Greetings to you all, our friends and supporters around the globe! This past Fall found the Carpenter's Kids Team making their school distributions as usual. Due to time constraints, there were many Saturdays on which 4 or 5 villages were visited by both vehicles. The children and their communities also saw the delivery of thousands of Malaria Nets!
Malaria nets ready for loading on to vehicles.
We spent much of January ensuring that our Secondary and Vocational students have all they need for their continued success. These students came with their guardians from their villages to the CK office in Dodoma. For several days, we saw hundreds of children each day.
Canon Noah greeted each group with prayers and exhortations to continue to work to the best of their ability. Students and guardians alike were so grateful for the help they receive through Carpenter’s Kids, without which they would be unable to access education and make for themselves and their communities the future they all deserve. One young man texted me the following week to say, “Miss Judy. I am so happy. I am in my school!” He texts regularly, always indicating his happiness and gratitude. Yesterday he texted that there were “students in my school with hearing disorders so we teach them using hand signs.” We are serving over 1,000 Secondary and Vocational students now, thanks to the generosity of CK’s Donors.

New Bishop

November saw the Ordination and Installation of the new Bishop of DCT, Dr. Dickson Chilongani, who follows the beloved Bishop Mdimi, lost so sadly last
March. The Ordination was a grand occasion with guests and supporters from around the globe and, of course, the always faithful and loving clergy and lay people of the Diocese of Central Tanganyika. The hospitality was extraordinary. The Spirit of the Living God fell afresh on us all.

Bishop Dickson Chilongani and his wife, Pendo, at his Installation.

Meet Rev. Emmanuel Petro

Rev. Emmanuel Petro is the newest member of the Carpenter’s Kids Staff. Rev. Petro joined the staff in August of last year, and has quickly shown himself to
be a very valuable member of the team. He began as a parish priest, serving anywhere from 6 to 10 churches at a time. He was asked to be an Area Dean and then an Area Coordinator, overseeing the pastoral and practical needs of over 130 congregations. Rev. Petro then traveled to the United States and earned a Masters of Arts Degree in Theology at the University of the South, Suwannee, in Tennessee. He embodies what he believes- that our faith requires us to meet the needs of others, thus showing the world the love of God. He lives at Msalato with his lovely wife, Theresia, and his two beautiful daughters, Gloria and Faith.

Nghahelezi Distribution. Pastor Emmanuel is in the center.

Upcoming Events
As we head toward cooler days here in Dodoma, we have much planned! This week sees the distribution of funds for the supplies to make the breakfasts that are provided each school day to Carpenter’s Kids. We continue, in the office every day, to see Carpenter’s Kids who require medical care for a variety of reasons. The staff here spend time with each child and his/her guardian, make appropriate referrals, and provide financial and logistical support so that the child may get the needed help. The guardians and the children are grateful for the contributions that make this help possible, as are we, here in the office!

We are also now beginning our preparations for Summer(Winter here!) 2015 Pilgrimages! Several parishes have started their initial planning and fundraising as they look to rekindle relationships and continue with a vast array of projects in their link villages. Summer also means the annual round of weekly distributions to villages, giving each group of students the supplies needed to attend school and a little extra encouragement along the way. Winter is our busiest and most exciting time at CK!

Congratulations

Congratulations to Buigiri Carpenter’s Kid, Frank, who has received the great honor of Qualifying for the National Mathematics Board Certificate! Frank attends school in Arusha and will be travelling to Dar es Salaam on March 13th to participate in an Awards Ceremony! Well done, Frank!

A Message from Noel Chomola, Director

I would like to thank you all for your prayers and support during my illness. I am pleased to report that I am well and have returned to the office full-time. I have one treatment remaining and expect a full recovery. I thank you, again!

Prayer
Prayer is, of course, a big part of all we do here with the Carpenter’s Kids. Each morning at Mackay House, the Diocesan Headquarters where we work, begins with Morning Prayer. Each distribution to a village group of students begins with prayers. Our distributions to Secondary and Vocational students here two weeks ago began with prayers, right on the street in front of our office.

One of the most powerful moments for Carpenter’s Kids and their families and communities is the realization that, around the world, people love them and are praying for them daily. It is in this spirit that we ask you to continue to pray for all of our Carpenter’s Kids, for the individuals who care for them, for their Pastors and communities, and for the schools in which they are taught. We ask your prayers also for the Carpenter’s Kids staff, that we may be faithful to God’s plans for the children we are blessed to support. We ask your prayers of thanksgiving for all of our donors and link churches, and for all those who plan to visit here this year. Please pray for our New Bishop, Rev. Dr. Chilongani as he continues his leadership role with DCT. And finally, we ask you to remember the Tanzanian people and all those around the globe who struggle daily to survive in this world of plenty.