

# The Anvil

## Your monthly update from Tools For Self Reliance Cymru

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### How about a story?

Veronica



Veronica had completed her second year at college, studying electrical engineering, when personal circumstances forced her to give up her studies and seek shelter with Bassado (Bariadi Social Skills & Development Organisation), a support organisation for women and girls run by community leaders Rebecca Masingeni and Odelia Benedicto. Rebecca enrolled Veronica on the TFSR Cymru 2-week short course in domestic electrical engineering. This, combined with the support of Bassado, has given

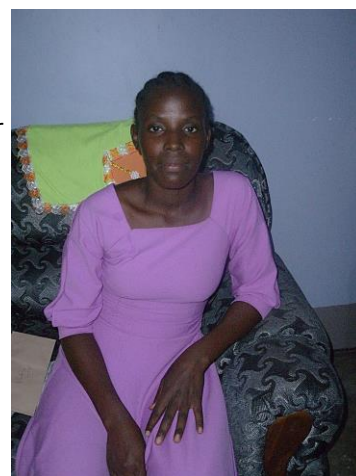
Veronica the confidence to start her own, successful, electrician's business.

TFSR Cymru is proud to support Bassado and has donated four sewing machines to the organisation and hopes to provide more assistance when Bassado moves to new, larger premises.

### New Staff member:

TFSR Cymru is pleased to welcome our latest member of staff, Victoria Elias. She is 24 and was born in Geita, which is about 125km/77miles from Kalwende.

Victoria is a trained tailor who attended one of our two-week sewing machine courses, where she excelled and was offered the post. She will be teaching sewing machine repair and refurbishing the machines we send out to Tanzania. She is currently learning how to refurbish more complex sewing machines and observing Lukas, our other sewing machine repair tutor, while he is teaching. She is our sixth staff member in Tanzania.



Here's a photo of our entire staff (Victoria is not in the picture, sadly)



Left to right: Adrian (Workaid), Said, Viviana, John, Lukas, Phil, Michael and Fr. Akriatus

## Our Travelers have returned

Corin and Phil had a very busy schedule during this trip. Here's a run down of just some of the groups they visited over the course of two weeks and as far away as Musoma and Kahama:

- [Jeremiah Tailoring.](#)
- [Upendo \("Love"\) Tailoring Group](#)
- [Rachma Masood, tailor](#)
- Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology, Mwanza Campus.
- [Tujunangane \("Let us help each other"\) Group](#)
- [Zawadi \("Gift"\) group](#)
- [Mwarobaini Bicycle Repair Group](#)
- [Tumsifu Group](#)
- [Alliance of Community Animators](#)
- [Ndoto Njema \("Good dream"\) tailoring group](#)
- [WECA \("Welding & Carpentry"\) Group](#)
- [Jua Kali \("Hot sun"\) motor mechanics group](#)
- [Nguvukazi \("Strong"\) Group](#)
- [Elimuwatuwazifa Group](#)
- [Nganshi Group](#)
- [Vijana Carpentry Group](#)
- [Joseph Daniel Ondouta](#)
- [Joseph Daniel Ondouta](#)
- [Fundi Siro Madaraka Designers Group](#)

There will be a collection of photos to highlight these groups in a separate mailing in the days to come.

Between all these visits there were meetings with the administration of Kalwande, the local district commissioner and a side trip visit to Mitendo Special School. A school of approximately 1,000 residential pupils with various disabilities ranging from autism, Down's, hearing and visual impaired and albinism combined with learning disability. We were welcomed by Mrs Hamisa, Deputy Head Teacher, who took them for a tour of the school. Much of the campus was gifted by the Japanese Government and is in very good order. There is a small workshop for vocational training which is very under-equipped. We believed TFSR Cymru should support the workshop and PP will be making a personal donation to the school for the purchase of tools and would hope this would be matched by TFSR Cymru.

Father Akriatus talked about how the TFSR Cymru presence at Kalwande College had enabled it to attract other charities to get involved with them. These comprised of a German charity who were funding five students from low-income families through three year courses and another charity, "The Women 4 Foundation" who were sponsoring twenty girls on a three-month tailoring course, which included attending the TFSR Cymru two-week short course on sewing machine maintenance and repair.



This was helping greatly with the development and viability of Kalwande College.

## Local Events:

The events season is in full swing. We've been to Hereford, Leominster and Monmouth. And we thank all the organisers for inviting us along and all the people who came to support us (and all the volunteers who did the work!)

March will see us in:

- Abergavenny Seedy Sunday, March 3rd
- Carmarthen Seedy Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

Locations and hours are always on the website.

Thank you, and as we say in Wales and Tanzania: **Diolch yn fawr / Asante Sana**