



Ifakara Bakery Project and Free Bread Funds Tanzania - East Africa

December 2009



Sr. Christina

It has been a very eventful and busy year for our charity in Ifakara and we felt it was about time that we should give you an update. The Bakery: The news from the bakery is very good as they produce at least 400 loaves a day and sometimes have to increase it to anything up to 900 loaves. They had to engage more 'bakers' and we are pleased that local people could fulfil this task. We receive the bakery's annual accounts which are enlightening as we can see that they continue to use their profits wisely. These accounts also serve the useful purpose to confirm that the money we send is spent for "The Free Bread Funds".



The first Breadshop in Ifakara

The Bread Funds: As we have not had to intervene financially with the bakery we continue to concentrate our efforts to raise the necessary funds for maintaining the existing "Free Bread Funds" which reaches:



Bethlehem Centre

- Nine Wards in the District Hospital in Ifakara
- The Bethlehem Centre for children with learning difficulties
- The Nazareti Leprosy Centre and Lepra Village
- The Ifakara Orphanage
- The Idete Kindergarten
- Four Nursery Schools in Ifakara

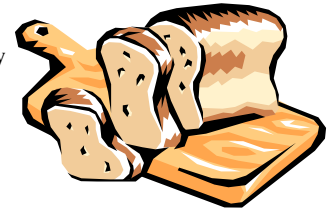
In total this represents 60,000 loaves in 2009. We continue to give talks to all sorts of organisations which enable us to raise the £15,000 required to maintain these bread funds. Any gifts from these talks, small or large, are used entirely for the purchase of freshly baked bread as all administration costs continue to be borne by us. We shall have given over 120 talks by the end of this year, and so far over 60 bookings await us for 2010.



Lepra Village



Fund Raising: We are on target to fulfil all these obligations this year, thanks to the generosity of many people, groups, clubs, churches and organisations. It is quite extraordinary how so many rally to our cause when people realise that it is only the two of us who work for our charity and that all contributions go to help the people in Ifakara as we continue to absorb all costs. A great boon towards our income was that we could encourage donors to cover their gifts with Gift Aid Declarations and we had a cheque from HM Revenue & Custom in excess of £2,300 earlier this year which helped us to buy over 9,000 loaves of bread. What an excellent way to spend the Chancellor's money! Apart from our talks we have quite a number of friends who have raised Standing Orders in favour of our charity.



Emergency Fund: However, the news from Ifakara is worrying as the Wet Season (normally from December to March) did not bring the usual amount of rain and many of the self-sufficient farmers are worried since the seeds for maize (their staple food) and other produce have not germinated. This means that their harvest is poor and there will be precious little of their staple food available. But the Sisters who run the bakery will ensure that everyone in Ifakara will have access to the bread, irrespective of religious or tribal affiliations, rich or poor, so no one should die from starvation as was the case prior to the bakery in 2001. We have created an Emergency Fund so that trusted people in Ifakara were able to buy a substantial quantity of Maize earlier this year and store it for distribution when the needs are most acute, like now. This maize will be used for both feeding many hungry mouths as well as make seeds available to the self-sufficient farmers for planting maize seeds in the hope that they will have a better harvest in 2010.



Other Fund-Raising Activities: include sponsored concerts, people running in Half and Full Marathons as well as Triathlons in America. One Church gave the whole year to fund-raising for our charity, including the proceeds of a great Pantomime. All this and more help to fund the costs for:



Education: These extra activities have enabled us to finance the Emergency Fund, as well as four Ifakara Orphans' education. Moses has successfully completed his first year at University in Dar es Salaam and has now commenced his second year, reading Telecommunication. Dastan will be starting his third and final year at the University reading Economics. Renfrid, the third orphan is now preparing for his A-Level examinations. We are also supporting Upendo, a young lady in her fourth year at Secondary School. They all regularly send us their school reports which are most impressive.

Dastan and Moses at University.

We are both blessed with good health and as long as this continues we are dedicating our lives to maintain our commitments to the people in Ifakara by providing "Free Bread" to those that have so little but are so thankful to be able to share in "our daily bread". This has only been made possible with your continued support and generosity for which we are very grateful.



"I've got my piece of bread..." says Patricia of Idete Kindergarten

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