



# the RABENOLDS

servicing with GMI  
April 2024

*Greetings friends,*

We trust that your Easter was amazing. A few days back, we heard a guy say that for Christians, without parallel, Easter should be the happiest celebration of the year. Remembering all Christ went through to befriend, pardon, and adopt us into God's family is worth applauding and reveling in every conceivable way! Hopefully, you partied in such a way that the world was challenged.

Today we are writing to you from rainy, New Jersey. It has been a very busy (almost) two months since we returned to the USA. If we haven't seen you, we probably will in the fall, as we plan to come back to the States again to update supporters on the work in Tanzania "in person". Ted will also be getting procedural training in firing pottery utilizing organic materials. Stoneware is a type of "high-fired" pottery not currently being made in Tanzania. This type of pottery is very durable and sought after. Many safari camps and retail stores have already asked us to make pottery for them.

Did you know that two of the most significant resources we have are our minds and our hands? One of our chief goals is to help rural people use their minds and hands in new ways. Recognizing and utilizing in new ways resources locally available provide fresh insights demonstrating God's love.

- Most of you know that we are currently establishing a pottery studio to:
1. Help local people utilize another God-given resource for income generation.
  2. Employ handicapped people as well as women who find themselves in difficult life circumstances.
  3. Disciple men and women and reach those who have never known of God's goodness through His loving Son.
  4. Develop this form of art among the Fipa people group; who due to poverty have limited ways of expressing themselves.

This studio is almost completely constructed and is located at our plateau training center in Sandulula village. We expect to start making pottery in June.



**Planting Sun Hemp,  
which naturally fixes  
Nitrogen in the soil**



**Pottery studio, nearing  
completion at our  
plateau AG training  
venue**

The project is daunting in every way. In the US most potters buy pre-processed, packaged clay. We will be quarrying it from the ground and processing it ourselves “on-site”. We also will be working to develop a group of people who will be proficient in making beautiful mugs, bowls, plates, and vases. We have no proficient potters as of yet, including myself.

Thankfully, we have accomplished potters who have volunteered to come and help us, such as my friend Paul Congden. Paul is coming this dry season to help us get things started and running well. He has already been involved in training and encouraging some of the men on our discipleship team, including Augustino, who will be the Tanzanian man in charge of the daily running of the studio. Together with the help of visiting potters, we also have the determination and resolve to see this groundbreaking project to its completion.

Please pray for this new venture! We believe that God started this good work ten years ago when we tested clay samples from our region in a Kenyan studio to see if they were good for making stoneware.

**Rejoice with us as we celebrate a young man named, Levocatus, from Nsanga; who threw away his witchcraft and is trusting God for the health of his goats and chickens.** This young man was required by his father to sacrifice chickens, sprinkle their blood, and leave their hearts on a stone near their goat pen as a sacrifice to ensure good health in their herd. After seeing the animals at our Nsanga training venue he was shocked to see what good health they were in and asked the men on our team **what witchcraft they used to protect them.** They responded that they pray for them and provide feed and water for them. They told Levocatus, that God’s word tells us, **‘All things were made, through Christ and for Christ, and that He sustains all things by His powerful word.’** He and his father have decided to trust Christ with their livestock and chickens. Many stories similar to Levocatus’s happen weekly at our AG training venues. Thanks for praying for our discipleship team. Their on-the-ground, practical testimony is challenging, as well as impacting Tanzanian brothers and sisters for eternity!

**Genesis 1: 31 “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning-the sixth day.”**

Love,

*Ted and Kim Rabenold*

\* If you would like to receive our monthly email pictorial updates; write to us at [ted.rabenold@gmail.com](mailto:ted.rabenold@gmail.com) and we will get you on our list!



**Nsanga  
Discipleship Team**



**Visiting Teacher, James  
Philips, teaching on  
using nitrogen fixing  
crops in farming for  
maximum benefits**



**Thank you for partnering  
with us to disciple and  
inspire men and women  
in SW Tanzania!**