

REACHING THE VALLEY

MINISTRY UPDATE FROM TED AND KIM RABENOLD



Kim with several of the women attendees at a beekeeper training session



Jericho and Frenki at the site of our new water project in Nsanga village.



It was great to have GMI Executive Director Jeremy Clark and GMI Board Members Brian Sherstad and Rob Renberg visit us recently.



Our AG training centers provide jobs for local people.

Dear Friends,

Resources are biblical. All we have and use on a daily basis comes from our Creator. In Genesis, God put man in the center of a wonderful garden to manage and cultivate.

Imagine living in a community where 90% plus of the people are full-time farmers. If you were seeking to encourage and draw close to these people you would have to take a good look at farming and think about the unexplored possibilities. Agrarian resources that have never been probed or investigated would be good places to start...or perhaps exploring how you could help make current practices more efficient and productive.

In all our resource training with people, we take the opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ through the creation He made for us. Because He has made us in "His image," we also are creators of sorts. From the world He made by initially speaking into the darkness, using our creativity, we fashion material goods from His resources.

Proverbs 23:7 says, "As a man thinks in his heart, so he is." Much of Africa is fatalistic in the way it sees life. Collectivism and Animism both fuel this fatalistic way of looking at resources. Many do not know that they have been made activators in their stories, surrounded by ready resources to be laid hold of, from a loving God.

What a joy to be in the family of God! As His children, we are so privileged and blessed to explain how He has given "good things" to us. The culmination of the good things He has given us is Jesus Christ.

A friend who came to Kapenta to do training in 2004 has returned. His name is Daud Mbongo and he is the head of Agricultural Research at Uyole Government Research Station outside of Mbeya. On the day Kim and I visited Daud and his staff in Uyole, they had grafted 398 avocado trees and only one of the grafts didn't "take." That's pretty impressive if you ask me! Daud and an assistant named Pastor Fredrick came the weekend of the 24-26 of March to train local people in horticulture. These guys are experts at grafting and budding fruit trees. They have become efficient at taking what God gave to us, then creating and cultivating something new. He and his team make something beneficial using the raw products that the Lord has blessed us with.

For the past 26 years we have worked under the auspices of a church called Kanisa la Neema (Grace Church of Tanzania). Both Kanisa la Neema and Grace Ministries International are restructuring their relationship. This restructuring will cause us to apply for a new Tanzanian resident permit under a new African host organization founded sepa-



Savannah drawing in the dirt with some of her buddies



Ted as a guest speaker preaching at the Ilemba school graduation service



Daud Mbongo, Head of Tree Science at Uoyle Government Agricultural Research Station

rately in Tanzania by GMI. It sounds confusing and sometimes it is. Essentially, what it means is that we will “legally” need to be out of the country during the reregistration process. So, you may see us, as we will be stateside for about three months while Tanzanian Immigration issues our new permit. We are thankful for a great organization like GMI who represents us so well! We will be in the USA July through September 2017.

One thing we are hoping to do while in the USA is raise funds for another vehicle. Our car is from 2005 and has suffered the usual abuse of Africa in its many years. A missionary has no more important tool than his vehicle, especially when we work in remote areas. All of you who have visited us know our lives rely on it!

I hope that you enjoy getting our monthly *email* prayer updates. If you are not on our list, please write to me at ted.rabenold@gmail.com and I will be sure to add you! Thank you for your tireless and faithful support! It is a pleasure serving with you in the task of taking the liberating message of Hope in our Savior Jesus to East Africa.

Love,

Ted, Kim and Savannah Rabenold



Construction of our “outdoor classroom” at the Nsanga Agriculture Training Center



A pastor named Fredrick makes a living from grafting and budding fruit trees.



Boaz, planting pineapples at our Nsanga training center



Hauling materials to help in church roofing project



Ted and Kim taking some time off to relax



This man named Saa Nane lost his leg



We continue to plant coconut trees at our Lyanza AG Training Center