The magazine for the wider HOPAC community



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS!

We've all heard the story: five missionary families, prayer, two years, meetings, start a school, missionary teachers, missionary kids and expat kids and Tanzanian kids, location, resources, much more prayer and then, in 1994: the start of Haven of Peace Academy!

This year marks HOPAC's 30th school year and in this edition of Piece of Heaven, we are celebrating the stories that make up our history - the stories that tell of God's faithfulness and remind us how God has used HOPAC in the lives of students, teachers, parents, and our community far beyond what anyone could dream or imagine.

This edition also shares a highlight on Creative Arts and new teacher bios - a staple of the Piece of Heaven.

We invite you to join in our travels down memory lane and connect with some voices of HOPAC past and present. We invite you also to read with a mindset of thanksgiving and prayer: thanksgiving for what God has done, prayer for the people sharing their stories here, and prayer for HOPAC as we move into the future for the glory of God.



from the archives: Kili, Bamba, & SEW

30 years of HOPAC Stories



Paul & Avril Kassell 2003-2010

Mr. Kassell: science & physics, teacher, Secondary Principal Mrs. Kassell: primary teacher, Primary

Principal, Acting Director

In 2003 we set out for a year long adventure. We had always wanted to use our teaching skills in mission work so when our youngest child left home, we felt this was the time to launch out. To our delight, HOPAC had vacancies for both of us - Paul as Secondary Science teacher and Avril in lower Primary. We were so happy at HOPAC that the one year became seven years with increasing responsibilities. Having taught multicultural classes in London, we felt God had prepared us to work at HOPAC with children from all over the world. It was a joy to support missionary parents and to give their children a Godcentred education. We had never taught in a Christian school before so it was a learning experience for us to bring God into every part of the curriculum. Paul especially loved revealing the wonders of God's creation in his Science lessons. A new Science block was built while we were there and he chose this verse from Psalm 111 to be inscribed outside:

> Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them.

Our time at HOPAC has given us memories that we will always treasure. God provided us with a great team of teachers whom we grew to love and admire. Our faith was strengthened as we proved that God enables those who step out in service, even when the way is not clear or even humanly possible. This verse from Ephesians 3 v20 meant so much to us while we were there and we pray that in the years ahead HOPAC will continue to bring glory to God. "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us; to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. "





The Lottering Family 2005–2019

Parent of Alumni: Marnus, Anja, Joah Board Member: Mona-Liza

As we reflect on the 15 years that our family had children enrolled at HOPAC, we are newly filled with gratitude for the remarkable journey we've enjoyed. HOPAC has been more than an educational institution; it's been a second home that we continue to hold dear. From watching our children embark on their educational paths to seeing them complete their school careers, the value of the excellent education they received at HOPAC goes beyond academics. The true benefits of our HOPAC experience are the precious connections we formed within the extraordinary community of parents, teachers and students, who not only enriched our lives then, but continue to do so. At HOPAC, we always felt seen, supported, and embraced. There was always someone to help us shoulder our burdens, rejoice in small (and big) victories, navigate hurdles, celebrate

Through the years we celebrated countless milestones together: the inception of the Student Councils, 5km Fun Run, Service Emphasis Week, Pamoja Week, A-level courses, the four Houses and Middle School, as well as the addition of the swimming pool, Secondary Science building, Admin block, library, performing arts centre, new basketball courts and a dedicated Kindergarten class, among others. We have witnessed HOPAC grow, develop, ward off crises, evolve and adapt, always prayerfully, and never losing sight of its mission and values.

From the 2005-06 Yearbook:

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people..." (1 Peter 2:9)

HOPAC, you are undeniably different, and we celebrate the undeniable impact you've had on shaping generations.

PAMOJA!

success.



Service Learning 2007+

Kontena School & Kids Klub

Kids Klub and Kontena School are two different ministries, both dedicated to serving the children of the community in the Salasala area, and in some ways, have always been intertwined. What are these ministries? What is their connection to HOPAC's Service Learning program? Read on!

Our Community

KIDS KLUB / KLABU YA WATOTO

Kids Klub was started by the Graham family who also served at HOPAC. [They're in this edition also!] The main purpose of Kids Klub was to provide a space for the kids of the community where they could meet God's love through play and Bible story time. Over the years our way of working with children has changed and evolved. We have had s occer teams, athletics, etc.

We are very grateful to God for all He is doing in Salasala and we have faith that the seed that is being planted in the hearts of the children will one day bear fruit for the glory of our Lord. We have to recognize that God has used many people who have prayed, donated and served with us so that today we can continue doing this work and we want to thank you for your closeness, help and support throughout the years.

KONTENA SCHOOL

Kontena school is part of the Changamoto in Matumaini organization. Although the organization focuses mainly on helping people with addictions through their rehabilitation center and church, a few years ago God opened the door for us to also work with the children of Salasala.

Around our office in Salasala there were always many children with whom we began to share Bible stories and help them with their homework. Over time we established a weekly Bible club where children could learn about Jesus, worship Him, and encounter God's love in tangible ways.

In 2015, while we were wondering how we could serve them better, God led us to see the need in the area for free preschool education. This is how we gathered a few children who needed to learn to read in a part of the container where our office was and that is how the Kontena School began.

Since the first year we started (2016) HOPAC sent us two students to help us once a week during their service learning hour and over the years as we have grown we have received groups of students who have come to teach English and lately our children go weekly to HOPAC for their English class.

From the beginning, HOPAC, through different teachers, students and families, has been a great supporter of our project through donations of educational games, books for our library, school supplies and even donations of school clothes and uniforms. During SEW Kontena school has been invited to HOPAC and this field trip has become the most exciting thing that the children look forward to throughout the school year.

We are very grateful to God for all He is doing in Salasala and we have faith that the seed that is being planted in the hearts of the children will one day bear fruit for the glory of our Lord. We have to recognize that God has used many people who have prayed, donated and served with us so that today we can continue doing this work and we want to thank HOPAC for your closeness, help and support throughout the years.



Former Teachers

Victor Chigumbu 2010–2023

History Teacher, MUN leader

I joined HOPAC August 2010 and served here for 13 years. In the fall of 2009, I was teaching in Arusha. Myself and Mr Moyo looked for a Christian school in TZ or elsewhere, whereat we could freely, actively and boldly bless, serve and 'preach'. Mr Moyo was first to be recruited, and Jane Gruler, the then HR Manager, asked Moyo if he could help in the recruiting of a secondary history teacher. When I came for the interview, I knew immediately that HOPAC was a special school and I wanted to serve at HOPAC- for a long time. Thus began the 13 year journey of serving as a secondary history/ social studies/leadership/service learning teacher with incredible Godinspired co-workers and a leadership that intentionally put God first in serving students from a multitude of nations.

I was baptised and became a Christian during 1998, at university. But the story of reality, that God created the earth and the heavens, that God sent his Son to earth, "who was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities," and that, by Jesus' stripes we are healed, became more real to me and active in the way I carried myself during my 13 years at HOPAC than at ay time before. In this I am so confident: I left HOPAC a better person than I came- my faith had increased, my understanding of who God is, his purposes and the reasons why we are here tremendously improved. HOPAC was my aha moment in my Christian journey.

While International Day & SEW week stand out to many, it is the memories of happy students and the passionate preaching during assemblies by Gil Medina during my time at HOPAC that will forever remain. Oh wait, plus the many opportunities at my disposal for personal spiritual growth including praying for each other and praying for students.

During challenging times for my family in TZ, God gave us peace. We had much prayer surrounding us from HOPACians and missions and individuals connected to HOPAC and many signs from God, as only He can send. I recall with fondness serving with amazing coworkers who are so full of God's grace.

You see how and why serving at HOPAC is such a unique & incredible opportunity!?



Bernice Fernandes Class of 2009

NATIONAL NEWS

On a mission to empower women

effecting on the success-es and challenges of 2023, Bernice shares insights into the transformative journey and unveils exciting plans for the

upcoming year.

The year 2023 witnessed the launch of the Accelerate Women's Economic Programme, a visionary initiative that began with the inaugural Accelerate Women's Executive Breakfast.

Bernice embarked on a mission to empower women entrepreneurs and executive leaders, not just through conventional means but through a comprehensive approach.

This involved strategic investments, bespoke branding, and precise positioning, all aimed at propelling women and their businesses towards sustained growth.

The programme's success was further underscored by impactful training sessions, masterclasses, and personalised coaching.

The Women's Development programme delivered several events for mothers who are entrepreneurs to assist them in their multifaceted roles, along with coaching circles and masterclasses both virtually and physically.

Accelerate Business Group served and impacted over 10,000 people through human capital training, consulting services, and pro bono work this past 2023 through a hybrid model, and looks forward to a greater outreach in 2024 through the use of technology and virtual expansion.

Celebration echoed through the entrepreneurial corridors as Bernice clinched two prestigious awards: - Women in Management Africa Top 50 and Young Women Entrepreneur Top 50 for Tanzania

The accolades not only recognise Bernice's outstanding contributions but also serve as a testament to her commitment to excellence and innovation.

Lessons learnt

Recognising that the entrepreneurial journey is a blend of victories and challenges, Bernice

emphasises the importance of resilience

With a keen eye for hindsight, every win and obstacle has become a stepping stone towards becoming a stronger business leader.

Bernice champions the ethos of never giving up, pushing through with purpose, and viewing challenges as opportunities for growth.

Outlook for 2024

Looking ahead to 2024, Accelerate Business Group is poised for an even greater impact. The focus includes expanding training initiatives and advisory programmes to accelerate the careers and business growth of companies and professionals.

Investing in people and training programmes will accelerate companies' efforts to grow their revenues. Accelerate looks forward to training and consulting more

companies in 2024.

A pivotal moment awaits with the launch of a transformative programme at the Second Annual Accelerate Women's Executive Breakfast, themed "Ignite the Fire," on March 9th, 2024.

The emphasis is on empowering women leaders to innovate, drive change, and remain relevant in the ever-evolving economy.

The first year began with shattering the glass ceilings and obstacles that women face in business. The next chapter is to ignite the fire once women have reached the top and are in their positions. New mentorship programmes will be launched during the executive

Beyond the city limits of Dar es Salaam, Accelerate aims to reach the unreached, extending the ripple effect of empowerment and economic development.

Bernice envisions strategic partnerships with entities committed to gender economic development, leveraging the wealth of expertise in business advisory and human capital management.

Accelerate's Corporate Social Responsibility is focused on reaching the unreached communities through education and looks forward to partnerships this year.



empower women.

On a personal note, Bernice shares aspirations for a healthier lifestyle, effective time management, spiritual growth, and inner peace.

As the entrepreneurial community eagerly anticipates the unfolding chapters of Bernice's journey, one thing is clear: 2024 promises to be a year of visionary leadership, impactful initiatives, and transformative change. Execution over excuses is the drive for this year. Where we spend our time will determine the progression and results of the year ahead.

Bernice Fernandes is the CEO of Accelerate Business Group

Joel Riegert Class of 2013

I remember how I came to HOPAC in 7th grade. Until then, school had never been truly enjoyable for me. Having dyslexia, I always struggled with learning, and I think that if you had asked my parents back then, they could never have imagined that I would eventually go on to study at university.

Everything changed for me at HOPAC. Suddenly, I had a special needs teacher who helped me cope with my dyslexia. I want to take this opportunity to thank all my teachers, especially Miss Christianson, because I'm fairly certain that without her, I probably would never have come this far. But what truly set HOPAC apart for me was that it was more than just a school aiming to provide a good academic education. It was a community, a family, and the teachers invested themselves in young students and conveyed to them the love of God – you could feel it. I remember the many breaks my friends and I spent with Mr. Medina (Bible teacher), and how he shaped and encouraged us in our faith.

That is what distinguishes HOPAC for me from other schools, and looking back on my time at HOPAC now, I wouldn't trade it for anything.



Aminata Buganzi Kinana Class of 2014



My time at HOPAC instilled in me the importance of not only receiving a good education, but also of being honest, compassionate and leading a life of service. I learned many wonderful things while there, but the service learning component of the curriculum changed my life.

30 years after the establishment of the school and 10 years now since I graduated, the idea of considering how my actions can positively impact the life of others is at the center of not only my continued academic work, but also how I live my life. The international education offered at HOPAC was just the beginning of a life of learning in the US, Mozambique, Brazil, France (in l'hexagone and île de La Réunion), the UK, Switzerland, and even right here at home in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar. I am currently months away from completing my doctorate in International History and Politics at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. My dissertation is titled Women, Métissage and Illusion of Race: The Histories of Zanzibar and île de La Réunion. I focus on uncovering the historical processes that create cultural hybridity, and the role of women in constructing hybrid and nationalist identities in these Indian Ocean island communities during slavery and the colonization of these territories.

Lulu Makene Class of 2021

Lulu Makene visited HOPAC to host a session with current students and give valuable insights into the college application process. She shared about available programs, scholarships, and extracurricular opportunities of St. Olaf College where she is currently studying.

HOPAC has several alumni who have attended St. Olaf. Alumni interested in sharing with current students, please contact the school; we'd love to have you!



Stakeholder Feedback What HOPAC means to the local community



Inspector Cesilia J Mauka, incharge of Salasala Police Post

Haven of Peace Academy is a shareholders of the peace and security in our area of Salasala. I appreciate the cooperation they give us during our activities of keeping peace and security around the area. They highly supported us in the construction of our police post from the beginning to the finishing process of paying service charges in connecting electricity to help us ensure that we provide services in a sustainable environment.

Also I appreciate the way we communicate with each other. As are our neighbours in the area, we are happy to have such an organisation nearby. It's 30 years of existence is a blessing to our police post in ways we can't define. Apart from that we wish HOPAC all the best in providing Christian education to our society and we urge that we continue with this cooperation for the betterment of our area.



Robert Massawe,

Salasala Local Government Chairman

I have known HOPAC for almost 30 years now, and the school is a high supporter of our community projects and solutions to challenges. They have supported us in different issues like deducting their portion of land and gifting this for free to the people of Salasala who live near the school, and also by health, sports, and education. Further HOPAC has made different contributions to our community. For example, providing desktop modern computers to our local schools and police post including district police center Mabwepande and Mbweni, supporting orphanage centers, and providing access for the community to also use its campus for recreation and sports.

You can't mention Salasala area in our local government office without the name of HOPAC coming to mind. Thank you for your support in our community.

Happy 30th Anniversary!





March 15 HOPAC Community Night

Open to current + past HOPAC families and staff Join our students, staff and families as we connect and enjoy an evening of basketball and fun!

Location: HOPAC Campus Time: 5pm

RSVP: communication@hopac.sc.tz

30th Anniversary Celebration Events

March 28 SEW Reflection Day

Open to HOPAC alumni + current parents
Remember your SEW? Join in on
reflection day as current students
share their experiences and learning!
Location: HOPAC Campus
Time: 8am - noon
RSVP: tkaniki@hopac.sc.tz

April 12 Middle School

Easter Assembly
Join us in remembering and

celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus through the Middle School production.

Location: HOPAC Campus

Time: TBD RSVP: none needed



June 15 Celebration Dinner

Celebration Dinner for alumni, teachers past and present, parents and students, community and friends to celebrate the goodness of God towards the school and our community.

Location: TBD Time: evening RSVP: hopac@hopac.sc.tz



June 20 Graduation 2023

You are most welcome to join in the graduation ceremony and celebration for the Class of 2023.

Location: HOPAC Campus
Time: morning

RSVP: communication@hopac.sc.tz



June 21 Alumni Football

Still got it? Prove it! Join the alumni football game with friends new and old and bond over your HOPAC memories.

Location: HOPAC Campus Time: early evening RSVP:

communication@hopac.sc.tz

June 22 Climb Kili with HOPAC

Join current HOPAC students, staff, and parents as they tackle the highest mountain in Africa. Taking the long route increases your chances of success and gives you ample time to tell your HOPAC story to our future alumni.

Location: Mt. Kilimanjaro Date: June 22 (travel to Moshi) - July 1 (travel to Dar) RSVP: panderson@hopac.sc.tz

new teachers & staff



Dr.Crystal Taylor

Senior School Principal
I am Dr. Crystal Taylor. I was born
and raised in Memphis, Tennessee
and lived in Dallas, Texas for 12 years
prior to starting my international
educational journey in rural China.
From there, I educated students in
the country of Brunei before being
called to serve in Tanzania to which I
am entering my third month
exploring life in Dar. I have one
daughter, who is in G4, and I hold a

Bachelor's degree in Communications and Youth Ministry (2004), a Master's in Education Administration (2016), and a Doctorate in Education (2018). What I like the most about HOPAC, is the Christian atmosphere that is displayed throughout the HOPAC community.



Asta Hiza

Human Resource Manager
My names are Joyce Asta Eugenia
Hiza. Lots of names I Know! Please
bear with me, and ignore the rest
unless you are a government official.
Just call me Asta or Mrs Bupe. I am
Tanzanian born, but have had the
privilege to grow up and study in the
Southern Africa region from Primary
to University, Botswana and Namibia
respectively. I am a Human Capital
Consultant, I love working with

people, and this is the space God has called me to. I have a Bachelors in Industrial Psychology and Business Management and I have aspirations to complete my Masters in Counseling Psychology someday! I have a husband and a 2 year old son. Never in my life did I imagine getting an opportunity to work at a school or in the education industry. I like HOPAC because it reminds me of my foundation years: I went to a Christian Primary School quite similar and what it instilled in me to date I can never repay. I like HOPAC for the hope it gives students, an opportunity to know God early in life and learn to serve him. There is no greater reward in my opinion than to authentically pursue a purpose driven life in God. I also like HOPAC for the challenge, and accountability it provides for growth in my Faith Journey. I get to share life with people who are like minded, it is a Joy. Tanzania is home, there are seasons I have been out, and there are seasons God calls me back. This job relocated my family and I back to Tanzania after being in Cape Town South Africa for about four years. I have lived and worked here at different stages of life, and I appreciate this blessed Nation I get to call home.



Papy Mukenge

Middle School Principal
I just arrived at HOPAC and Tanzania at the end of July 2023, to serve as the Middle School Principal. I am from Ontario, Canada, where I live with my wife and our three children. I have worked in education for 21 years, both in Ontario and overseas. I taught grade 7 and 8 for 11 years in Ontario, before becoming a school principal in 2013. I have been an elementary school principal for a total of 9 years,

which includes 6 years in Ontario and 3 years in Cairo, at the Canadian International School of Egypt. I am passionate about teaching and learning, and I love working with students at all levels. My goal is to contribute to the success stories of HOPAC in moving the Gospel forward through Christian education. I feel blessed to be here and I look forward to working and learning with you.



Michelle Mbago

Psychology and Sociology
I am Tanzanian and humbled and grateful to return to HOPAC, this time as a teacher for Psychology and Sociology instead of an intern. With one year of experience in secondary education and a year in the nurturing environment of primary education, I am starting my third year as a teacher and I am thrilled to embark on this faith-infused journey with your children. I hold a double major

in Psychology and Criminology within a Bachelor's in Social Science. With the Lord's guidance, I am committed to cultivating an atmosphere of curiosity and respect in which young minds can flourish. It is my sincere desire to nurture not only their intellect but also their hearts. Let us walk this path together, seeking His wisdom and embracing the values that HOPAC upholds.

new teachers & staff



Zuhura Yegella

Finance Manager
I was born in Zanzibar town, the 4th born of nine daughters. I grew up with my sisters and cousins under the care of my grandparents. I am a ACPA and MBA graduate, married and blessed with two daughters and a son, who is a HOPAC graduate! All of our children have now finished undergraduate studies. I believe HOPAC is the best place for a child's spiritual and academic development,

and it's a community where employees can work with joy as Christians.



Richard Kaondo

Science Teacher
I am from Malawi and have a
Bachelor of Education in Chemistry
and Physics. I've taught IGCSE and A
Levels in Chemistry, Physics, and
Math as well as sciences and math in
non-Cambridge schools. I've come to
HOPAC most recently from a school
in Botswana and appreciate the
opportunity to integrate Biblical truth
into teaching science. My wife is from
Uganda and we appreciate being
closer to home here in Tanzania.



William Bukenya

Art / IT

I am from Uganda-East Africa, and this is my first year at HOPAC. I have been blessed to be part of the teaching staff, teaching Art and IT. I hold a bachelor's degree in Fine Art and Design, Diploma in Commercial Art and Design, PGDE and a certificate in counseling and guidance. I am extremely passionate about sharing the love of God to young people and also ministering to

them through the talents and gifts that the Lord has blessed me with in Art and design, sports and IT. It's a blessing to work in a Christian school with a great supportive environment and a biblical foundation.



Filbert Gizaza

History/Business
I am a Ugandan national from the
Mukono Central region. I am married
and a father of three. I hold a Masters
degree in Management Studies, and a
Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education,
from Uganda Management Institute
and Makerere University Kampala,
respectively. I have 18 years of
teaching experience from Togo most
recently, and previously in the United
Arab Emirates, Tanzania and Uganda.

This is my first year at HOPAC, and I am thrilled and privileged to be part of this great community. It is indeed a blessing to be integrated into a family that is Christ-centered and inclined to kingdom goals. I enjoy connecting with students.

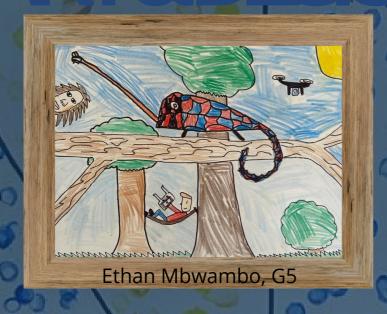


Peter Korir

Math and Science
My name is Peter Korir and this is my
first year at HOPAC. I was born and
raised in Kenya and I am married to
Doreen. We are blessed with a
beautiful daughter, Kyla. I hold a
Bachelor's Degree in Education
Science from Egerton University. I have
six years of teaching experience in
Maths and Science. I am very excited
to be part of this school. I believe that
every student has the potential to

achieve their dreams and goals with hard work, dedication, and passion. I look forward to touching and inspiring young lives in the ways of the Lord.

ART& DESCN







Since I was in kindergarten, I have admired all the artwork and pottery fashioned by the senior and middle school students. I have always felt happy and joyful when I sketch an image I am given. I think of art as a way to express my feelings, emotions and thoughts. I love making artwork that is fun and entertaining so that if someone sees it they might laugh or chuckle. I have never felt scared to ask my teacher Mr.Bukenya a question. He has helped me to think freely and outside of the box, keeping my work neat but fun.

Laura Lindstrom, G5 (background artwork also)





What's your HOPAC story?

Throughout the year we are collecting HOPAC stories, and we would love to hear yours! hopac@hopac.sc.tz

Future Service Learning Community Partner?

Partnership is important to us in our SL program, so if you would like to partner with the school for any of the Service Learning projects please get in touch! hopac@hopac.sc.tz



30th Anniversary Dinner Saturday, Tune 15

If you've not receiving email information about this celebration, please let us know to add you to the email list: hopac@hopac.sc.tz



Piece of Heaven March 2024 Issue No. 32

Special thanks to Gaudensia Mbunda and Carley Mwenda (organization, layout and design), Mr. Bukenya and his art students (artwork), Kato Rwegoshola (some photography) and all article writers including former teachers, students, partners and parents

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