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# TANZANIA CONNECTIONS

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2010 Volunteers: Martin Werner & Emily Conrad

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## *Adventures in Tukuyu*

Several weeks into our stay at Manow, we decided to make the 2½ hour bus trek to Tukuyu to buy student supplies and western foods that you can't get up in Manow. We woke up early to catch the 5 am bus a three kilometer walk from us. We arrived in Tukuyu at 7 am and had a simple breakfast of *sambusa* before hitting up the market. Marty was excited for a cup of coffee!

We walked over to the market which is a multitude of booths in a maze of walkways. We zigzagged in and out and "oohed and ahhed" at the large hanging meat: pork, beef -- ooh the selections! We made our way to the stationary store to get new notebooks and pencil sharpeners (the students take diligent notes and filled the original notebooks we gave them!). When we gave it to the students Monday, they gave us a grand applause. They are so appreciative of the simplest things.

Back at the market, we continued on our way for margarine, jam, cocoa, black pepper, pasta, and tomato paste. I've never been so thrilled for margarine! The *duka* (shop) worker, Sophia, was very accommodating and even sent a young man to find us yeast and black pepper.

Later we bought produce: cucumbers, large green peppers, and large garlic. Our purchasing was quite successful and we even got apples! We celebrated by eating one, after taking care to sanitize it first, of course!

Our return trip was also an adventure. Marty, being a gentleman, stood for 2½ of the 3-hour bus ride. We arrived in Lwangwa, where we had started the early day. There we bought our weekly food staples and then continued the 3 km walk up to Manow. A lovely way to end our day with tired feet and bodies. The countryside is so beautiful! *(Emily)*



## *Parents Gratitude*

One of the 2010 additions to the curriculum was a parent teacher meeting at the beginning of the course. Parent teacher meetings are a completely western concept, but I wanted to have an opportunity to let the parents know about the curriculum and our expectations – particularly for the girls. [In Tanzania, girls are expected to help their mothers with all the household chores from hauling water to chopping wood for cooking. The chores always take precedence over studying for girls, which means they tend to do more poorly in school.]

The approximately 20 parents listened attentively while we gave our presentation which was translated into Swahili so we were sure everyone would understand. To conclude, I asked if there were any questions. Immediately 10 hands went up. A little intimidating, but as it turned out not one of these parents asked a question. Instead each wanted to express deeply-felt gratitude for the Pre-Form 1 English Program, and for sharing in their lives. I was deeply moved by their sincerity. It is really each of you who sponsor this program, to whom the gratitude belongs. *(Nancy)*

## *Get Involved!!*

Volunteer to be one of the teachers. Sponsor a student. Plan to attend our annual wine-tasting fundraiser on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Call Nancy Winters at (360) 943-3053 for more information.

God's Blessings and Peace!