his son Alfred and to his left his daughter, Ruth.



Here is Burchard's brief summary of his very interesting dissertation:

An investigation into the effects of entrepreneurship education on the Tanzanian economy

My interest lies in seeing that the people I serve are empowered so that they are able to support themselves. Therefore, my MBA dissertation looked at the "Effects of Entrepreneurship Education on Entrepreneurship Development". I took the Vocational Education Training Authority (VETA) as a case study. The idea was generated after observing that many donors pay a lot of money sponsoring Standard Seven leavers to attend vocational education training, while the impact of entrepreneurship education, although now a core subject, is not known.

And briefly my conclusions were these:

It was discovered that entrepreneurship education did indeed greatly increase

the desire of students to be entrepreneurs. Therefore, the study concluded that all educational institutions should establish entrepreneurship education as a core subject in every academic programme.

The Government's part in promoting entrepreneurship development will be:

- offering both financial and technical support to those institutions offering entrepreneurship education;
- ensuring that there is a good business environment in Tanzania, with a sustainable legal and regulatory framework;
- developing the necessary infrastructure;
- encouraging good governance with less corruption and more

transparency;

- nurturing sources of capital available to young entrepreneurs.

In this way, graduates with entrepreneurial education could make a substantial contribution to the growth of the Tanzanian economy.

The complete synopsis of Burchard's dissertation can be seen on the RLT website. While RLT is very proud to be associated with such a dynamic and charismatic person as Burchard, the views expressed in this item are not necessarily those of RLT. Furthermore, RLT would like to emphasize that they must not be quoted or used without the express permission of Burchard himself:

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Making use of the internet



OUR LOGO. Its simple design gets home the message and is in the colours of the Tanzanian flag.



OUR WEBSITE spreads the word about our good work:
www.RufijiLeprosyTrust.org



www.facebook.com/pages/Rufiji-Leprosy-Trust/193338934009



www.twitter.com/rleprosytrust

SINCE RLT STARTED using both Facebook and Twitter, we have reconnected with lots of our younger supporters and GAP-year volunteers to Tanzania.



www.thebiggive.org.uk
You can find us on the Big Give website where the keyword *leprosy* on the Find a Charity tab lists us first!

OUR FINANCE PEOPLE are now successfully using the Internet to make money transfers to Kindwitwi and you too can donate to us from our website using this button:

Donate Online Now



Contacts and information

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available on request

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The editors are always
pleased to hear from you
and we should welcome any
contributions and notes
about your visits / memories
of Tanzania.

RLT The Rufiji Leprosy Trust

is registered in the UK, Charity no 286242

THE TRUSTEES

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Mr Burchard Rwamtoga
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Mr B K Tanna
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KLCCDA

**Kindwitwi Leprosy Care and Community
Development Association**

is registered in Tanzania, Certificate No 58593

THE DIRECTORS

Chairman

Mr Burchard Rwamtoga

Deputy Chairman

Mr B K Tanna

Secretary + Manager

Mr Abdallah Nguyu

Representatives of:

the Tanzanian health authorities
Kindwitwi Village and associated villages
Kindwitwi women's groups
the Anglican Church
the German Leprosy and TB Relief Association.

RLT was set up in 1982 by founding trustees, Dr Alex de Waal OBE, The Rev Victor de Waal, Mr G W W Laverton MBE and the late Lord Pilkington, to continue and extend the work of Canon Robin Lamburn, who relocated to Rufiji in 1968 and, until his death in 1993, devoted himself to promoting a good life for the people in Kindwitwi Leprosy Village. Today, as KLCCDA becomes increasingly autonomous, RLT's primary function is to support KLCCDA in its work with the patients and people of Kindwitwi and the surrounding area. This work includes not only KLCCDA's leprosy work but also their efforts to gain self-sufficiency for themselves and those in the immediate Rufiji district, in cooperation with the Tanzanian Government authorities.