

17th January 2021

SHORT REPORT ON OUR FORM TWO NATIONAL RESULTS FOR YEAR 2020

Hello everyone

As you may all now know that our children's results are out, both for Standard Fours (at our Bethany Pre and Primary school) and Form Twos (at our local government Sogesca Secondary school).

We thank God that both groups have achieved fairly exceptional results with room for improvement of course. I would just like to briefly talk about the possible factors that may have contributed to the achievements of our form two young people in particular.

The girls in form two have especially shown a great improvement and achievement from previous years. They have all, except one, received division one or two and all the boys except one received division one.

This is definitely because of their personal dedication and determination to do well influenced by the Christian values being taught at Bethany. Furthermore, the new management team (after the resignation of Daniel Bujiku and his wife), consisting of Jesca, Emmakulatha and Mwita is very different because the children are now able to freely express themselves and these three leaders can relate to most of these young people as they have all been brought up by Bethany and benefited from the support being offered so they know exactly what the Bethany's vision entails and can encourage these young people accordingly.

The girls in particular are now able to see that women can achieve positions of responsibility which in the past were reserved of men.

The new management ensures that all children both girls and boys are valued and encouraged to do well in all subjects regardless of the gender stereotypes in our African society. For example, it has been and still is strongly believed that girls can't do Maths or Science subjects, however, with the new Bethany, this is no longer a belief and girls are striving in all subjects as you can see for two years in a row, we have had two of our Bethany girls get the best mark in their form two exams at Sogesca Secondary school. In 2019 we had Sarah John (Now form four) who achieved division 1 points 7 making her the top student at the school and 2020 we have had Esther Cosmas with the same results making her again the top student at the school.

So, you can see there is a trend that shows just how much the girls in particular are growing in confidence as they have no fear of any sort of abuse both physical or mental, or being treated as second class citizens who are only there to serve the men. The boys also have a great role model in Mwita who definitely doesn't have the typical values of an African man and values girls and boys the same and treats them with respect by encouraging everyone to achieve the best that they can so that they can become the best version of themselves as they seek to serve God better in the society. At Bethany, we no longer use the children as cheap labour (as the previous management did) or teachers taking advantages and using children for their personal gain. This way, children have more time to dedicate on their studies and are not resentful of anyone rather they are more appreciative of the skills and values they are taught.

Furthermore, the work of God in our Bethany Pre and Primary school is by far the main factor in these excellent performances of our children as they are given a great foundation from the start and with the love, commitment and dedication of all our teachers at the Bethany school, the children are set up for a very positive future ahead of them. However, once they go to our local secondary schools, Sogesca in particular, this determination seems to drop off as they meet teachers who don't particularly care very much about them, but we are very thankful to some of our primary school teachers who have found time to help the secondary school children in some of the more difficult subjects.

The students have themselves each wrote some comments on their results and expressed some of the challenges they face at school and the factors contributing to their achievement (See attachments).

As the team back in Tanzania, we can't express how grateful we are for the continuous support from UK for the Bethany home and school because it is only through such commitment and support we are able to witness how God can work in each individual child and transform their lives. Some of these young people like Shilinde Edward came to Bethany at a very young age barely surviving but now you can see a young man, full of confidence and the right attitude to serve God wherever He leads. What we keep praying for is that these children make Christ the centre of all their endeavours both at school and at home and they don't get distracted and polluted by the ways of this world as it so easily can.

May God continue to bless you all and keep you for the work you have and continue to do for The Bethany Family

By Jesca James Paulo