

**Merry Christmas from Tanzania!**

It is quite amazing to think that we are approaching the one-year anniversary of our time here in Tanzania. Without the familiar signs of Christmas, it's easy to forget that it's winter and that Christmas is coming. Here in Tanzania, it's the rainy season and it has come with a vengeance! Rain is life here, especially for the 80% of the population who rely on agriculture for their livelihood. However, sometimes rain can equal death, especially when it comes so quickly and so hard that it washes houses down a hill in a matter of minutes. We are ever-mindful of our blessings each day: running water and electricity (most of the time), a roof over our heads, reliable transportation and a supportive community.

**Chris's Ministry Update**

Chris's ministry with Capacitar Tanzania really picked up during the summer. He continues to work with four different women's cooperatives as well as assisting a group of men start a beekeeping co-op. Chris and his boss, Mrs. Mbogoma, have conducted around 75 home visits and are now focusing on helping the women strengthen their groups. In October, two representatives from each group gathered to attend a seminar on the services offered by a local organization called SIDO (Small Industry Development Organization) and to share ideas and concerns with each other. This was a great success, and the representatives returned to their groups to share what they have learned. Three of the groups are currently working to draft constitutions and all groups are discussing ideas for group projects.

Since his Swahili is still basic, most of Chris's work has been behind the scenes. He works closely with his boss, Mrs. Mbogoma, to plan seminars, address concerns in establishing constitutions, and research local resources available to the women. He has created a set of self-guiding worksheets that will help the women discuss and determine the best group projects for them to pursue. Many women in the group have expressed gratitude for the help they are receiving from Capacitar. Chris would like to extend gratitude as well, for donations from our donors and supporters who helped pay for part of October's seminar as well as the printing of training manuals that have been crucial in helping Chris work with the cooperatives.

**BUG ATTACK!!**

A few weeks ago, Katie noticed that there were several bugs flying around the light in the living room. Within a minute or two, there were three times as many, and to our disbelief, we realized that the bugs were burrowing through the wood paneling in our dining room and bursting forth into our house! Within minutes, hundreds of bugs were swarming the room. (You can see them swarming the light in the picture to the right. You can also see Katie's look of disgust!) After consulting with our Regional Coordinator we learned the bugs were harmless. We retreated to our bedroom, waited an hour, went back out, only to find all the bugs dead and/or gone. And the next night, it happened again! Luckily, after 2 days, they were all gone. Apparently, people here fry up these bugs and eat them as a good source of protein. I think we'll pass on this local delicacy! *Maisha ya Tanzania!*



*Members of the women's group in Malya vote during a debate about the group's constitution.*



*Members of four different women's cooperatives listen to a representative of SIDO at a Capacitar TZ sponsored seminar.*



## Wageni wa Merikani!

We were thrilled to welcome our first visitors from the U.S, Katie's mom and step-dad, Jim and Diana. It was great to have them here for two weeks in November. We spent a wonderful week in the Serengeti (rainy season notwithstanding) and we were happy to introduce them to our MKLM community and our ministries. Katie and her mother had the opportunity to teach the leaders of the women's group of the Maryknoll parish in Mabatini how to make matchstick crosses. The women were very excited to learn this new craft and hope to sell them at the parish gift store to earn money for the group.



*Katie and her mother, Diana, discuss a project idea with women at the Maryknoll parish in Mabatini.*

## A Year of Gratitude

As our supporters know, we have had quite a year, a year marked by challenges, but certainly a year filled with blessings and growth. Here are a few reflections about our first year in mission:

- We are grateful to have witnessed the richness of the Kingdom of God. Whether in our local parish or with the Watatulu people in Magalata, our time here has been an eye-opening experience to the diversity within our Catholic church and the larger Christian community.
- We are ever more aware of the gift that it is to even have access to water and power. We are in the small majority of people in this country who have this luxury and we are infinitely grateful.
- We're thankful for the people we have met here in TZ. Our Maryknoll community. Our coworkers. The women with whom we work. The man on the daladala that translates for us when we don't understand. The woman that invites us into her unfinished, brick house and serves us huge meal. The shop owner who always greets us with a smile. We are thankful for these people. We may be different races, nationalities, or religions, but here in TZ, we're friends, brothers, and sisters.
- We are grateful for all the support we receive, not just in the good times, but also during the difficulties and struggles as we adjust to life here in TZ.



*Katie and Diana assist the leaders of the women's group in Mabatini to construct their crosses.*

We thank God for all these blessings, and we thank our friends, family, and supporters for accompanying us on this journey. We'll see you next year- 2013 is right around the corner!

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 missioners 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!**