

Habari za TUTAWEZA

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A Sense of Tanzania

Several days before we left on our trip last May, a friend asked, "What is Tanzania like?" Our response was "It's the ultimate sensory experience." Visiting Tanzania always seems to activate our senses and provides us with lasting memories. Here are some of our favorite examples of ...



Sight: star-filled skies and a clearly visible Milky Way; colorful kangas (the traditional wrap worn by women).

Sound: roosters crowing; children shyly calling "Shikamoo" (the polite greeting to elders).

Smell: charcoal fires cooking meats and vegetables with aromatic spices.

Touch: warm, welcoming handshakes everywhere we go.

Taste: Kilimanjaro Beer, a real treat after dusty rides on very rough roads!



So with that last one, we'd like to raise a toast to you, our faithful sponsors, who continue to offer our students the hope for a better future.



"Remain blessed to the maximum."

Kay and Lynn Stricklan

Andrew's son, Shadrack, and daughter, Flavia (above), echo their father's wishes,



Unexpected Gifts

Each of our Tanzanian trips offers different perspectives and opportunities. Previously, we've been able to enjoy short conversations with most of our students. This time, many of our students were on school break so we could only meet with a few. However, we were able to develop closer relationships that way and learn more about their daily lives. This was especially true when we could share a meal or two.

Hilda (on scholarship for the past 5 years) and Baraka (sponsored for the past 2 years) recently graduated with primary school teaching certificates.



When we met with them in Vwawa, we were in for a surprise.

After chatting for a while, Baraka excused himself and returned with their "thank you" gift to us. Our very own squawking chicken!! We were incredibly honored, realizing the significance of such a gift in Tanzanian society, and it elevated the occasion to a true Tutaweza family celebration. The festivities continued the next evening when our dinner featured ... you guessed it ... chicken! At that time, we presented Hilda and Baraka with our own graduation gifts. Following Andrew's advice, we gave them each about 4 yards of fabric. A few days later, we went with them to the



local tailor's shop to be measured for 3-piece suits with which to begin their teaching careers. What a surprising and gratifying gift exchange!

Oswego School BOOK DRIVE

This time of year, American families are busy shopping for school supplies. In Tanzania, the wish list is pretty short ... textbooks. While visiting Oswego Girls' Secondary School we were thrilled to learn that the students have

performed well in the yearly Tanzanian national exams. This is despite the school only being founded in 2011. It's a remarkable achievement that Oswego ranks 10th out of 64 non-government schools in their zone. We were therefore shocked to hear that textbooks are in short supply, and to observe 5 to 8 girls sharing a book for each subject.

When we suggested a Book Drive to buy more textbooks, the girls spontaneously broke into applause. Their enthusiasm for learning is truly heartwarming. So, the least we can do is support them with a few dozen books! The average cost of a Tanzanian textbook is only about \$9. So if you'd like to participate in this effort, please go to our website www.tutaweza.com and bring big smiles to these sweet young faces.



Raspberry Pi for Tanzania

Not your mother's raspberry pie, the "Raspberry Pi" is a credit-card sized single board computer developed by the UK based Raspberry Pi Foundation, a charity founded in 2009 to promote the study of basic computer science in schools. This year we took 3 of these computers, along with plug-in keyboards, mice and power supplies, to the Mbeya University of Science and Technology (<http://mist.ac.tz/>). This was our initial visit to MUST, although Andrew, as he always does, had paved the way for us. We met with Dr. Mbonde, Deputy Principal Academic, Research and Consultancy, who then arranged a meeting with some of the staff and students studying Computer Science. They were extremely receptive to learning about this new device, and eager to establish a relationship that would allow Raspberry Pi to be included as a course of study. Our



goal is to facilitate training for these students so that they are able to provide and maintain computing solutions for schools and businesses in Tanzania. To further this goal, we are planning a follow-up visit next year to help get the courses off the ground.

A Note From Grace

We request essays from each of our students during the year. This gives them an opportunity to practice their English skills and helps us know them better. Grace's recent essay demonstrates the impact your generosity has on these promising young lives:

I value education more than anything. When I started communicating with you, I felt something...when you asked me what I wish, it was like God opening the gate to heaven and asking me to enter. I wished for education...and you are my living guardian angels."



Tutaweza . P.O. Box 88188 . Colorado Springs, CO 80908 . www.tutaweza.org

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