A photograph of two men in traditional Maasai attire. The man on the left is wearing a tan shirt with black and white geometric patterns on the sleeves and a silver watch. The man on the right is wearing a red and black checkered shirt and is smiling broadly while holding a white object, possibly a piece of chalk or a small object. They are standing outdoors in a rural setting with green trees and a wooden structure in the background.

**I**t's been a very pleasing past quarter for LivLife. We are now officially registered as a charity in the UK! We have secured funding for our first full-time post after winning the Vodafone World of Difference Competition and both Sam and Max have been out in Tanzania to spend time at the classes, and witnessing first hand the effect your donations are having at the Centre

It has been a year of transition for the Centre with the departure of three teachers and the arrival of three more, but under new leadership the Centre has progressed impressively. Attendance at classes has increased and the demographic of our membership has shifted to include a higher proportion of women and people from the local community.

Perhaps most pleasing of all is the progress of two of our students, Babu and Alex. You can read about Babu later in this issue and Alex's story is relayed in the first edition of the LivLife Quarterly (available at [www.livlife.org](http://www.livlife.org)).

Before Alex started coming to the Centre four years ago he hadn't had any schooling and couldn't read or write. Babu and Alex are now gaining work experience at the Centre as voluntary teachers taking the Beginners' and Improvers' English classes. They have been a real inspiration to the others attending the Centre. The Centre has provided them with the space and opportunity to learn, but it is their sheer desire and determination to succeed which has got them here today.

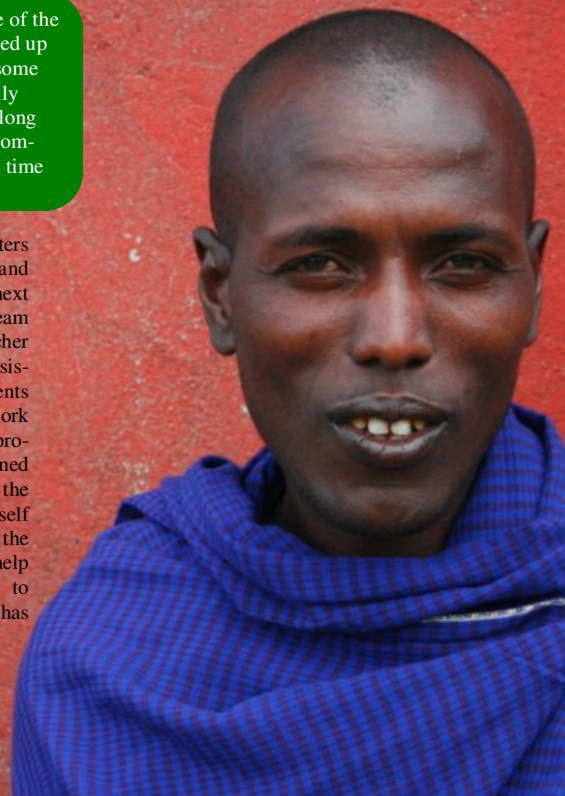
# Babu

When the education centre opened in Meserani in 2005, Babu was one of the first students to benefit from the free education offered there. He queued up on the opening day to see what the fuss was about, and signed up for some of the taster classes. He immediately began visiting the centre on a daily basis to use the library, read the books and use the computers. Before long he began attending a range of classes including English, French and Computing, progressing well in all his subjects. We spoke to him about his time at the Centre and his hopes for the future...

Babu had attended primary school as a child. However, like many of the Maasai community, he was unable to continue with his education at secondary school. Despite his obvious potential (Babu has always shown great ability) money difficulties and family commitments meant that the call of the secondary school could not be answered. Babu became secretary of politics for the Meserani village council and became well respected amongst his peers. "My dream has always been to have a career in teaching or tourism" he told us, "but without the language and business skills I need, it has always seemed impossible".

Babu continues to improve by attending the improvers and ad-

vanced English and Computers classes offered at the Centre, and he has recently took the next steps towards realising his dream job by training to be a teacher through the Centre's new Assistants Programme for students who are seeking some work experience in the teaching profession. This year he has honed his skills by assisting in the English classes, helping himself develop but also sharing the knowledge he has gained to help and inspire other students to benefit from the Centre as he has done.



# Making a World of Difference

September was a tremendous month for LivLife. At the beginning of the month we received our charitable status and midway through the month we were announced as one of the winners of this year's Vodafone World of Difference Programme.

LivLife and will provide us with the chance to secure much more funding and open doors to a whole world of new opportunities. We genuinely feel we've come a long way in the past 6 months and we have even bigger plans for the future.

The World of Difference Programme, offers people opportunities to 'make a difference' by donating their time to work with the charity of their choice. This year the competition had over a thousand applicants which was whittled down over three months to just 8 winners, providing them with the funding for their salary and expenses for 12 months. We were delighted that after an application form, phone interview, panel interview and finally an online 'Facebook' public vote, Max was confirmed as one of the lucky eight.

The prize means we can begin to move forward at a much quicker pace than we had planned. Max will head up all of our projects in Tanzania, ranging from introducing vocational courses to looking at alternative and cheaper power sources. A preliminary outline plan of the work LivLife intends to do in the coming year is available on our website.

The support we received from the public vote was astounding and we can only thank everyone with the utmost sincerity.



↑ Sam and Max with LivLife's first employment contract.

Gaining charitable status, as you can imagine, means the world to



**Vodafone  
Foundation**

## Keeping in the loop...

More and more time seems to be spent in virtual Worlds these days - the phenomenon of the 21<sup>st</sup> century we now know as social networking. With our success in the Vodafone Programme, we're upping our online presence and you'll now find us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/livlifetanzania](http://www.facebook.com/livlifetanzania)), Twitter ([www.twitter.com/livlifetanzania](http://www.twitter.com/livlifetanzania)) and Moblog ([www.moblog.net/livlife](http://www.moblog.net/livlife)) so you can follow our work on an almost daily basis...

There also will be live Tweets from the teachers at the Centre, of what they've done that day, what the Kids and students have been up to.

# The Power of Nature

The Maasai live at the mercy of nature. Their livelihoods depend on the seasonal rain but it is not always as black and white as no rain is bad and lots of rain is good, as we have seen in Meserani over the past week.

Until mid November there had been no rain in Meserani since June. The land was dry, there was no grass, no water, just dust. Many cattle began to die. If you speak to anyone around Meserani they will tell you

how they have lost cattle and those they have left don't have enough food. Just last Tuesday five cows died in the local market, exhausted from the trek to get there.

And then the rains came. And they came heavily.

The whole area was transformed with a thin carpet of green vegetation appearing overnight. The hard times appeared to be over, at least for a couple of months.

But whilst the rains have brought food for the cattle, they have brought more

problems. Flash floods temporarily broke the only pipeline to the village, cutting off the clean water supply; water rushed over dead cattle left rotting in the drainage channels spreading disease downstream and the instances of diarrhoea have shot up at the clinic as people, unwilling to walk miles for clean water, drank from puddles outside their houses.

All problems that shouldn't happen.

Over the next twelve months we are going to introduce new health programmes and we will be addressing issues like this. If people don't know how diseases are spread, they will not change their habits. This is where we will help.

We are working closely with a local health clinic in order to teach basic health issues and will be using a text programme to encourage the use of the clinic as well as creating awareness of how to prevent the spread of diseases.



If, like us, you're planning on doing most of your Christmas shopping online this year then you could get LivLife a bit of extra money with just a couple of additional clicks...

Easy Fundraising is an online 'portal' to all the big online shops – Amazon, Boots, John Lewis, Next, Dell, PC World, Play.com to name just a few. It's a perfect start to your online shopping

All you need to do is go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk), sign up specifying LivLife as your chosen charity then every time you want to buy something online, sign in and use the links on the site to click through to the relevant shop. For every purchase you make we will get a commission.

In addition if you use search engines and want an alternative to Google, set your search engine to <http://livlife.easysearch.org.uk>. For every search completed we get half a penny... It all adds up!

The next issue of the LivLife Quarterly will be published in February 2010. In the meantime, we'll keep you abreast of how things are developing through the website, Twitter, Facebook and Moblog. Also watch out for our first Christmas campaign coming to a YouTube near you!

[www.livlife.org](http://www.livlife.org) | [hello@livlife.org](mailto:hello@livlife.org)