

## **Habari Yako? Greetings from Tanzania!**

Since our last newsletter, we've had some great experiences, including a camping trip to Lake Eyasi and the village of Magalata with our Maryknoll community, as well as some humbling and difficult challenges. Life here can be exciting and joyous, but it can also be difficult and every day is like a roller coaster ride. Some days we're up and others we're down.

## **Language Acquisition**

We are acquiring more and more language skills every day, but it never seems like enough when we struggle through the day-to-day tasks of speaking with people at work, making arrangements with our guard, trying to buy food in the markets or meeting people on the streets. To help us, we have signed up for bi-weekly tutoring. We only just started but have high hopes that it'll help bump our skills up to the next level.

## **Illness**

Over the past few months both of us have experienced a string of illnesses that have really worn us down, both health-wise and morale-wise. Urinary tract infections, colds, rashes, amoeba- between the two of us we've dealt with all of these; none are that serious if treated, but all can make you miserable, especially when the medicine makes you more sick than the actual ailment! We are fortunate to have the means to seek medical advice, which is a minimal fee here but is still a luxury that most Tanzanians do not have. Illness and death are a major part of life here and people die every day from preventable and curable illnesses. We recognize even more than before how fortunate we are to be in good health and have the choice and ability to make ourselves healthier if and when we become ill.

## **Burglary**

The largest morale-buster that we've faced so far is that at the end of July we were the victims of a burglary. Due to a bizarre series of events, we inadvertently left our back door unlocked one night. We awoke early the next morning to find our laptops, phones, camera, Chris's wallet and a few other items gone. Since we hardly ever forget to lock doors, our house was clearly being cased (and the thief admitted that fact after he was caught). Our dog, Smokey, was also poisoned (not-fatally) in what we assume was an attempt to disable her from interfering with the burglary.

The biggest hurdle we have been dealing with since the robbery has been regaining a sense of trust in people and, most especially, our neighbors. You may remember in our last newsletter we talked about how much we loved our house, our guard and our neighborhood. Having someone from the neighborhood break into your home while you sleep (and while your guard sleeps!) can really destroy your sense of safety and security in your own home. For a few weeks we felt the brunt of this. We were jumpy, anxious and emotional. Both of us had breaking points at some time and we even had some discussions about leaving Tanzania. Thankfully, with the support of our community here and our friends and family back home, we were able to refocus on the reasons why we are here. Our faith never says the work will be easy. We realize that things could have turned out much



*Katie and Lucia, a member of the Christian community of Watululu in the village of Magalata.*



*Chris and Mrs. Mbogoma conduct a visit to the home of a member of a women's cooperative group.*

worse, so we count our blessings. We also realize that pretty much everyone gets robbed here, and that we were not alone in our troubles; as an astute friend of ours pointed out, we may now feel closer to those whom we came to help than ever before.

## Ministries

In the last newsletter Katie talked about her work at Caritas and the goal she was hoping to accomplish of reinstating the Women's Coordinator. One of MKLM's philosophies is that we work alongside local people to help empower them to create lasting and sustainable change. Jobs are so scarce here for the locals that we never want to take the place of Tanzanian staff. That being said, after working at Caritas for 4 months it became increasingly clear that the organization was hoping Katie would step into the role of Women's Coordinator and they had lofty goals for her, goals that were inappropriate and too insurmountable for a first-time missionary.

After much thinking, praying, talking with family and getting advice and support from the MKLM community, Katie decided to leave Caritas and seek a position elsewhere. She has now joined an organization we have known about for years, Kivulini, a non-government organization working to help empower women and prevent gender-based violence in the Lake Zone area of TZ. Katie has only been working full time at the organization a few weeks, but she already feels like she is making a valuable contribution. Her ministry description will be hammered out in the next few weeks, so look for more information to come in future newsletters.



*Katie works at Kivulini, with her colleague Yusta, who was educated in TZ by the MK Sisters.*

Chris's placement at Capacitar Tanzania continues to provide interesting and meaningful work, but due to his limited language abilities and his resulting dependence on others, it's become clear that it is currently only a part-time placement (as his coworkers are only available to assist him on a part-time basis). His workload is slowly but surely increasing, but he is exploring the possibility of adding another part-time ministry to fill his remaining time. We'll provide a further update in our next newsletter.

So life here continues. Both of us have "doubled down" in the mission spirit and have decided to not let a few unfortunate events and callous acts of others prevent the work that we feel God has called to do. We thank everyone for his or her continued prayers and can say without a doubt that the support we receive from each of you is invaluable. We couldn't be here without it. Asante sana!

Chris and Katie Reid

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## PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING US IN MISSION!

Please remember that MKLM funds our travel, medical, and living expenses, and other costs associated with keeping me in mission. We ask that you consider donating to the Maryknoll Lay Missioners so that we, and missionaries like us, can continue to serve those in need world-wide.

You can now directly support our mission work with MKLM. Funds donated will either be applied directly to support our ministries or used to support the general fund of MKLM. Financial Support can be sent to MKLM, P.O. Box 307, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0307 or online at <http://tinyurl.com/ChrisandKatieReid>. Denote "Chris and Katie Reid- Mission Account" in the memo line or intention box to support us in mission. All contributions are tax deductible.

**ASANTE SANA! THANK YOU!**