

October 2022



8° SOUTH *with the Rabenolds*

Dear friends,

Greetings from sunny Tanzania!

This past month we spent time during our Monday discipleship training to discuss the difference between honesty and integrity. In Swahili: (uaminifu na uadilifu). It was a good discussion and everyone chimed in. Some of the guys didn't see any difference at all between the two. Others saw only subtle differences. In the end they decided that honesty is often a "face value" we exhibit when others are watching and integrity is more of a "heart value" we have inside us. Pastor Eliamu, explained how important it is for a Christian to be driven by integrity on the inside, not just what people see while viewing us from the outside. Whether it is simply bending down to pick up a piece of trash we have inadvertently dropped or confessing sins, integrity should be the thing that governs both our hearts and our lives. Very heavy to think about when most of the people living in our valley in SW Tanzania consider something to be shameful or sinful, only if you are caught doing it...

How do we love people to Christ? In 2022 we live in a world where it's so easy to "paint up" and "fix up" our lives on websites or social media, so that many people feel like no one understands the real daily problems that they face. Everyone looks like they have it all together!

Most of the men and women we live next door to and work with are not on social media. Just like the rest of us, they daily struggle with "real time" problems. Broken marriages, wayward children, poverty, food shortages, NO clean water, challenges due to lack of educational opportunities, lack of rain, lack of quality seeds, as well as various legitimate fears from snakes to theft. To be honest we are best able to share the goodness of God with people when they are conscious that we are also struggling. Because of God's goodness in Christ, we are accepted and loved even while we go through the hardships of life. Our discipleship team is weekly challenged to love their neighbors and show "JOY" in spite of experiencing the same struggles the rest of the world is wrestling with.

Most Tanzanians do not separate the physical from the spiritual. The other day Jubi, who is in charge of the fish project and on our discipleship team, was speaking with several women who came to buy "seed fish" from our ponds to take to their freshly prepared ponds in Mbugwe village. He naturally explained how wonderful a God we have who made these prolific fish and also sent His Son for us. What a magnificent God; to provide reconciliation with both Himself and his creation through the Savior.

Always open to being Christ to his neighbors, Boaz had a great opportunity recently. The Mkusi village primary school headmistress, Anna Kaduma, and her husband have purchased 200 day-old chicks. They decided to take this step after visiting Boaz at his home and learning how



Dulla, from Tanesco hooking up an electrical transformer at our plateau property. First time to have electricity that is not solar or generator powered! Hurray!



Current construction of "staff home" for stoneware project at plateau training site.



High school teacher from Kaoze village, Mr Ndachi, far right picking up his day old chicks and spending time with some of our discipleship team at our Rukwa valley, training venue.

to care for such chickens. They have expressed joy in their new project and “once again” in the free knowledge that Boaz has given, visiting them time and time again to be sure that they are off to a good start. He has had the opportunity to naturally share his faith during their time together and is encouraged in the new friendship with their family. We are grateful because of your kindness and prayers to be developing men like Jubi and Boaz, who selflessly look for ways to speak into the lives of their neighbors.

Several people have told us and our team in the past few months that they can’t believe that our plot has transformed into such a beautiful farm. Only several years ago the plot was notorious for being a wasteland to local villagers. Today it is thriving and known as an Oasis in our dry valley!

In new news: electricity is being run to our plateau pottery studio plot. We have agreed with Tanesco (Tanzanian electric company) on the price to bring electric lines the 300 meters from the main road, as well as to buy a transformer. It will be a first for us! We have never had electricity, other than solar or petrol run generators, in all our years in Africa.

The building of our plateau station staff home is on track. After the completion of this small living quarters we will begin studio construction. This is where we will be using our pottery equipment which recently arrived from Johannesburg, South Africa. We imported an electric kiln, two electric wheels and a pugging machine which blends clay for use on the wheels in the stoneware workshop. Since all of our clay will be locally quarried, it is quite a process of getting clay from the ground to make a finished vessel like a coffee mug or bowl. The local clay we have identified is unique in its natural properties of holding together at high stoneware temperatures (2,307 degrees F) as the molecules vitrify as well as possessing natural elasticity. It is a wonderful example of a sustainable and renewable natural resource!

Pray: for the continued influence that our AG training center has on farmers, high school students, pastors, church groups and choirs, government officials and others who visit and are given tours by myself or men from our discipleship team.

Praise: for this year’s on-going construction on our new Stoneware studio project on the Ufipa plateau. Building is a process here. We quarry and carry our stones for the foundation and crush them with hammers for the gravel we use in concrete. We make our own bricks. Plane all our own boards with an industrial planer before assembling door and window frames. Haul our own sand from sand pits, as well as hire local men who we have known and worked with since the early 90’s to do the masonry work.

Thanks to all of you for your part in this outreach work! What a pleasure it is to communicate with you and let you know the advances that have been made as we continually try to provide innovative, impactful uses of local resources while simultaneously discipling African men and women.

If you would like to receive our monthly pictorial updates by email, please write to us at ted.rabenold@gmail.com. Each update contains pictures about the local people and our various projects.

With grateful hearts.

Love, Ted and Kim Rabenold

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6



Visit from Ilemba village Secondary school to our Rukwa valley AG training venue. We are able to naturally share about the creator and his creation with school groups here in Tanzania.



Thank you for your kind, generous and heartfelt support for the outreach work in Tanzania.



Ted, training choir members in agriculture and livestock husbandry at our Rukwa valley AG venue.