

April 2023

8° SOUTH *with the Rabenolds*



Dear friends,

Since our last prayer letter God has been so good to us as a family and He has blessed us with three healthy new grandchildren! Colton and Anna started things off with the birth of a boy named Kai Hunter, Savannah and James followed with their boy Weston James, and Sierra and Thomas finished with the birth of sweet Maya Rees. We are so grateful to be so blessed with healthy deliveries and spunky, happy, energetic babies.

Our discipleship team has been asking ourselves...***what does it mean to be rich towards God?*** In Luke 12; we hear a story about a certain rich man. He produces so much from the ground on his farm, that he decides to tear down his old barns and build new ones so that he can rest easy, drink, and be merry. God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have provided for yourself?" Although, God made all of us in his image; in the book of Genesis we stopped thinking with godly minds and started operating with different priorities. We became self-focused and started to ***worship the things God created instead of God himself.***

In 2 Corinthians 5, the Apostle Paul reminds us that we have been given the ***"ministry of reconciliation"***. Therefore, our work as humans is not merely physical in nature so that we can accrue things for ourselves but rather it is ***spiritually oriented with one common goal; leading others to Christ Jesus through our life story.*** It doesn't matter whether you are a farmer, plumber, teacher, or nurse; ***your job is as spiritual as Adam and Eve's were in the garden*** and your impact upon others should drive them closer to Christ on a daily basis.

Some stories since our last prayer letter:

An evangelistically minded pastor from the Msukuma people group, named Mtusana, recently came to our Nsanga training center. He is from Ngomeni Village, in the Rukwa Valley. He told a few of the guys on our team that he wanted to draw people to come to his house so that he could share his faith with them but mentioned that ***his home was so small and so ordinary that very few people came by.*** Boaz, a member of our discipleship/leadership team, told him to buy 10 papaya trees from our tree nursery and to plant them a certain way along the front of his property. The guys on our team visited him and encouraged him a few times during the



Boaz, holding a papaya from our AG demonstration site in Lyanza.



Jubi, with fish from our ponds. Two men from both Kaoze and Kawila villages have purchased baby Tilapia from us and began fish farming in ponds they have dug and constructed themselves.



Mama Clay, making low fired pottery by hand near Lake Malawi, at a village called Kikombe. Alternatively, we will be producing high fired stoneware. Currently, very little stoneware is produced in Tanzania.



Pastor Pascali Mwendapole, with his wife Skola, standing on the mountain of corn they produced on only one acre. They utilized conservation AG techniques also known as, "Farming God's Way". He thanked us remembering the training he had received 18 years ago from one of our trainings in which a Russian horticulturist named Mama Kimambo first introduced them to this method of farming that does not utilize chemical fertilizers.



Ted and Boaz, speaking to children from a local grade school who have come on a "class trip" to learn about fish and chicken farming, as well as horticultural techniques such as budding and grafting of citrus and avocado trees.



Updated picture of our staff-training home at our plateau AG venue. We are breaking ground here on our stoneware studio the 1st of May.

process of the trees' growth. ***He said that he now has many people who come to ask him what these trees are, where he got them, and how they grow so fast.***

Recently we had two prominent visitors come for a tour at our Nsanga Village agriculture training venue in the Rukwa Valley; the head education officer from Nankanga Village and a water supervisor from the government. Before leaving they asked the guys on our team, "What has caused you to begin farming and livestock projects that are brand new to this area?" Most people in the valley grow rice or corn. They were surprised to see us raising fish and pigs, and keeping bees, as well as farming various fruit trees not currently from here. Boaz answered them very simply. He told them, ***"The Bible tells us that all things were created through and for Jesus Christ. We began these projects because we believe that He is with us and that He will help us to succeed."*** The education officer was surprised not expecting to hear the answer Boaz gave him. He then answered Boaz, ***"Well then, I better learn more about Jesus because I want to do what you are doing..."***

We are thankful that we have ***finished the training-staff home at our Sandulula village, plateau training center.*** At this moment we are putting the finishing touches on it and will be utilizing it starting the first of May. We also are ***breaking ground on the first of May for the construction of our stoneware studio on this property.***

Please pray for the ***three beekeeper trainings we have coming up in May-June.*** We hope to help the trainees to better utilize African bees for income generation as well as the production of honey and wax for personal consumption.

Pray for the impact of our agriculture demonstration venues. It is our goal to welcome those visitors coming to our venues and build meaningful relationships.

Thank you so much for your kind and generous hearts! Your encouragement, prayers, and support of the outreach work make it possible. Thanks for being part of the team to reach remote areas like the Rukwa Valley with the bright news of reconciliation to God, man, and creation!

Love, Ted and Kim Rabenold

Genesis 2:15 ***"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." All our work is spiritual and unto God no matter what we do!***



Thanks for partnering together with us!

****If you would like to receive our monthly pictorial updates by email, please write us at ted.rabenold@gmail.com and we will add you!***