



Newsletter: January 2016

USA: P.O. Box 45751 – Seattle, WA 98145 Tel. 206.227.0082

Tanzania: P.O. Box 410 – Mtwara, Tanzania

Kenya: P.O. Box 142 – Loitokitok, Kenya

Email: Douglas@ADEAAfrica.org Website: www.ADEAAfrica.org

ADEA is a registered 501c3 Not for Profit and all contributions are tax deductible.

Contributions can be made on line at www.ADEAAfrica.org by PayPal or a check payable to ADEA at the address above - Your support is greatly appreciated.

Happy New Year!

News briefs from Tanzania December 2015 – January 2016

I hope that your 2016 has begun with promise and enthusiasm.

I spent December 21 - January 4 back in my home-away-from-home, Mtwara, Tanzania. Through the blessed offering of friends (David and Mary Helen Bush) who work in Mtwara part time, I enjoyed their home, and more importantly air-conditioned master bedroom, as ground zero to hold productive meetings during the day, and to allow for restful sleep at night.

Please read on to learn about some of what's going on with ADEA. Many thanks - Douglas

Organization for 2016

When I last wrote to you, I noted that our lease would not be renewed at our ADEA home of twelve years. Though this condition has not changed, we have been granted an additional three-month extension to find a new home, and we've requested through December 2016.

The current museum in our office is managed by Chilumba Saidi. Since April 2015 he has received over 600 visitors with 90% of them local students, teachers and residents of Mtwara! This participation of the local population is very impressive and very encouraging. We will begin to take surveys of the visitors to get a better sense of how they respond to the museum, so we can move forward in ways that appeal to a local sensibility. In my studies I've learned that people build upon what they know. Our team needs to get a good sense of "where people are" and what appeals to them, so that we can build our displays and programs on this foundation.



Stay tuned to learn if we are granted use of the building, and how we'll proceed if it's yes (or no). Lots of ideas are brewing in my head.

This wood is currently used for carving "mbuzi" (the boards used for scraping the coconut meat from the shell) but not sculptural carving. When I asked why, the carvers just said it wasn't the tradition. When ivory was banned in the 1980's everyone shifted to African Black Wood. The idea to be experimental with other woods never occurred to them.



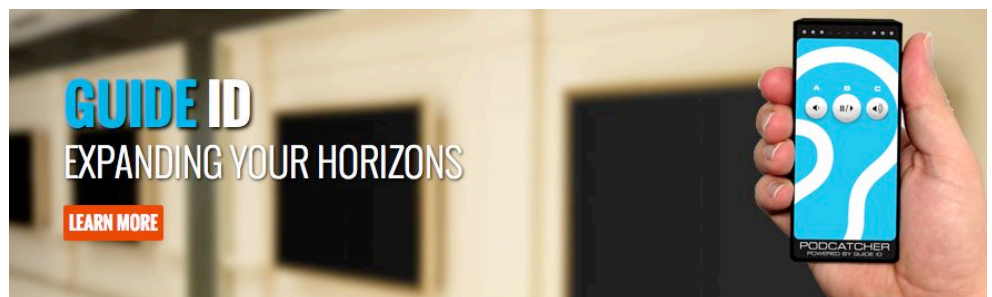
Samueli, Danieli, Njudi, and Francis - joined the experiment

Tamasha la MaKuYa Rafiki Rafiki MaKuYa Friend-to-Friend Festival



Last June, MaKuYa team member Dominic Chonde brilliantly encouraged the Makonde village of Nanyamba to host a day-long village festival by including seven nearby dancing groups, traditional games, and a small exhibition of traditional artifacts. The festival was a huge success with easily 2000 visitors and a budget of less than \$75. Chonde proved it could work in Nanyamba, and we believe it can catch on like wildfire throughout Mtwara. Such small festivals would reduce the dependency solely on our large – much more costly – festival, and would improve sustainability. We have grant requests in with the Swiss and the US ambassadors. Now we are waiting for the responses. Please pull any strings if you have them.

My Research at Michigan State University



Audio Digital Research.

Last spring I discovered GuideID technology while visiting an African Mask exhibit at the New Church museum in Amsterdam. Its ability to enhance an exhibit with audio recordings, to invite the visitor to learn more, to offer tours in multiple languages, and its facility of use made me consider its potential for our museum in Tanzania. I have been granted funding to conduct a pilot project using Guide ID Tanzanian this coming summer under the research question, "What are effective strategies to teaching those who cannot read?" This spring I will be producing content in collaboration with my former ADEA co-director Philipo Lulale, who is a gifted journalist and radio reporter. *More details in upcoming newsletters.*

I continue to study Swahili under the US Government Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS), which is a great help. *Nashukuru Mungu!*

ADEA helps in South Africa

During my summer fellowship in South Africa with the Nelson Mandela Museum, I met two people ADEA was able help.

- I met Michael in Cape Town at a shelter where he was living because when he moved to the city from a village outside of Johannesburg, the culinary school that had accepted him was not ready to receive him. He ended up on the streets when his money ran out, and then thankfully found a wonderfully supportive shelter. Always eager to talk and teach, I took him to a local tea house and gave him some tips on seeing the dining world through tourist eyes, as well encouraging him to strive to learn more than the teachers would teach him. Additionally, I was able to provide some financial support to keep him going and eating (as his sister that was supporting him died three months ago). He's now living and apprenticing full time at a vineyard restaurant. It's a hard six days a week of work with no pay, but he is thankful for the experience, and he is preparing for his future. ADEA has supported him so that he can eat on his day off (and buy a few of life's necessities).



An email I received January 23 from Michael:

Hello Mr Douglas

*i have some good news with my learning am doing very good and am in proving a very day, last night i run the whole service alone of 53 people and was so fun and good too. i will love to know how are you holding up and i been telling my head chef about and you motive me on this course and he said am lucky to have people like you in my life
GOD BLESS YOU*



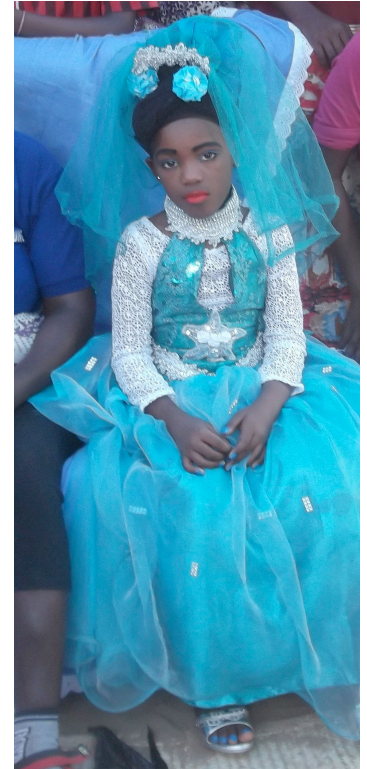
- I also met Tatenda this summer in Cape Town. He was the manager of a cafe. He is from Zimbabwe. Because of the economic crisis in his home country he had to withdraw from a Telecommunication program at the point of his last finals. He moved to South Africa to generate income for himself and his family. With low pay, saving for school fees was impossible (working without a work permit means employers exploit the situation). ADEA supported him to return to Zimbabwe to finish his exam (which he did December 4) and get him resettled in South Africa while he waits for the results. A South African friend has also agreed to help Tatenda to secure a work visa (something exceedingly challenging for persons without connections). If he succeeds this will greatly improve Tatenda's work and earning prospects.
- Michigan State University - Master Card Foundation:** I have encouraged Tatenda and a Tanzanian fellow Athenas (a taxi driver friend), to apply for this full undergraduate scholarship to Michigan State University for disadvantaged Africans. I hope they will be successful - it is highly competitive. This would change their lives considerably!



Agnes Filbert's - Hunyago (Coming of Age)

Two days after Christmas, Agnes Filbert (the seven-year-old daughter of my dear friend Filbert - notice how his first name becomes her last) celebrated her "Hunyago" or coming-of-age ceremony. The two-day event began with Agnes spending time with her grandmother, her mother, and other women who taught her about the next phase of her life as a young woman. It is the time to put aside childish attitudes. This does not mean the absence of play, but childish complaining is no longer acceptable. She will be expected to be an engaged part of the work and service at the home; this includes respecting the requests of the adults of the home, and serving the men. She is now allowed to join the women in their dances, celebrations, and gatherings.

On the side of sexual training (for which the Makonde are celebrated), my friend (the father), doesn't know what is taught a girl child. The Makonde are quite secretive about their male and female rituals - but his sense is that this will come a little later.



The second day of the event I was able to attend. On this day, Agnes was dressed and made up in a most glamorous way (according to the local taste). As she sat in the shade, guests were gathered around her and actively presenting gifts during dances and ceremony (the gifts are presented by various social groupings - family, relatives, neighbors, etc. Each group had its time to deliver their gifts - but all gifts were danced to the recipients). Music blared on a rented PA system. The MC, a verbose

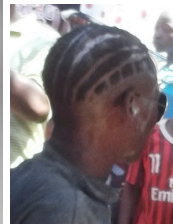


full-bodied woman, was still louder. Those in attendance danced (mostly women), drank the local brew (men and women) or poured it over the hosts (not quite sure why), and tossed white powder about (not sure about that one either). A group of men observed from the shade of a neighboring hut. Filbert explained that this is mostly a women's event. Gifts were danced to Agnes or her parents for well over three hours: pieces of fabric (often "Kanga," the popular Tanzanian printed textile), bed and pillow covers, and money. Filbert - the father - scored a television! (Now all he needs is electricity.) For lunch, rice with a small bit of potato

and beef was served. As for me, I observed from the shade of the cashew tree in front of the house and danced with my friends, two other fellows, and a husky (slightly drunk) woman who kept returning to me to bump and grind (like it or not - it was quite the crowd pleaser)!



Verification of a hypothesis: I had believed that at special event the Makonde (and possibly other tribal groups) cut their hair in patterns for special events. This idea I drew from the hairstyles on some of our masks. At this event, two men proved to me this theory true.



Dog Collars

Thanks to support and encouragement of friend Paul Mudde, we are exploring beaded dog collars as a possible income generating market for the Maasai women. Just now we are trying out patterns drawn from the Maasai beadwork or their own ideas.

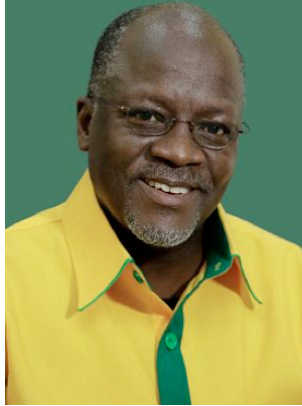
If you'd like order a collar - or just see the beautiful work - Visit www.Maasai-beadwork.org

If you know any high-end pet shops this might appeal to, please let me know!



President John Magufuli: A true hope for Tanzanian's future? We hope so.

In mid-November Tanzanians elected John Magufuli to be their fifth president since independence in 1961 (In 1964 Tanganyika united with Zanzibar to become Tanzania). Though there were questions about the transparency of the (thankfully) mostly peacefully elections, this president has made some impressive moves in his first months since the elections, and there are reasons to be hopeful. To name a few: During his first month in office he cancelled the costly Independence Day celebrations in favor of a day of a clean-up-the-country day in which all citizens, including himself, were expected to participate. He reduced the planned 200 million Tanzanian Shilling (\$100,000 US) inauguration party to a tenth of that, giving the balance to the local national hospital to buy needed beds and supplies. He's clamped down on tax evaders, fired many at the Dar es Salaam harbor authority (known for its corrupt management), and told government employees, "If you wish to work under my administration, you will be expected to work."



Though this is just month number three of his presidency, many people are encouraged. Let us all pray for his perseverance, consistency, and his safety - as you would expect, not everyone is happy

Some other ways ADEA is helping:

- Loan to the AfriMak Artisan Cooperative (formerly? the ADEA group) to buy more wine stopper cork (because of the fear of violent elections, most expats left Tanzania during the fall. This severely reduced the normally lucrative Christmas market).
- Head Teacher wages for the Maasai Boma School at Esukuta, Kenya.
- Medical assistance for artisans, including for a carver with infected feet which made walking painful, for an elder carver with an infected arm wound sustained after a fall, and medicines for severe skin conditions.
- The purchase of a white board and markers to help someone begin English/Swahili classes to benefit street youth.
- School fees, and helping ADEA-connected folks with uniform costs for their children - primary school is not 100% cost free.
- Among other things... thank you for those of you are able to help financially!

Spiritual note

*I'm tired of being angry.
I'm learning that to be angry is a choice.
Sometimes if I let it linger, it only makes me miserable.
I'm trying now not to set myself (or others) up to be in situations that will make me angry.
I'm trying to save it for issues that merit it - such as corruption and social injustice.*

Happy New Year to you all. Though I'm in touch with East Africa weekly, I'll be back there in June - Mungu akipenda (God willing).

Sincerely, *Douglas, Kupikita, Oloikurrukurru*

Educational Policy PhD Third year student at Michigan State University

ADEA is a registered 501c3 Not for Profit and all contributions are tax deductible
Contributions can be made on line at ADEAAfrica.org by PayPal or a check payable to ADEA at the address above - Your support is greatly appreciated.
