

Overview of Visit to Diocese of Meru Tanzania

October 31—November 21, 2023

Visitors—Paula Seffrood, Ruthann Rohde—for 3 weeks; Laura Baird for about 1 week

Focus of visit on Education—to visit all Diocese schools and a couple government schools

Goal—to gather current information for our Education Subcommittee as we consider how best to walk with our partners in the area of education during this time of decreased resources

Diocese Office—brought greetings and had positive meeting with top leadership

Worship—First Sunday at Kikatiti Parish, Second Sunday at Kitefu Parish, Third Sunday at Kikatiti Secondary

Schools visited—Pre & Primary: Anande and Angaza; Secondary: Ailanga, Kikatiti, Leguruki (part of LKEC), Makumira, Ngarenanyuki, and URRC Secondary; Vocational: Leguruki (LKCE), Mshikamano, URRC College serving those with special needs and SETU program

Also able to visit two government schools: CHEM Primary and Nasholi Secondary

Other Highlights: Makumira Secondary School Form 4 graduation, Native dance program held at Makumira University Cultural Center, Opportunities to visit with old friends including Lazaro Uri who now lives and works in the Moshi area, several fun “Tareto Safaris” to area attractions!







Kikatiti Parish as it was on my early visits

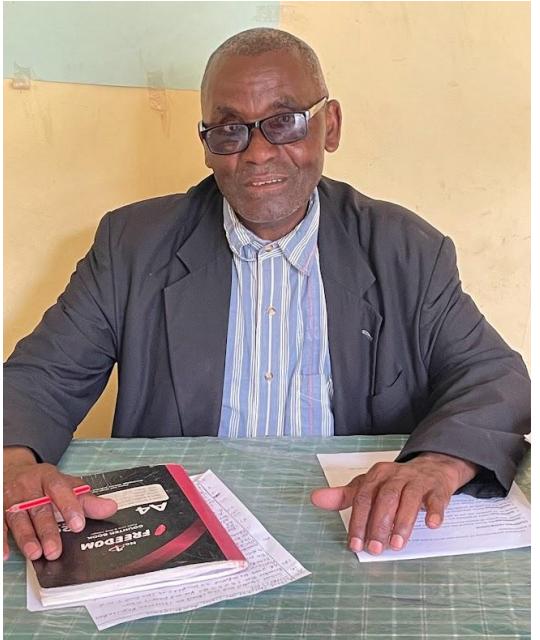


Interior views



As it stands today!

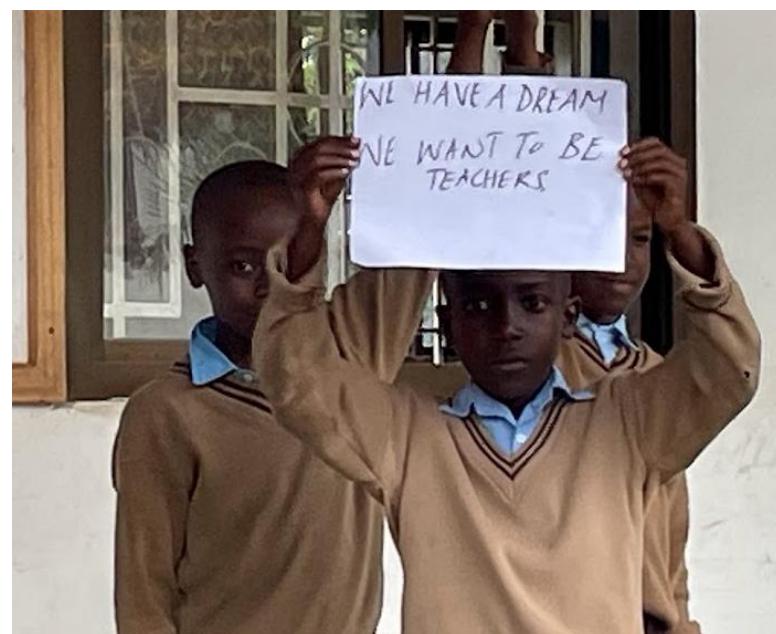




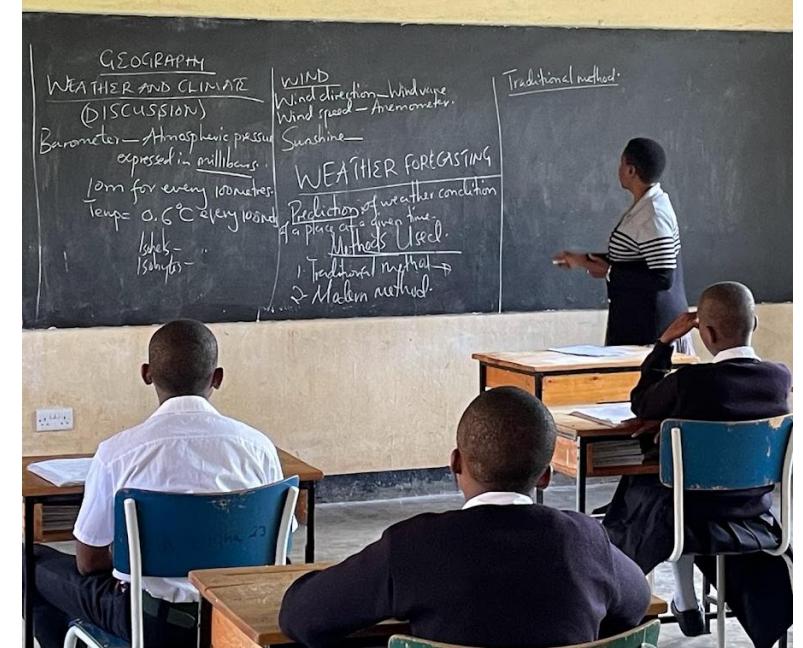
Principal, Mr. Rafael Mollel



Pastor Joel Malaki,
Headmaster of Angaza Pre & Primary School



URRC Secondary School, Principal Mr. Emanuel Ayo & Teachers

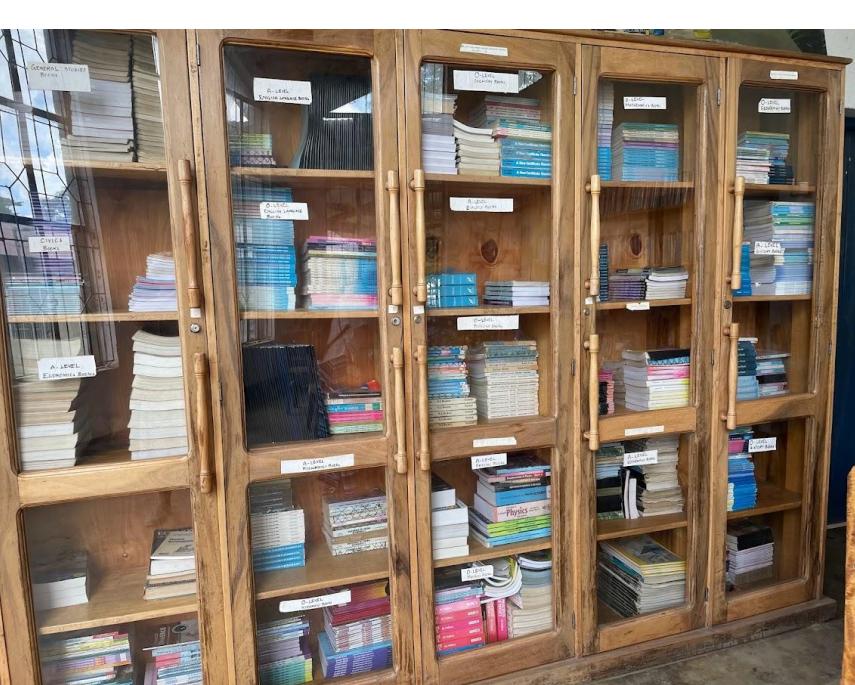


Ngarenanyuki—Headmaster Mr. Edward Nassari & Teachers



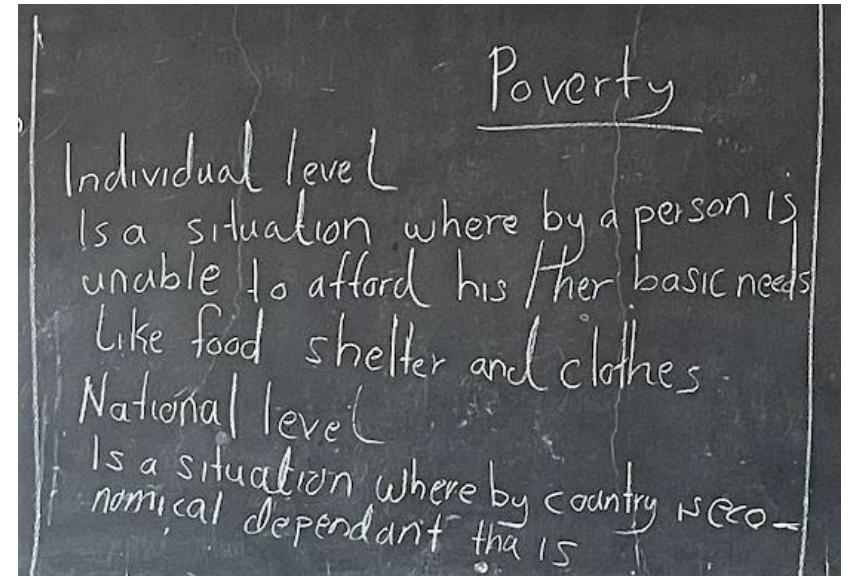


Makumira, Mr. James Somi Headmaster





Mr. Tareto Nassari, Headmaster, Kikatiti





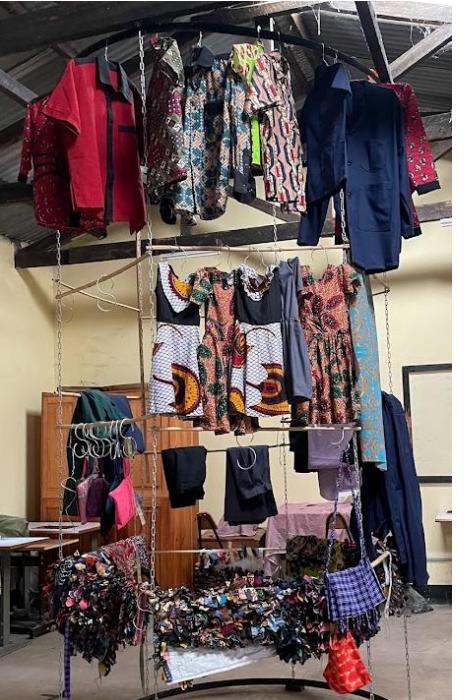
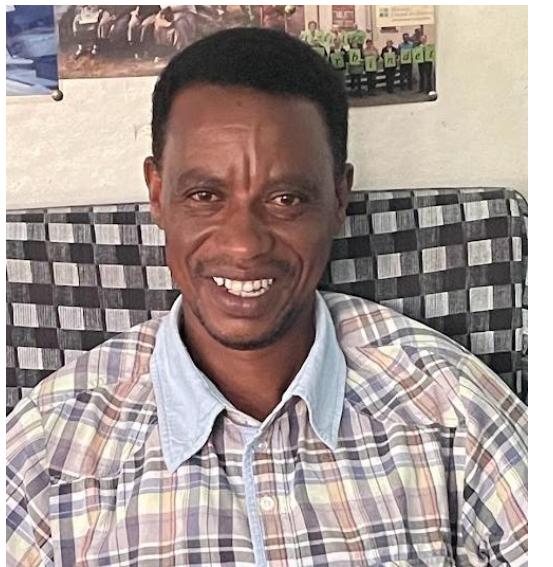
**Ailanga Junior
Lutheran
Seminary
Pastor Emanuel
Majola,
Headmaster**



Tech.Secondary School Head
Mr. Ombeni Ndosi

LKEC—Leguruki-King'ori Education Center
Mr. Benard Mbise, Director

Vocational Center Head
Mr. Elisante Kitomari



Mshikamano Vocational Center

Magdalena John, Principal



Government schools were far inferior to the Diocese schools in every way, for example:

- Buildings and grounds appeared run down and in need of basic maintenance
- Over crowded
- Extreme lack of food
- Not enough student desks and chairs
- Staff commitment, especially at secondary school appeared to be marginal as I observed classrooms of students with no teacher, teachers sitting doing nothing, etc.

Some of the many advantages of attending a Diocese school vs a government school:

- Healthy varied diet including fresh produce
- Teaching available around the clock (boarding schools)
- General environment—clean, tidy, pleasant
- Electricity for light at night
- Staff very committed and care about students
- Heads of schools well educated, teachers' qualifications are solid, many with Bachelor's degrees
- Very good student performance

I left with a renewed and validated belief in how well the Diocese' schools are doing under challenging circumstances. Staff members are *committed, resourceful, creative, hard-working, and optimistic*. As I visited them, I left thinking I would feel very good sending my children to these schools if I lived in Meru. They are struggling to increase enrollments, improve conditions further, and continue to move forward with limited resources. They need our support. Please talk with your parish partners about directing your education gifts to these Diocese owned schools, and keep them in your prayers!