



Textbooks

Steve Vinton, March 19, 2007

Many, even most of you, who receive our e-mails aren't on the list of people who receive the mailings that we occasionally send out through the post office. I thought some of you might be interested in this special mailing that we are sending out from the home office concerning a big project that all of us who are serving as missionaries here in Tanzania are working on together.

Dear Friends,

Since Christmas we've open two more new schools – one in the village of Maguu and a second one in the village of Idiwili. As a result 1418 kids, who would have otherwise never have had the chance to go to school, are now getting an education.

These kids don't complain about anything. The classrooms are made out of bricks that their parents made, the roofs are corrugated tin thanks to the generosity of a lot of good people, and they have blackboards, desks, doors, windows and cement floors. These schools in their eyes are absolutely wonderful! And yet, we know in our hearts that it would be a lot easier to teach if only these kids had textbooks. A complete set of textbooks for a student would cost \$42. It's very possible that for wealthy kids in cities, maybe their parents might be able to afford to buy them textbooks. But for the kids in our schools in these villages whose parents are trying to survive on less than \$30 a month – and for the more than a third of our kids whose parents have already died and can't help them anymore – it's really impossible to even think that they might one day have textbooks. But we would like to try to do what everyone thinks is impossible. Our project is not to buy school books for every one of our students. But if we could buy textbooks for them to share, it would be a huge and wonderful step forward. We want to try to buy 738 sets of textbooks – a set for every two students to share together.

Our hope is that some of you might be able to buy one set, that some of you might even be able to buy a dozen sets, that maybe this might be a project you could do with students at your school or with a Sunday School class at your church.

With joyfulness,

The 2007 Team of Equip Missionaries serving with Village Schools Tanzania
Steve & Susan Vinton, Amy Imel, Michael Shenkle, Janelle Miser, Maggie Mendenhall,
Leslie Cox, David & Rachel Bryant, Matthew Sroka, Tamara Fuchs, Sarah Bickel