



Edmund Rice Volunteers and Immersions Victoria and Tasmania



HADITHI ZETU

(our stories)



Second Edition

September 2011

A Group of Strong Mothers

*Stuart O'Brien
Reflections on Tanzania*

In July 2009, in a small, dusty, concrete classroom at Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School the KNM project began, with a meeting between Stu (a volunteer from Australia), Ssenku (the school counsellor), Mama Shirima (a local teacher and elder) and three young girls from Engosengiu village. Now, more than two years since that initial meeting, the project has grown enormously, having assisted over twenty girls and raised close to \$10,000 in sponsorship. The KNM project works with single young mothers and vulnerable young girls from the towns of Arusha and Babati in Tanzania. KNM stands for *kundi la nguvu mamas*, which in English translates to **group of strong mothers**. The central belief behind KNM is that all women and girls have the right to education. KNM works with girls who are



Stu & Elizabeth; Elizabeth has been with KNM since the beginning and is studying to be a kindergarten teacher.

denied this right. In Tanzania, if a female student at a government school becomes pregnant, she will typically drop out of school though fear and shame. After giving birth to her child she would not be welcomed back or would be too afraid to return. In most cases this would mean the end of her education, as the alternative of a private school would be beyond the reach of most single young undereducated mothers. This is where KNM steps in. We support the girls – financially and emotionally – to re enter the formal education system through private schooling. KNM also offers girls vocational training in sewing and book

keeping. The girls in KNM produce pillows, skirts, shirts and bags which are sold in Tanzania and Australia to help cover costs such as school supplies and medicine for the girls' children.

For more information on KNM please visit our website here –

<http://quaerere.org/stu>, join the Facebook group – 'KNM Tanzania' or email knm.tanzania@gmail.com.

Several fundraising nights will be held in October and November 2011 for the project in 2012.



KNM November 2009;

Stu and the girls showing off their creations before the Arusha Xmas Fair.



Amina, with her daughter Hadijah; Amina re entered form 3 in 2010 and will graduate in form 4 from ERSSS in 2011.

A Timorese Teacher in Tassie

Story by Jennifer Earle working in Timor Leste

Francisco's Visit to Australia

Francisco was a fledgling who was encouraged out of his nest and had to fly – literally, since he flew to Sydney by himself! He was not frightened because he knew that Jesus was with him on this trip. When I met him at the airport I had an overwhelming feeling that I wanted to protect him from our way of life. His is so simple by comparison. Family survival is at its core, not success, prosperity and material wealth. I constantly remind myself that our way is not necessarily the best way.

As the two weeks in Hobart progressed Francisco was bombarded by one new experience after another. He was shell-shocked the first week and very cold! I was his constant mentor, interpreter and organiser and I found myself becoming quite drained. Our second week included some luxuries of relaxation while feeling relatively warmer with a change in the weather.

One highlight was an afternoon of sailing on the D'Entrecasteaux Channel with Francisco at the helm and me a passenger (much to Francisco's amusement!). Another was working in the manual arts centre at St. Mary's College (SMC).

Francisco mostly observed Nicky's creative teaching of Grade 6 at SMC. There was an encouraging balance of teaching methodologies new to Francisco with some strategies that Francisco had already begun to implement in Deleco. From his notebook of written ideas, he will share with the other teachers and give them practical assignments this term.

Francisco is a devout Catholic who lives in a country which is 97% Catholic. After the initial shock of finding out that I was a Protestant, he embraced the experience of attending three different protestant churches on the three weekends in Australia. He enjoyed talking about his life in East Timor and his experiences in Australia at two of these churches.

Any thought that I had about Francisco preferring life in Australia were banished when he rushed off the plane in Dili to greet his family and forgot about collecting his bags. The feeling was reciprocated by his wife and three children who were happy for Francisco to have this amazing experience, but happier still to have him home.



A warm thankyou to all those who welcomed Francisco and made his visit valuable, comfortable and memorable; particularly to Nicky and SMC staff, Marion and Westley, Carol and John, Bebe and John, Renee, Jamie and Katrina, Lyn and Paul, Steve and Ros and last but not least my Dad, Jim.



COMMUNITY DINNER AT AMBERLEY

Saturday 15th October 2011

Hosted by the 'Tutembee Pamoja' - We Walk Together Immersion Group

A community roast dinner at the Edmund Rice Centre 'Amberley', raising funds for Edmund Rice and partner ministries in East Africa, Kenya and Tanzania, and HARDA, supporting famine affected communities in northern Kenya.

The meal will be expertly prepared by the Amberley catering team and vegetarian and Vegan options will be available.

Red and white wine, and soft drink will be provided on the night, beer at Amberley bar prices. No BYO.

Families and children are most welcome.



Adult tickets @ \$35

Student tickets @ \$25

Child tickets (5-12 under 5 free) @ \$5

For more information and bookings, please call Brenton or Katrina on (03) 9439 8282 or email brenton@amberley.org.au

2012 Lake Mungo Immersion

An opportunity to walk the land with Mutthi-Mutthi woman, Vicki Walker-Clark...

Share story

Connect to the land

Experience deeper

issues

confronting Aboriginal Australians

For more information, contact:

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