



January 2019

GROW

So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things *grow*.
(1 Corinthians 3:7)

I keep looking back just four short months ago when I first walked into the Bushushu daycare facility the very first day of being open. I remember clearly that there was an open concrete floor with a blue tarp and three little girls eager to play with me. That was it.

Fast forward to the first month of the new school year, the daycare has grown tremendously! I am continuously amazed and blown away by this provision of the Lord. We now have twenty children regularly attending our daycare program. Some of the children from last year have moved up to kindergarten, some have returned to our daycare, and some are brand new students to minister to. While the first day of school is always scary and there were many tears, it has been so fun to see the children become comfortable with all the teachers and making new friends. I've, also, enjoyed seeing the returning students again and how they have grown over the Christmas break. Many of the little ones who were on the edge of talking are now speaking and it's the cutest thing!

Now we have an abundance of different toys that the children can relate to and enjoy playing with. They love to carry the baby dolls on their back just like they have seen their mamas doing. They drive the toy cars crazy over the puzzle roads just like they see when they are on the roads of Shinyanga. They love to have a tea party just like the chai time they have here in the middle of the day. They love pretending to be animals - some that they see and some that they wish to see in national parks of their great country.



We have cubbies, where they can keep their belongings secure, which has 30 spaces because we knew that God would bring this growth from the very beginning.



We, also, had a chalk board with poster spaces and tables built so that the children have a productive space to continue their journey of learning. When Austin and I hung the posters for the very first time, I saw joy in the teachers' eyes to have these teaching tools. They were eager for the children to finish their porridge so that they could teach a lesson. The children were just as intrigued to begin to count all the different animals on the poster.



While caring for many children at once can be extremely difficult, these teachers have been so wonderful to take on the challenge with such joy and begin to thrive in their new roles.

But more than anything, this experience has grown our faith and our lives. I think about this adventure in Tanzania as a child learning to walk. The first steps are difficult, and we have fallen down a few times, but we continue to get back up and let God guide our steps. We know that we can trust the plans He has for us because He is a good Father and will always provide exactly what we need.



Prayer Requests

- Thanksgiving for a safe return of Amber's family to the USA, the safe return of Funke family to Tanzania, and all the growth that is happening here in Tanzania.
- For preparation of our hearts and minds as we will be spending two weeks in Mwanza for Amber to volunteer and learn from Forever Angel Baby Home, to gain experiences that can be used at the daycare. Also, safe travels as we drive 3 hours to Mwanza this weekend.
- That the daycare will have continued growth and Gospel outreach.

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