

## These Mtera Secondary School students need your help to “Raise the Roof”

This building is used by the students for studying, worshiping, and gathering for school assemblies, graduation, and exams. The students have been collecting stones for the floor and sand for cement. The walls are up but there is no roof.



Students Attending  
Mtera Secondary School,  
Tanzania



It rains at Mtera half of the time and almost every day January through April when the students are in school.

We need to raise \$16,500 by June, if possible, to roof this building. That seems like a lot of money for one congregation to provide, but when we work together, it's a totally manageable project. Think about

building the roof one iron sheet at a time. The iron sheets for this building each cost only \$15, which includes rivets and labor. Contributions over and above the amount needed for the roof would be reserved for the next phase of the project.

### Here's how you can help Raise the Roof:

- How many iron sheets would the kids in your Sunday School or Youth Group like to donate? This can be a great Lenten project to get kids excited about helping other kids.
- Create a competition between Sunday school classes or youth groups to see who can buy the most iron sheets.
- Bake a “Sheet Cake” for fellowship time and sell slices for fifty cents or \$1. Delicious fellowship that helps us partner in a worthwhile project.

- Have a “Raise the Roof” silent auction on a Sunday morning.
- Designate a specific Sunday as a “Raise the Roof” offering Sunday. Maybe make it a noisy offering by asking people to donate loose change in pie plates or an offering plate that make noise like the sound of rain on a metal roof.
- Maybe folks in a small group, or the members of your choir, or maybe the property committee or your congregation council would like to donate money to purchase an iron sheet.
- Perhaps your partner congregation has students attending Mtera so this project could be especially meaningful. Check with your Cluster Leader to find their names.

## **BKB Scholarship Recipients Attending Mtera Secondary School in 2018**

<b>Partner</b>	<b>SPAS Congregation</b>	<b># Students</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>SPAS Congregation</b>	<b># Students</b>
Cathedral	Bethel (Wisconsin)	1	Mkimbizi	Immanuel (St. Paul)	1
Huruma Center	Friends of Huruma	2	Mlafu	Our Savior’s (Stillwater)	1
Ihemi	Christiania	1	Mtera	St. Paul’s (Wyoming)	1
Ihominyi	Our Saviour’s (Hastings)	2	Mtwivila	Dell Rapids (SD)	2
Ipogolo	Augustana	2	Muhanga	St. John’s	1
Irindi	St. Timothy	1	Ndengidzivili	Christ the Lord (AZ)	1
Isimani	Holy Trinity (NH)	1	Nduli	Christ the King (NB)	3
Itungi	Como Park	1	Nyamhanga	Augustana	2
Kidabaga	Faith	1	Nyanzwa	Easter	1
Kidamali	Shepherd of the Hills	3	Pawaga	Trinity (North Branch)	1
Kidewa	Our Redeemer	1	Tungamalenga	Shepherd of the Valley	1
Kigamboni	Incarnation	1	Usokami	Family of Christ	1
Kihesa	St. Mark (NSP)	1	Usolanga	Shepherd of the Valley	7
Makungu	Abiding Savior	2	Wilolesi	Bethel	1
Mgama	St. Paul (Stillwater)	1		Unpartnered parishes	2
Migoli	St. Paul’s (Wyoming)	3			

**This is a goal that we can accomplish together. Every \$15 dollars moves us closer to the goal of Raising the Roof at Mtera Secondary School.**

Send your “Raise the Roof” contributions by June 1 to Greg Triplett at:

St. Paul Area Synod - ELCA  
 105 University Ave W  
 St Paul, MN 55103

Be sure to indicate donations are for Raise the Roof – Mtera. Questions about the project can be directed to: Lynda Thompson ([bibilynda525@gmail.com](mailto:bibilynda525@gmail.com)).

## **Some information about Mtera Secondary School**

Mtera Secondary School is located in the Rift Valley approximately 120 km (75 miles) from Iringa, along the Dodoma Road. It is the only DIRA (Iringa Diocese) secondary school located in the northwest corner of the diocese. The school is located on the grounds of the campsite that was built in Mtera in the 1970s to accommodate workers who were building Mtera Lake and later the Mtera hydroelectric plant. When the project was completed in 1988 the campsite was abandoned. (Then) Bishop O. M. Mdegella had been looking at establishing a DIRA school in that area. A few years later the campsite was sold to the Iringa Diocese and Mtera School was founded. The offices and housing structures at the site were renovated into classrooms and dormitories, but no new buildings were constructed at that time.

The school started operating in the mid-1990s with over 400 students. Haran Ngedede, who is currently Second Master at Pommern Secondary, was Mtera's first Headmaster.

Mtera currently has about 300 students enrolled in Forms I through VI. The current Headmaster is Kelvin Lilowola, who served as Second Master at Mtera before being named Headmaster at Malecela Secondary School (which was run by the Iringa Diocese for a period of years through 2014). He has served as Headmaster at Mtera since that time. Recently named as Second Master at Mtera, the Rev. John Mhekwa, is a familiar name to many BKB visitors to Iringa.

Mtera plays a special role in educating eleven students who have vision impairments. Each student is paired with a sighted student who takes notes in class lectures and shares the notes with the visually impaired student. Some visually impaired students use braille typing machines to keep their own notes. During exams Mtera hires a special education teacher from Iringa to mark the exams taken in braille. In a country where many students with physical disabilities are unable to attend school, Mtera is providing a model for a better way.

2018 records show that 14 students graduated Form VI at Mtera, of which 13 took their national exams. Of those 13 students, nine scored in Division II (equivalent to a "B"), three in Division III (a "C") and one in Division IV. These results ranked Mtera Secondary in first place out of four schools regionally and 52<sup>nd</sup> out of 127 schools nationally. The school has become one of DIRA's premier centers of education.

In 2017 Mtera received a donation of funds from Tanesco (Tanzanian Electric Supply Company) in recognition of the good relationship between the government facility and the surrounding community, which has assisted the government in safeguarding the hydroelectric plant's infrastructure. The community asked for Tanesco's support for construction of a house for the school headmaster and renovation of teachers' homes with four rooms, kitchen, toilet, and electricity connection. Tanesco, which is interested in supporting education in Tanzania, was happy to help.

Despite these renovations, Mtera Secondary School continues to operate using the original campsite buildings and still has no space where the entire student body can gather at one time. The multi-purpose hall that is currently being built will not only expand their ability to serve the students – it will be used for school assemblies, graduation, and exams, among other uses – but also to serve the community and the church as a gathering space for meetings, seminars, installations, and social events.