



Newsletter: January 2015

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2015

**A BIG YEAR, BIG CHALLENGES,
BIG POTENTIAL,
ALWAYS HOPE.**

This New Year has offered some unexpected challenges and opportunities that have the potential to make 2015 a definitive year for ADEA.

ADEA's Lease Not to Be Renewed!

On January 27, I received an email from our Mtwara, Tanzania office with a scanned copy of a letter from the Kanisa la Biblia (Bible Church) from whom we have rented our office since 2003. The letter explained that our lease would not be renewed at the end of March. “Hii ni kwa sababu kanisa limeamua kuitumia nyumba hiyo kwa matumizi mengine” (or, “This is because the church has decided to use this building for other purposes”). In our office is located the AFRIMAK artisan cooperative (their workshops and gift shop), our museum, my home and our office. Though naturally unexpected news, perhaps this is (with the aim of self-sustainability) the best thing that could have happened to ADEA. As I am busy with school, the AFRIMAK and MaKuYa teams must decide if these projects are important enough to them to fight for. Do they value the institution enough to solve this problem and make it more their own?

Last week they met to decide what to do. The initial plan of action is to request an additional three months to buy time. They have begun to explore what can be done. Rents in Mtwara have doubled, tripled, and quadrupled as the gas industry is expanding in the area and a national college was established in the town. However, the local government is taking an interest in our work as a potential tourist draw. Could they help with land or a building? It is too early to tell what will happen. I'll keep you posted. As the town has grown, our location is no longer central and is often overlooked. We've been encouraged to move to a more central location.



Perhaps this is the time for a strategic move. I've lots of ideas, but for now I will keep them to myself.

In front of our office: Me with the artisans 2007 (left) - The MaKuYa festival team 2013 (right)



Here's the team considering what to do:

Saidi Chilumba – Chilumba is the current manager at the ADEA office, he is coordinating the meetings, learning about the legal responsibilities of NGO work in Tanzania. He is growing skillful in negotiating with government offices.

Tembo Samson – Tembo has a great business sense. He understands publicity and public relations and is an excellent liaison between foreigners and the local scene. He is definitely an ideas man.

Dominic Chonde – Dominic has a huge passion for culture and festivals. He has developed strong relational skills with rural government officials, rural leadership and traditional artists. He has creative ideas for expanding this work.

Filbert Emanuel – Filbert is a gifted fix-it man. He is excellent at acquisition and in leading teams to get the physical aspects of projects done, and done well. He is a member of AFRIMAK leadership and the MaKuYa team

Sarah Ligombaji – Sarah is a gifted tailor and businesswoman. She is a member of AFRIMAK leadership And an active member of the Kanisa la Biblia. She is a highly-professional and strong leader to address issues affecting the cooperative of artisans.

Charles Msoga – Charles is a talented painter and businessman. He is a member of AFRIMAK leadership. He is a sales representative of AFRIMAK at public markets in Dar es Salaam and via the internet. He displays innovative thinking.

Msuaio Tiago – Msuaio is a gifted carver and businessman. He is a member of AFRIMAK leadership. He oversees the carvers, the largest body of artisans in the cooperative. As a local, he is excellent in dealing with local government and community issues,

What will this team come up with? Will this challenge of very consequential decision-making be professionally transformative for all of them? I hope so. I even believe so. Will I have to pop back to Tanzania as some point in the next few months? Likely.

Stay tuned!

Half of MBS Blows Down

In 2006 ADEA partnered with the community-based organization, Pillar of Maasai Development, in Rombo, Kenya, to establish the Maasai Boma School. It has been a long journey dealing with the challenges of politics, culture, climate and cash. Despite these challenges the school continues to grow, now offering 1st – 6th grade classes for 122 students with 8 teachers. The original simple wooden building ADEA help build had two classrooms. They added two more tin-sheet-sided and -roofed classrooms in 2010. They have shown their passion and dedication to education by persevering on their own over the past few years despite inadequate infrastructure and with minimal support from ADEA.

Earlier this month I learned that the tin classrooms were blown over in a wind storm.

Question: Is it time for ADEA to step up and try to raise support for “proper” and safer classrooms? This is a question I am asking myself. Can my current studies help me in this? Do I have time for this? Do I want to manage this alone? Is there someone to partner with? Can I? Should I? Shouldn't I?

Stay tuned for answers to these questions!



Before and After pictures



Please Pray, Advise, and send Good Thoughts for discernment.

For the team in Tanzania these are exciting times to test their dedication. This is also a chance for ADEA to consider what new areas of learning the leaders need.

For the Maasai in Kenya the hard times are ongoing. But the teachers have proven a dedication to pursuing the hope of education despite scarce resources and space. Is it time for ADEA to honor this commitment to a degree it never has by raising money for building classrooms?

Is this an exciting challenge for me to grow as a person, a non-profit director, and a student of educational policies for the developing world? Or should I let it be and trust and hope they'll be fine? When should I speak and get involved, and when should I let "my children" test their own legs?

I appreciated your thoughts, prayers, questions, and support.

Spiritual note

This quote I read this quote on my flight back from my Christmas trip to Tanzania following the film "The Good Lie.". It spoke to me.

If you want to go fast go alone,
If you want to go far, go together.

Sincerely, *Douglas. Kupikita. Oloikurrukurr*

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