

### **THIRD SUN. OF EASTER: CHRIST CHURCH, HEALD GREEN**

**Acts 3: 13 – 19; I John 2: 1 – 5; Luke 24: 35 – 48. (22.04.2012)**

**HAPPY EASTER TO YOU MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS**

Today I am here to say **THANK YOU FOR ALL WE HAVE REALISED IN THE PAST 16 YEARS.** The faith and love we share as children of Abraham, our father in faith; this has brought good projects to Moshi, Tanzania.

On behalf of Bishop Isaac Amani of Moshi and the people of Moshi Diocese, particularly from Uchira mission I want to say **ASANTE SANA** (thank you so much). Easter brings us the message of success: triumph over sin, over death, over ignorance, over diseases, over boarders: into new life.

The good news of God's love for us: that He gave His only son Jesus, who died for us, thus He has brought us new life.

The Risen Lord opening our eyes to look back and to realise the fulfilment of God's promises. In today's gospel and its background, the Risen Lord's greetings: **PEACE BE WITH YOU,,,** the community of Uchira, was afraid when looking at their needs: scared of their future,,, what will happen, but again through the Risen Lord, the community here in Christ Church with the same faith and love of the Risen Lord you said to the people of Uchira **PEACE BE WITH YOU,,, WE WILL SUPPORT YOU,** and today we count the fruits our unity, in working together, we have realised the following: **CLINIC; SISTERS' CONVENT; A WELL FOR CLEAN & SAFE WATER; PIGGERY & DAIRY;** (to generate income for medical supplies and pay electricity bills); **GRAIN STORAGE** (to keep the grain to be used in time of need also be able to sell the surplus at the best time) ; **SUPPORT CHILDREN FROM POOR FAMILIES & ORPHANS,** helping with their school fees and uniform; we can see them doing better in class); **FURNITURE** for the Retreat & Seminar Centre; **BEAUTIFUL CHURCH** big enough for 1000 seats & **PRIESTS' HOUSE,** now the priests live near the people for pastoral needs.

Together we are witnesses of God's love, as we share the love and the resources we received from the Risen Lord. The Church of Uchira is on the road: Moshi to Marangu; thus people passing through the road, stop and pray; those going to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, stop for blessing and back for thanksgiving, they will tell the whole world the fruits of working together; they have seen. Our projects have been a witness of faith and proclamation of good news.

When the mothers bring their children to the clinic, they are not asked 'are you Catholic? or Moslem? or Traditional believer?' **NO THEY ARE GIVEN MEDICINE** because they are all children of God whom Jesus gave His life for their salvation and freedom from diseases. The same applies with the education for all the children.

I want to thank you personally as I have seen the growth of faith in Uchira, from 400 Catholics (1991) to 2100 Catholics today, with 28 small Christian Communities. You have empowered us to work us a community, we are happy to benefit from these fruits: we are proud of you. Thank you for your prayers, as they have helped me to make the journey in the priesthood, ordained June 1986, and working in Uchira since 1991.

Last year June 2011, I celebrated my Silver Jubilee in the priesthood, with the people of Uchira. It was great day to look back on 25 years in the vineyard and to see all the good the Lord has given us.

Thus the two Bishops: Mark of Shrewsbury Diocese & Isaac of Moshi Diocese gave me this golden chance of a Sabbatical Year, as I am working at St Alban's Parish (in Macclesfield) with Fr Peter Burke, the pioneer of our partnership. Again it is God's gift to me as I am learning new experiences of pastoral life; prayer and study; it is rewarding and charging mybatteries for the future that Lord has for me.

However, I have come to say THANK YOU/ASANTE SANA.

Like the disciples after this Easter joy and celebrations of our faith and the fruits of our partnership, and faith witnessing; you are not tired of us, you have accepted again, our new project of SAINT PAMACHIUS INCLUSIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL for special needs children who are blind, dump, physical disabilities, and yet like other children they need a good education. With you we are working on the furniture: chairs, tables, beds and laboratory stools. When the school is complete we expect 600 children. It is Inclusive to include the other children as resources/appreciation for each other to work together as children of Abraham, despite their differences. It is co-educational and boarding, thus for boys and girls from all over the country; as this will be the first facility to serve special needs for secondary education in Tanzania. Education is the opening of doors for their future, to make decisions, chance to make choices and be self-supporting, and be able to support others in their families. Once they have good education and skills they will work for their bread and not be going to the streets for begging.

Bishop Isaac Amani is very grateful to your commitment to support us; and the monies which you have sent, which is now being used as part of our preparation and the making of furniture for the new school. Again the double beneficial effects: production of the furniture is in Karanga Technical Training Center, will provide training for the other youths who are learning skills.

We are the witness of the past experience: Christ Church & Uchira communities; that TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG, WE HAVE THE POWER, IN FAITH WE TRUST IN JESUS WHO IS RISEN, thus He will make as strong and happy working together to accomplish this most needed school. We will all be happy to say with Jesus, let the children come to me.

Finally may I invite you for our new programme: WELCOME TO MOSHI Tanzania: to share skills, by teaching, or work in the hospitals and clinics to taste the hospitality of the people; Safari to see the wonders of creation, in the National Parks (Ngorongoro, Serengeti, Lake Manyara & Tarangire) visit Mini Zanzibar in Pangani for a holiday by the Indian Ocean beach.

MAY PEACE OF THE RISEN LORD BE WITH YOU ALWAYS GOD BLESS YOU.