



**Dear Everyone,**

**Well I arrived here in Tanzania on 18<sup>th</sup> June after a very smooth journey from Heathrow to Dar es Salaam. Unfortunately after that, things went Africa style! My connecting flight to Mwanza (about 500 miles) was cancelled. We were due to fly out at 9.00am which would have been great as my flight into Dar had arrived at 7.00am. I was then told that the next flight was at 9.00pm that day. Dar airport public side is appalling... there is nothing there except for a few benches to sit on, one café, and a few grotty shops. It is also open to the elements heat, mosquitoes, wind etc and there is nowhere to leave all your baggage. Concerned that the people from Tumaini would be expecting me I had to contact them to say I would not be arriving until around 11.00pm which was not good. I knew that the drive from the airport to Tumaini was about an hour's drive and on dirt roads for most of the way so I tried to arrange another flight out with a charter flight. (I doubt I shall ever get the refund from my cancelled flight)! I got a flight to leave at 1.00pm (2 hr flight time). Briefly... the flight departed at 3.00pm and lasted 3 hrs..... It was a 12 seater prop plane and being thousands of feet up in a tin can was not fun but I finally arrived in one piece at around 6.00pm.**

**Tumaini is in a fantastic spot with a view from the house windows onto Lake Victoria and Mwanza town. We are on about 11 acres of land, but it is quite isolated so trips into town may be about twice a month sharing the car if one of the other families is going into town. There is no public transport to Tumaini, but if one dares to take a pikki pikki ride (on the back of a motorbike) to the start of the made up road a dala dala will take you into town.**

**Quite soon after I arrived in Mwanza I received a call from Japhet asking me to go and see him and the children. Fortunately the timing was good and we managed to visit him last Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July. We had to take a taxi ride to meet him and then go onto the village. All the children were waiting there and I had taken gifts of stuffed toys, some sweets, toothbrushes. I felt a bit guilty as I hadn't taken any gifts for the wamamas, but I will do so the next time.**

**We only had a little time to spend there as we were going onto another task.**

**I managed to take a couple of pictures but my camera was not happy so I shall have to ask Japhet to send some pictures if these do not turn out OK. The house looked good and inside were all the beds and mattresses and nets. The children were outside all looking very shy! The well has a wall around it and a cover on it now and the surrounding area which was bare when I first visited has become populated with other houses and plots of land with some crops growing.**



**Japhet was well and the children showed me their school books. Lots of "nzuri sana" remarks (well done) which was encouraging. The children are back at school next week and Japhet will be back at work teaching in a school in Kitumba which I gather is some distance away.**

**Today (Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July) I got a SMS from Japhet to say he was coming to Tumaini to greet us! He came today on the dala dala and pikki pikki bike, which must have cost him plenty of shilingi and time. We showed him around, which I hope did not make him feel discouraged. I think he was impressed to see how much space there is here at Tumaini. He took chai (tea) and some tikiti maji (water melon) with us before he had to set off back to Ndofe.**

**I have seen the materials he has already bought with some of the monies we sent before I left the UK, and I am hoping that we are able to send some money to help him buy the sand and cement he now needs to build the jikoni (kitchen) and storage area before the rains come. He is confident that he will be able to get the licence he needs, once he has jumped through a few more hoops with the Social Welfare. This should then mean he MAY receive a small amount of help from the government.**



**Please keep Japhet and the children in your thoughts and I will keep in touch with you all (internet connection and God willing)!**

**Love**

**Mama Carlo x**