



## *Newsletter: November 2010*

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## **A Time for Reflection**

In 1998 I was working as an interior design consultant in Boston. I worked with a variety of designers in the beautiful upscale neighborhoods. As a single man, my work made up much of my identity and I began to yearn for work that had a more humanitarian focus. In 1999 I was asked to visit missionaries in Tanzania. My church offered to foot the bill. Never one to refuse a free trip anywhere, I accepted. Little could I have imagined that the continent that I had never desired to visit would become my home.

It is now 2010; nearly eight years since I moved to East Africa. During those eight years I have had adventures and challenges that, were I book writer, could fill a trilogy. Who'd have imagined that this decorator of a guy, with the help of local partners and supporters would launch schools, festivals, workshops, exhibitions and economic initiatives in rural and marginalized communities in Tanzania and Kenya? I've worked with over 100 artisans, 500 performers, 130 Maasai school children and their extended families, 60 beaders, five young men I mentor and wonderful project partners in Philipo Lulale and Tipape Loomu, along with countless more.

As you can imagine, my cup runneth over. And though there may be love and adventure in it, there are a lot of "could do" and "should do" projects weighing on me. In fact, too many.



The primary reason for this overflow of needed projects is due to the drought in Kenya which devastated the herds and agricultural efforts of the Maasai. With their loss of livestock (from 85-100%) this previously poor community has been plunged into poverty – thus making school fees impossible and economic initiatives imperative.

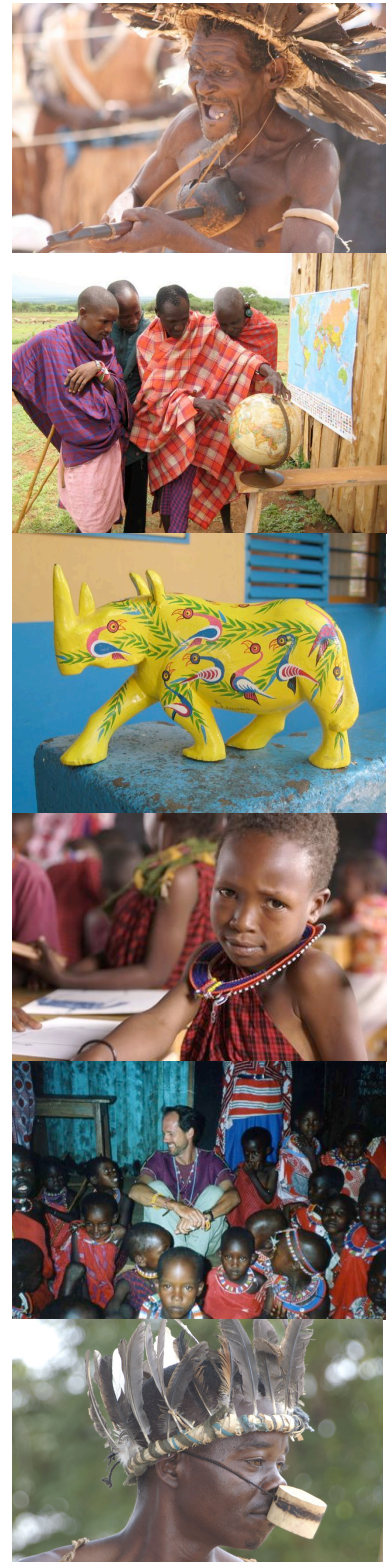
Feeling overwhelmed by the educational and economic needs of Rombo, I felt it in my best interest, and that of everyone else, to return to America to assess the future focus of ADEA efforts and to prioritize activities: to consider what is truly needed, and what is the best way I (with the background, connections and education I have) can address those needs. Am I more valuable there full time, or is focus on networking and fundraising here required to tackle needs of such magnitude? Will my continued presence create a dependency, yet would my absence leave work incomplete?

I have grown enormously since ADEA began in 2003 – professionally and emotionally. I have also become better aware of my strengths and weaknesses. In light of this I am meeting with friends and advisors in America to help me chart my future and that of ADEA thoughtfully. One of the greatest changes will be to more consciously partner with other individuals or organizations. Working independently allowed me to go deep into the lives of my development constituencies; now I long for greater teamwork and collaboration.

I am exceedingly grateful to God and all you who have supported me and ADEA through prayer, financial contributions, advice and visits. I am also grateful to my African directors. Without their patience with our cross-cultural differences and their trust in me we could not have realized the successes we have.

Asante, Ashe, Thank You,

# Douglas



## Here are a few of the things brewing in my cup:

### **One Year Small Scale Mass-Production Jewelry Production**

**Feasibility Program:** With a desperate need for non-weather related income ADEA in, collaboration with two US jewelry designers and a business adviser, will work to train the Maasai families of Rombo to produce high quality jewelry in a professional and timely manner for the international market. *[If you know donor groups that might fund such a project dealing with empowerment of women, marginalized communities and economic development/poverty elevation, please let me know]*



**Teacher-to-Teacher Maasai program:** Groups of teachers in America would support the salaries and development costs of our teachers, while their classrooms will benefit from a school-to-school relationship connected by cyber technology.

**The Kenyan Curriculum converted to a home-schooling format:** Using a home-schooling format to teach our group classes has yielded exciting results. However, our American based curriculum may not guarantee our students success on the Kenyan National Exam. We believe that reformatting the curriculum could be a powerful step forward, not only for our schools, but other rural schools in East Africa. *[It has been suggested I take this on as a PHD thesis – I am considering it seriously.]*

**MAKUYA Traditional Culture and Performing Arts Festival in local hands:** After three years of successfully launching and managing the MaKuYa festival, it is time to place it more squarely into Tanzanian hands. By working directly with the five District Cultural Officers of Mtwara, we will encourage and coach them to host a one-day festival in each of their respective districts.

**MAKUYA – the Book:** The Swiss Ambassador has proposed that we create a picture book of our festival and cultural work in Mtwara. This could be an exciting way to document our work as well as make wonderful education tool for a little known region in Africa.

**SPIRIT BRACELETS:** We have an idea to market Maasai bracelets for schools and other events in school or event colors throughout the US. This will bring much needed income to the community using a skill set they already possess.

**ADEA Tanzanian Artisans:** After 7 years of training and production, these artisans are finally officially “on their own”. This does not. However. mean they are 100% foolproof. Like a caring parent, I need to check in from time to time to review how things are going and offer support as needed.

**Classrooms needed - What about Yurts?** More classrooms are needed to meet the demands of classes. The crazy idea of yurts is being considered: why? They are easy to assemble (and disassemble if there are any future issues about land rights or community commitment), and it make campus sizes flexible (just to name a few reasons).



## **Support Currently Needed**



**Maasai Boma School Teacher, Director and Rent:** As a result of the recently ended drought which devastated the Maasai herds, families are no longer able to pay even the minimal school tuitions we were using to help pay our teachers. As a result, in June, ADEA took over the financial burden of paying our teachers. This support has been an on going challenge for ADEA. ADEA is seeking to raise \$12,000 to cover these costs through 2011. This support will allow us to focus our energies on our income generating initiatives that we hope will cover teacher costs by 2012.

### **Supporting the Education of Tipape Loomu – our Maasai Director:**

Unquestionably, the most crucial member of our Maasai Boma School / ADEA initiative is Tipape. It was he who introduced me to Rombo, and he who has the heart to dedicate his life to helping his community successfully meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world. Tipape chose to enter Day Star University MBA program in Nairobi to better prepare himself to serve his community. The bi-annual challenge to find enough support to attend each term is an ongoing burden for him. ADEA has supported him when possible. He needs \$2900 for his 2011 classes and \$1200 for monthly living expenses. He and I would greatly appreciate your support.



**Personal Support:** Over the past years I have generally been able to make personal ends meet by grants received from ADEA work in Tanzania with most of your support going to help the Maasai schools. Now that I'm back in the USA for a period, the cost of living is higher. I would be grateful for any support for me to cover my living costs here, ADEA expenses and repairs that my lap top needs after its rugged 4 year life. I also need to prepare for my expected January return, including the purchase of an airline ticket.

Many thanks!

**You can also give via Alternative Giving Gifts – Listed below**

**Contributions can be made on line at [ADEAAfrica.org](http://ADEAAfrica.org) by Paypal or a check payable to ADEA at the address above - Your support is greatly appreciated.**

# MAASAI BOMA SCHOOLS



## Alternative Christmas Gift

*Making education accessible to the Maasai children of Rombo, Kenya while keeping families together & their rich heritage alive*

## School Support \$25

*Learn more about our school and follow our progress by visiting [www.ADEAAfrica.org](http://www.ADEAAfrica.org)*

# MAASAI BOMA SCHOOLS



## Alternative Christmas Gift

*Making education accessible to the Maasai children of Rombo, Kenya while keeping families together & their rich heritage alive*

## School Support \$50

*Learn more about our school and follow our progress by visiting [www.ADEAAfrica.org](http://www.ADEAAfrica.org)*

# MAASAI BOMA SCHOOLS



## Alternative Christmas Gift

*Making education accessible to the Maasai children of Rombo, Kenya while keeping families together & their rich heritage alive*

## School Support \$75

*Learn more about our school and follow our progress by visiting [www.ADEAAfrica.org](http://www.ADEAAfrica.org)*

# MAASAI BOMA SCHOOLS



## Alternative Christmas Gift

*Making education accessible to the Maasai children of Rombo, Kenya while keeping families together & their rich heritage alive*

**School Support**  
**\$100**

*Learn more about our school and follow our progress by visiting [www.ADEAAfrica.org](http://www.ADEAAfrica.org)*

# MAASAI BOMA SCHOOLS



## Alternative Christmas Gift

*Making education accessible to the Maasai children of Rombo, Kenya while keeping families together & their rich heritage alive*

**School Support**  
**\$250**

**Brick with tin roof, earthen floor**

*Learn more about our school and follow our progress by visiting [www.ADEAAfrica.org](http://www.ADEAAfrica.org)*

# MAASAI BOMA SCHOOLS



## Alternative Christmas Gift

*Making education accessible to the Maasai children of Rombo, Kenya while keeping families together & their rich heritage alive*

**School Support**  
**\$500**

*Learn more about our school and follow our progress by visiting [www.ADEAAfrica.org](http://www.ADEAAfrica.org)*





# MAASAI BOMA SCHOOLS

## Alternative Christmas Gift

*Making education accessible to the Maasai children of Rombo, Kenya while keeping families together & their rich heritage alive*

### A teacher's monthly salary \$90

Learn more about our school and follow our progress by visiting  
[www.ADEAAfrica.org](http://www.ADEAAfrica.org)

THIS ALTERNATIVE GIFT PROGRAM IS ON AN HONOR SYSTEM. SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO ADEA, THEN PRINT AND CUT OUT THE COUPON AND GIVE AS A GIFT TO SOMEONE. LET ME KNOW TO WHOM YOU GAVE IT, AND WE'LL SEND THEM A THANK YOU (PLEASE INCLUDED THEIR EMAIL & MAILING ADDRESS.

#### **CONTRIBUTION CAN BE SENT TO ADEA:**

ADEA - P.O. BOX 45751  
SEATTLE, WA 98145 – USA  
OR PAID VIA PAYPAL AT:

ADEAAFRICA.ORG – CONTACT AND CONTRIBUTE PAGE

*An alternative gift purchases from this catalog are combined together and used to help fund Maasai Boma Schools as needed. Your gift is tax deductible and will be used to help the Maasai children of Rombo receive an education to begin sustainable life of hope!*

## Upcoming Fundraising Events

*Evening of Casual Jazz Music*

Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Come see me face-to-face to learn more about the work of ADEA  
&

*Come with your instrument, voice or ears to make some music or enjoy others jamming.*

319 30<sup>th</sup> Ave South (near Jackson and 30<sup>th</sup> South) - Seattle

My number 206.227.0082 Host Tom Gaylord 206.322.0372

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## World Markets

Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Visit the ADEA Booth and enjoy gift items from countries around the world

University Pres. Church - 4540 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.E. – Seattle

## Spiritual Note

As I rediscover the advancements and abundance of my home country, I am overwhelmed with thankfulness for my senses that allow me to enjoy so much in the everyday things:

*Smell: toasting bagels, roasted coffee, hot pizza in the delivery box, fragrant candles, and new car smell*

*Taste: 31 ice cream choices, 50 cheese varieties, roasted walnuts on a pear and Gorgonzola salad and hot apple cider.*

*Sounds: Countless radio stations with news and music, CDs and concerts performing selections spanning 500 years of music composition, and wonderful conversations with friends in English.*

*Touch: Over-Stuffed velvety sofas, dryer fluffed towels, spring mattresses, and heated car seats.*

*Sight: City streets lined with trees, the fanciful choices of fashion, matching dishes with courses arranged so beautifully one hesitates to eat them, ...and of course the magical sparkle of Christmas lights everywhere.*

Our senses are miraculous gifts from God. This holiday season I hope your senses will be awakened, as mine have been, to the abundance of the pleasures around us!

Thanks for your continued interest in my work.

I am now in Seattle. I can be reached at 206.227.0082. I'd love to hear from you!

I hope your Thanksgiving finds you thankful. Mine will.

**Douglas**