

May 2011 – an excerpt from a letter sent by a Westmount Karate-do Student doing volunteer work in Tanzania

Hi! Hope everyone down there is doing well!

There are not enough words or time to describe what goes on here, but I have a cool story I wanted to share. As a rule, when we go to Dodoma (the big city near us) we have to be in pairs at all times. Because of that I haven't been able to check out any dojos, but there's enough free space outside our village that I can practice in when I get the time. Yesterday I noticed that a young boy had followed me on my jog out of the village. I wasn't really sure what he wanted, but he seemed interested in what I was doing, so I started to show him a few blocks and punches. After about 10 minutes I realized that we were attracting a crowd, and one boy came up to me and said in broken English that he used to do Shotokan in Dodoma, but stopped 5 years ago when his teacher left. We went through some moves together, and I was surprised at how fast everyone caught on. I'm not sure where I'll go with this, but we plan to meet again Monday, and I know there'll be a few kids there.