



Hello from Tloma!

This is Winona with a quick report from an extended visit to Tloma

SPONSORED STUDENTS

When I left home I had intended to visit with each of our sponsored boarding students to learn how they are doing in school, and then i would report back to their sponsors. What I did not realize is that their returns home would trickle out over a month's time, and some students make visits elsewhere before returning. The Form 4 student are only now arriving. So progress on that front has been very slow.

Also, students do not receive any paper 'report cards' at term's end. They may have a general idea of their scores, but results are sent to parents electronically. Many families do not have 'smart' phones and may not get those results. Two classes - Form 2 and Form 4 - have national exams and all of the results may not be posted until after the first of the year. I am asking each student to provide me their best estimates of their grades, and that is taking awhile. So, my report may well not come until after I return back home - which I HOPE will be before Christmas. Happily, most students are verbally reporting they have made good improvement over scores from previous years.

However, it is now December and **we do need the sponsorship donations** to get ready for next year. Severe drought conditions for the past two years are still continuing (there have only been a few clouds and minor sprinkles since I've been here), resulting in low crop production and high prices. The largest student expense is maize and beans. Those costs continue to increase, so every \$450 annual contribution is greatly needed and will be sincerely appreciated.

FOOD FOR OUR STUDENTS

Two years ago, Tloma Primary had about 850 students between Pre K and Grade 7. Since then the student population has increased to over 1100 and exceeded the capacity of Tloma Primary. We now have added the Kilimani Pre and Kindergarten School.

As I mentioned, the drought has reduced production and many families in Tloma have little food left. Typically they use some of the fresh garden produce along the way, then harvest the rest and dry it to use until the next crops arrive. During these past two years, the amount left for storage has been very low, thus some families have not been able to provide maize and beans for student lunches. A generous gift from Marjan from the Netherlands has provided a few months of mid-morning porridge (ground corn with milk) that may have been the only nourishment a child received during the school day (7 am - 4 pm). While these conditions are difficult enough, during a recent parent committee meeting, a visiting district official informed parents that those who do not contribute the goods would be arrested.

I am suggesting that a wonderful Christmas gift this year would be a contribution for the purchase of maize and beans for our students at both Tloma Primary Schools. It takes quite

alot of maize and beans to provide food for 1100 hungry mouths each day, so I am hoping for generous hearts to help us out. Click [here](#) to find out how you can give.

MORE NEWS TO COME.

I had planned to return home mid November, but some interesting changes, some exciting, some challenging, have necessitated an extension to get things done. I will send you updates when I get home as some are still in progress.

WHERE'S MY NEWSLETTER????

We have discovered that a good number of our newsletters are not being received. Much of that may be due to many servers' higher screening capacity. Mail addressed to larger blocks of recipients run a greater risk of being stopped. We are exploring ways to get around that, including sending the newsletters to smaller groups of recipients and using my private email.

But, for those of you who receive this, please check to see if you have a place in your settings to identify our email address as 'safe'.

Also, note that all of our newsletters are posted on our Tloma Giving website. So, when you start wondering what's happening at TPS, check our website for the latest news.

UNTIL NEXT TIME...


In case I don't get around to it in the next short while I'd like to wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a Merry Christmas, and tell you again that we truly love and appreciate your support.

Winona

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