

MFH Supports Education in Tanzania

The *Missions for Humanity* trip to Tanzania in July, 2016 took a new approach towards helping to improve the education program within two village elementary schools. Village schools are very bare, with very few desks, no textbooks and no supplies. The teachers struggle to maintain a consistent attendance and content for a full day of lessons. The lower grades are generally full each day, but the number of students in the upper grades (5th to 7th) is very small. The decrease in student attendance in the upper grades is due to a number of factors, the main one being the lack of educational materials to support student education at the higher levels.



Students Display New Supplies and Books

Along with our hosts in Tanzania, Missions for Humanity selected two village schools (Mkundi with 75 students & Muhimbili with 162 students) to work with during the 2016 visit. The main focus was to provide books and materials to help both teachers and



Teachers and Students Ready to Learn

students move forward. *MFH* provided 2,000 textbooks for students in grades one through seven. These textbooks included books for ten subjects, along with teacher guides. First and second grade textbooks for two subjects were not purchased, at the teacher's request, as new textbooks are expected out in December. Due to funding, we were not able to provide a textbook for every child; however, at the teacher's recommendation we supplied one book per every three students. In addition, each school received 98 reading books for different age levels, 33 different lesson plans, 23 types of activity plans and 41 different types of worksheets to help the teachers expand upon their current skills.

Missions for Humanity also provided over \$1,000 in donated supplies including pencils, pens, crayons, staplers, paper, math flash cards, calculators, rulers, posters and more to support the lesson plans. Lockable storage cabinets were purchased for the schools.

Although the two schools were located over an hour and a half away from the capital city, their head teachers travelled into Dar es Salaam to participate in the shopping and purchasing of the books and cabinets. The teachers were wonderful to work with and truly thankful. While at the bookstore, one of the teachers, with tears in her eyes, asked "Is this really going to happen?" Of course our immediate reply was "Yes!" However, I do not think they really believed it until we delivered everything to the village. —*Pamela Prescott*