



## *Newsletter: June - July 2016*

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## **6 weeks in Mtwara, TZ 5 days in Cape Town, SA**

Dear ADEA supporters - you few and faithful. I have put together this newsletter with a bit more detail than usual to let you know activities that have occurred during the summer in Africa. Please forgive me if it is a bit lengthy, rambles, and is not free of flaws. I want to get this out to you before the summer ends. God is faithful, He works out glitches, there are successes and failure, but God is there and close by to work things out and turn trails into gold.

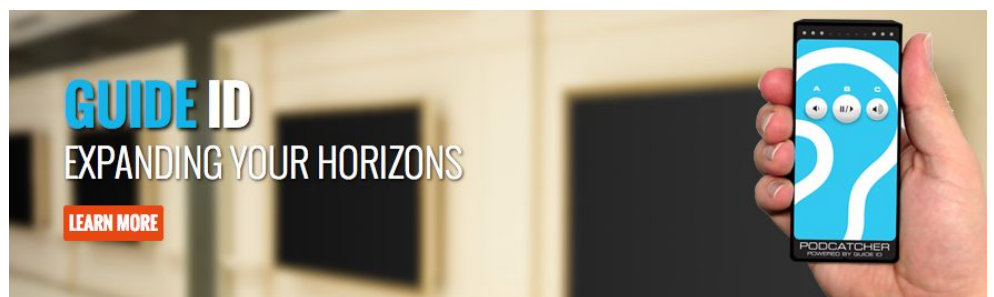
I hope that you are well, and that the peace of the Lord is with you. I am happy to let you know all (or some) of what is going on, and would be thankful for your continued support if the spirit leads.

### **In Vermont now - caring for mom.**

I write this expanded newsletter to you from our family cottage in Vermont where I arrived July 30 in order to care for and look after my mother (88) and aunt (86) for four weeks. This is a chance to give back to her (my mom), and be here during her time of need. I am blessed to be able to arrange my schedule to be here. It is a lovely place. Please pray that I'll be able to care for them well, and also continue with ADEA and MSU work.

Various thing that are/were going on

### **My Research at Michigan State University**



Audio Digital Research.

I returned to Mtwara, not only to check up on the team and help put things in order, but also to run an experiment using GuideID hand help Podcatchers in the museum to see how people respond to them. Beginning Monday, June 27 museum visitor visited 19 ID stations that activate a narration related to the surrounding object. A survey is included in the usage that is recorded allowing me to see patterns

related to age, gender, and education level. Many thanks to Philipo Lulale (my former ADEA co-director) for his invaluable narration work, Chilumba Saidi for his assistance in the museum and with the audio content, Guide ID for giving us free use of their Podcatchers, and Michigan State University for some financial support.



For some background: In January of 2015 I was introduced to the digital podcatcher hand-held technology while visiting an African mask exhibit at the Neu Kirk (New Church) gallery in Amsterdam, Netherlands. This device (a product of GUIDE ID of the Netherlands) enhances the visitor exhibit experience through supplementary in-depth content and learning enhancement material such as music

used during mask performances, mythologies around designs, and greater background on the carvers. This audio experience was offered in multiple languages. I immediately saw the value of such a device for our museum, where the population literacy levels are very low. Such a tool could make our exhibits more accessible to non-readers, allow museum visits to be self-paced, allow for greater amounts and diversity of teaching content, potentially increase interest and engagement, and could be offered in local languages. Additionally, upon researching this device further and speaking with a Guide ID representative, I learned of its capacity to engage visitors through scavenger hunts and quizzes, and the ability to collect demographic data, take surveys, and track visitor's visit engagement makes this device not only advantageous for the visitor but also the researcher (Guide ID).

Visitors love being able to hear the sound of musical instruments, and interviews with elders about their experience related to artifacts or photos. As well as we have a quiz seeing if they remember the name of the type of tree used for bark cloth (which visitors find fun - even if they choose the wrong answer). Some visitors like they they can move through the exhibit quickly, others (more timid visitors - often elders) appreciate they can move through on their own. Often we begin the tours with the audio devices, then augment the learning with a guided tour if time allows. **GUIDE-ID is has generously agreed to let us continue to use their audio equipment as long as we want without charge. This is such a gift! This will allow us to expand and improve our current program, without the normal costs.** Because the programs are all kept in their office in the Netherlands, I can make changes and updates from the USA, and they can be uploaded through the internet in Tanzania.

# Museum renovation

In preparation for the Podcatcher research - and general improvements in our museum we closed for a week to update and add missing tags, add photos, rat-pooof our traditional food exhibit and better arrange the artifacts for visitor enjoyment and their protection.

Our museum visitation and appreciation has been exceptional with visitors every day since my arrival, ranging from students, to teachers, to government officials, to motor-bike taxi drivers; not to mention a tourists and expat working in the region. There have been over 400 visitors since January (over 1000 since we started counting in March 2015) , with schools sending letters to request museum tours for their students.



## The MaKuYa Museum Team

In my past email I introduced you to Saiki Chilumba (whom I originally called Obama because I failed to remember his name). He is the manager and curator of the museum. Beginning this month we are adding Filbert Emanuelli on a part-time basis. Not only is he gifted handyman and cleaner, but he will be able to manage the museum if Chilumba needs to be away, and do other tasks that used to take Chilumba out of the museum during hours we say we will be open. Filbert will be able to help with groups, as assist with the recording and logistics in our interviews with elders. It is good that Chilumba will not longer have to work alone.



## Interviews with Elder

We have begun conducting interviews with elders to gain a richer and broader understanding of the artifact in our museum and the history in the region. These interviews are being videotaped, then transcribed and our exhibits enhanced. It is fascinating to here these elders reflect on how life was in different parts of the region. Recently we have been interviewing two men (ages 77 and 98) from the costal village of Mseti. They share of life during colonial times, the Arab presence, male/female rolls and activities, games, music, fashion and trends. All so interesting. We (I) will be looking for a grant to fund this project that is so important as the elders are dying.



## Multi-Purpose Room

As our museum does not have adequate space (despite the fact that it now fills 3 rooms and a corridor, and AfriMak only uses their front room Tuesdays and Friday - we have agreed to make their front room into a multi-purpose room. We will now have a place to have larger group and school class meetings, activities, and presentation, as well as a projection theatre. It will be interesting to hear how the museum team makes use of this space over the year ahead.

## AfriMak artisans (formerly the artisans of ADEA)

The combination of low global oil and natural gas prices and the recent elections in Tanzania have removed many of the expatriates and thus shoppers from Mtwara. I am thankful to see that AfriMak, the artisan cooperative that grew out of ADEA in 2012 is still active, but coffers are empty. I have been working with the leadership to put together a strategy to participate in the monthly market in Dar es Salaam for the generation of income, and keeping the artisans working, as well as earning money for rent and other debts. I have developed a few new products, and revisited some old long lost designs. Also I am helping them organize their display strategies and storage and developing a market budget and strategies to obtain future clients in Dar and Zanzibar. I realize how happy I am working with creating designs and sales strategies. It is nice to be back in that mode (sort of). There are still challenges that haven't change in thirteen years, but...that's just how it is.

Charles Msoga, our most successful painter, has taken on the leadership of the AfriMak office. We have worked together to create strategies for better management and better selling opportunities. He has a sense for it, for this I am thankful, and hopefully I will be able to support him in such a way that he will stay. I cleaned out my storeroom to give him an office of his own, which encourages him.

## DVD on the bus from Masasi to Mtwara Tanzania

In 2013 with the support of a grant from the Swiss Embassy we had a video produced about the MaKuYa Festival. Last week, Dominic Chonde, a member of our MaKuYa team was traveling by bus across the region. He asked the driver to play our DVD on for the in-bus entertainment. The

passengers loved it and asked the driver to reply it 3+ times. Some of the passengers recognized some of the performers. What great PR! Wish we'd thought of it sooner! I expect it will happen again.

## **The blessed Pep-Talk**

One of my favorite parts of this work is the peptalks, especially those that can reach into the spiritual realm. Nasoro Selemani came into my office one day to sell an old basket that had belonged to his grandfather. Nasoro was one of our most talented painters. He worked with ADEA for many years, before launching off on his own. He is very gifted, but not honest. He did not steal, per se, but he would take orders and not complete them; he'd begin jobs then be unhappy with the agreed price and abandon the work. When he stopped by I had serious talk with him. I explained that I thought him one of the most talented painters in town, but because he is undependable with his production, he will lose business. I explained he'd lost my business and that of our gift shop because of this. I asked him if Islam for him (we've just come out of Ramadan where he, like many, observed the fast) was something of the heart or just his head. He said, "of the heart". I asked if he believed that God has the power to provide. He said "yes." I explained how we followers of Jesus believe that when we do as we say, when our "Yes" means "Yes", God is pleased and He honors that. And when we honor our commitments to the poor, even if a chance to commit to the rich comes along, God sees this and his please, and knows our needs. I explained, that there is freedom in honesty. There is no hiding, no excuses, few apologies needed. It is a great way to live. If we do our work as to God and not for men (Colossians 3:23), then we will also produce great work and clients will be happy. This is also a great way to live!

- He thanked me for the lesson and shook my hand. It is now in God's hand to see if there is any true impact, but for me I savor such moments of hope.

This morning I gave another such talk to Chilumba our museum manager about being a manager or director. I explained that as a leader of a project, every job is your job, sometimes we bring in other people to help get things done, but that does not mean the task is no longer our responsibility. As manager, the outcome is still our responsibility. He was also thankful for "a years lesson given in thirty minute."

## **Feast in Cape Town: Michael's Progress**



**And encouragement to him: restorative for me.**

In previous newsletters I've mentioned ADEA support of a young Zuzu fellow in South Africa who is attending culinary art school. I met him in a homeless shelter where he was staying because his program wasn't prepared to receive him when he expected. We met, and I took him out for a meal which I flavored heavily with ideas and suggestions. Three month later while in the program, his sister (who was his sole support died). Since then ADEA has been helping him with the basic necessities of life. In July I passed through SA to see Michael (and Tatenda who ADEA also supports). I decide to host a dinner party for local friends, and I asked Michael to cook for the event. He was very thankful for the chance. He and his friend Shelley, prepared a delicious three-course meal, beautifully prepared and presented for the eight guests and me. It was magical night of good friendships, good food and much appreciation. Michael stayed two nights with me, ending and beginning our days with prayer (I in English; he in Zulu). Not only did I pay Michael for his work, but have him the money to return to be with his mother, who had not seen since his sister's funeral, during his two week break. When I gave him this gift, we caught the soonest bus possible. As we said goodbye at the apartment door he said, "Mr. Douglas you have saved a life. One day I will save a life." ADEA will continue to support Michael until his program ends in March (at which time there is a chance he will be given a position in Australia, the home country of his master chef/instructor.

On August 2 I learned from Michael that his mother died 24 hours after his arrival home. "She was waiting to see me before she died". Though woefully painful, he was thankful that he was able to be with her one more time. I have continued to support him to help him be a part of the funeral arrangements from my own money, and decided to support him financially and emotionally until the finish of his studies in March 2017. Please pray for him, these are sad and costly days for him.

Received this email today: Aug 12

Dear Mr Douglas

Am very thankful for what you did for me and my family in our DARK moment. I went well and we very one was please to see me back and my brother was struggling alone with kids along side him but for me to be there makes him strong...and that got me thinking that you are GOD send for me and am very very pride to have someone like you

I will be back at school on the 17 August for my last term and am gonna make you pride for me and that will be my way to repay you by being a best chef in the world.

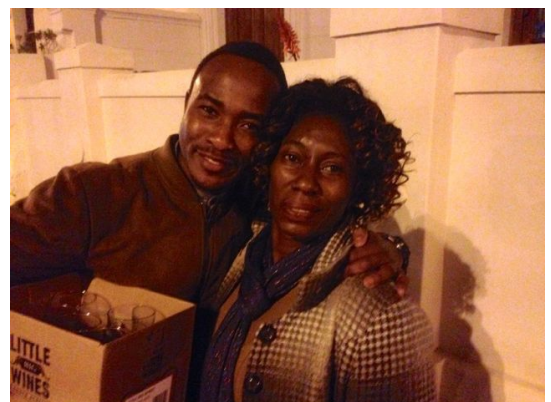
GOD BLESS YOU

And i wish GOD can give you more days so can see what you have invested on me

MICHAEL

### **Progress on Tatenda's Work Permit - God's clever hand**

In previous newsletters I've mentioned ADEA support of a young Christian Zimbabwe fellow who moved to South Africa because of the financial crisis there, to complete the telecommunications exam his family could not afford to fund. We are currently working with someone to secure a work permit so that he can look for a job in telecommunications, and begin to earn a living wage, care for his mother and sister (is father is dead), and live more



securely and with greater hope for the future. A South African I met on a flight from Johannesburg to Amsterdam last year is assisting us secure the visa. What we had expected to take three weeks has extended to four months (likely due to greatly increased immigration restriction in South Africa).

God works things out in clever ways:

Since I knew I would be passing through South Africa in July, I arranged with my airplane-friend to spend a night with him in Jo'burg before flying to Cape town. However, when I landed in Jo'burg on July 21, I discovered that my new friend had forgotten this arrangement, and he could not accommodate me. This embarrassment, (and his inability to attend my dinner party, despite his commitment to be there) seems to have motivated him to push harder for the permit, because he has requested Tatenda's passport to be sent to him for the immigration office - a major development! We pray now that this will be over soon, and Tatenda can leave his \$1 an hour job as a barista, and look for work in telecommunications. ADEA (actually me unless funds become available) has bought him a used computer for the necessity of constant study to remain current in the daily changing telecommunications industry, and to facilitate the job application process (including timely responses in a tight labor market). God is faithful! Tatenda was required to move from the room he rented, because the family was expecting their son to return. Our mutual friends (Ellen & Gunnar) were able to arrange a small garden apartment at the guesthouse they manage. This will provide security, community, much needed wifi for his computer work, and possibly some hotel work by helping out on occasions there. Tatenda's trust in God's timing is inspiring to me as we keep waiting. Please pray!

## Maasai Boma School

Last year I reported that the Esukuta Boma School had negotiated with Italian NGO Amref to construct six new classrooms. The result of this is that enrollment has increased from ~150 students to ~350

students!! The teachers and MBS leadership have managed the school entirely on their own with ADEA providing support for the salary of the Head Teacher, and the rent of the in-town office. I am proud of them and thankful.



It is the hope of ADEA will continue to cover the cost of the head-teacher for 2017 - approx. \$120 per month (or \$1440 for the year).

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



I have continued to hear great things about Tanzania's newest president, John Magufuli. Previously members of parliaments and the president did not pay taxes. He has changed that as well as cut his wages by more than two thirds. He has cut back much of the extravagant spending of government officials (fancy meetings, traveling, etc) "We are a poor country, we cannot behave as if we are not." "Hapa ni Kazi" - "Here is Work" is his new slogan for government offices, where traditionally slacked performance will not be permitted. His efforts have resulted in the elimination of thousands of ghost workers on regional government wage rosters. Pray that he will continue to weaken waist and corruption - and to maintain a humble servant attitude.



### **The sick and poor:** Helping the sick.

One of the woeful realities for me in Mtwara, Tanzania is the illness and lack of money. I have tried to be more compassionate and generous to help the sick, but there is a financial cost. Anthony James (carver) has TB, he needed 70,000/= (\$33) for meds - in the past I'd give an product order to cover the cost, but I've realized that orders merely keep them fed these days of low business. So I made the money a gift with the hope he can recover with enough money to keep eating. Almasi, a 68 carver I found in terrible shape when I went to visit him in his hut in the countryside. Just six months ago he would ride his single-gear bicycle 30 miles on hilly dirt roads - now he cannot walk without help. He wanted me to buy his field for 1.5 million Tsh (\$650), but I don't need a field, I ended up spending 200,000 Tsh for a full medial check-up and meds for numerous ailments. There are others. Then there is the saddest case: Musa, a young guy who walked by ADEA looking terrible. TB had taken its toll on him. He had the medication list, but no money. I provided the funds and my colleague Filbert took Musa to the pharmacy. The next day Musa looked good. A few days later, Musa was even sicker and thinner than before, vomiting as he sad on the ground. We took him to the hospital, and covered his bills. We saw him again, looking great. then a few days later he was dejected and without food. Again he came needed additional medication for his chest cold. Then he came, thin and sad. He wanted to go home. He had been a fish seller by the Ruvuma River, he got TB, and chose to come to Mtwara to sell fish and live with his uncle. He was fine until the TB got acute. His uncle ignored him, commenting "what good was he, he was basically dead, all that was let was to cover him with dirt." Musa said he was treated like an animal. With tear running over his thinning cheeks he said he just wanted to go back to the village, maybe to die there. How, I wept, could this be, and what can I do? What if this were me? Such a life I cannot fathom, and only be grateful for the heath and security I have. Sadly, I saw Musa gain, still asking for help - Did he go home and return as he said for more meds? It is so hard to know when true needs becomes exploitation.

There are more stories of helping repair roofs, supply transport, and feed the hungry during Ramadan. Thank you for your support that allows me to help those who have so little.

### **"Will they know we are Christians by our Love?"**

I had the chance to preach at my church in Mtwara, 95% students from the neighboring Christian High School. The preceding Sunday the pastor preached on our call to love in a sweeping grand way. I wanted to bring in more specifics on instances when Christian love can be challenging, counter cultural, costly, and not even clear as what action to take. I drew from examples of instances I had experienced in Tanzania where Christian love appeared to be absent: from theft of foreigners things with the common thought that "It's OK, they can get another one", to not seeing the wrong amount of change given to you as a "gift from God, but as a test from God." Also issues of cultural rights of elders, to "letting your yes mean yes, and your no mean no." (these are just a few of several examples) It was well received, and I'm told will leave an impact. I hope so. I enjoyed it.

### **My return to MSU - God's restoration.**

Well, though I had expected to spend this fall in Amsterdam to gain experience in the Museum field, the schedule of my final Educational Policy course requirements changes. If I did not take the course now, I'd have to wait until fall 2018!! I was not keen on that. Initially, to my great chagrin I agreed to change my schedule and return to Michigan this fall. But God in his great love, rekindle my weary fire for life and learning during my short visit to Cape Town. It was the company and conversations with my dear friends there (and surely prayers) in Cape Town, that jumpstarted my weary heart! I cannot believe the transformation - though I am not surprised in the least at our Lord's miraculous ability to



turn trials into gold! I thank all of you who prayed for me and/or supported me in those low times. The current (unofficial) plan is MSU in the fall, with a likely visit to Africa before beginning my life in Amsterdam in the spring. Not only do I not dread my return to East Lansing, but will approach my time with new wisdom, trimming away lifeless friendship, and investing in friends and activities that give life to my soul and mind (these include music and church groups). The additional planning time for the spring will allow me more time to arrange contacts and my museum internship, and attempt to find more funding (or at least save a bit from my student stipend for the spring).

## **Budgets on the Table**

**Maasai Boma School Head Teacher: \$1440**

**18 Month Running costs (August 16 - December 17): \$7,900**

**Micheal schooling / life support**

**My return in December**

**Some earnings for me? (maybe)**

**Projects for grant funding**

**Bi-weekly interviews with elders from across the region: \$1000 - 2500**

**Improved and expanded audio material:**

**Rafiki Rafiki Festivals: \$12,500 (Submitted to Swiss Embassy)**

**German and Portuguese Book and Collection expansion.**

## **Prayer Requests**

- Funding support for everything.
- That I can prioritize well needs and that which is feasible.
- The museum team (Chilumba and Filbert) can work together well, become more confident and disciplined, and learn how to seek out government support.
- Swiss will agree to support MaKuYa Rafiki Festival
- Wentworth Africa Fund will agree to support the annual running cost of the festival
- Michael as he grieves the death of his mother (and a father already passed), and completes the final nine months of his culinary school program. And that he will share his needs with me.
- Tatenda to receive his workers permit, and then secures a job in telecommunications.
- AfriMak artisan group (formally the artisans of ADEA) will be able to keep up the professionalism we worked on and that sales will improve leading in the Christmas season
- That I will be able to earn enough money this fall to facilitate my studies in Amsterdam in the spring.
- God will help me to measure to what degree, and to what capacity I continue to support the ADEA partners and beneficiaries.
- Should I complete my PhD program, and/or returned to my design work where I feel more confident and gifted. Or will he wondrously meld my world in the unexpected as he has done in the past that would be facilitated by a PhD after my name.
- My ability to return to Tanzania to Tanzania for two weeks during December.
- Update the ADEA website

### **Spiritual note**

"If we must have perfection to be happy with ourselves, we have two choices. We can either blind ourselves to our own evil (and deny the weeds) or we can give up in discouragement (and deny the wheat). But if we put aside perfection and face the tension of having both, then we can hear the good news with open hearts. It takes uncommon humility to carry the dark side things. It takes a kind of courage to carry the good side, too. Archetypically, "The crucified one" always hangs between two thieves-paying the price within himself just as we must do (Jesus forgives *both* thieves. Luke 23:32-34)

Sincerely, *Douglas. Kupikita. Oloikurrukurru*

Educational Policy PhD fourth year student at Michigan State University

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