

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM MWANZA, TANZANIA!

There is no snow on the ground here in Mwanza and we don't have commercials for toys and peppermint lattes but the signs of the holidays are here. The rains have turned the leaves on the trees green, tons of huge mangos are overflowing in piles in the markets (and on the trees), and soon there will be an uptick in goats outside of town as people prepare for their holidays feasts. After three years in Tanzania these signs of the changing season have become almost more normal to us than the signs we grew up with in the US.

This year-end newsletter has a lot of updates for the coming year. Change is coming in many ways! As you read this newsletter we wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season and a wonderful new year!

SPOTLIGHT ON LULU: MEET TEDDY DEOGRATIS

For over a year now, we have been talking about Katie's ministry, the Lulu project. We figured we are way overdue to introduce you to some of the participants of the program.

Teddy is one of the four Senior Facilitators (or "Wawezeshaji Wakuu") of the Lulu Project Mwanza. Teddy, age 24, started with the Lulu project in August of last year when she heard about the program from her sister-in-law (or "wifii"), Eliza. Teddy joined because she was at home with no work and a 4 month-old baby. She had finished schooling at Form 4 (basically the equivalent of high school in the US) and enjoyed school. Both of her parents were teachers at Makoko Seminary in Musoma (next to where Chris and Katie went to language school) but both of them died when Teddy was still in school. Teddy passed her examinations to go on with schooling and planned to study Science, but without parents she did not have the money for further studies. She moved to Mwanza to look for work. Once moving to Mwanza she got married and had a baby, Edison, who is now 1 ½ years old.



When Teddy joined the Lulu Project she was quickly identified and chosen to assist the facilitator with tasks during the lessons. When she graduated this past summer, Teddy became a Junior Facilitator and in the past few months has risen again to be a Senior Facilitator, responsible for overseeing 2 groups and 4 Junior Facilitators.

Teddy says that her goal in life is to go back to school to complete Form 5 and 6 so that she can go to college to become a doctor. "I love school so much. I really want to go back," she tells Katie. About the Lulu program Teddy says, "I like the cooperation I have with Katie and Corine (the Coordinator of the program). We help each other. They listen to me and I listen to them."

The Lulu Project is a great opportunity for a girl like Teddy. She's a quick learner, shares her ideas, and supports everyone in the program. As Mwezeshaji Mkuu, Teddy makes a good monthly salary. She also sells a lot of handcrafts, which supplements this income. Because of the skills she's learned about budgeting, planning for life's goals, and entrepreneurship, she has all the building blocks she needs to pull herself up. I truly believe she will achieve what she sets her mind to.

CRAFT FAIRS AND CRAFT ASSOCIATIONS

Both Chris and Katie have been busy lately preparing for yet another Craft Fair featuring handcrafts and arts made by local artists and craftspeople. Katie was working with her Lulu girls to get items ready for the Lulu projects booth (which did great this time around), while Chris has been super busy as part of the organizing committee. The event was a great success, with 26 charities and artists showcasing their products, three performance groups (kids were jumping through rings of fire!), and numerous raffles which helped cover the costs of the event.

Additionally, Chris has been integral part of a spin-off group working to establish an arts and crafts cooperative in Mwanza, called the Mwanza Charity Craft Association. This Association will be a great boon to local artists and charities as well as all the people whom these charities serve.



MINISTRY ACCOUNT UPDATE:

As always, we are grateful to our many supporters who make financial contributions to both the MKLM and to our specific ministry account to support our in country work. Beginning in 2015, all donations designated to our specific Ministry Account will equally split to support both our specific ministry projects (Lulu, Chanua, etc) and the general MKLM Missioner Sustenance Fund which helps to support us here in Tanzania. Additionally, the Missioner Sustenance Fund helps sustain all missioners in service, and supports the recruiting and training of new missioners, an essential part of keeping the good works of MKLM going for the future.

AND SPEAKING OF THE FUTURE...

Our contract with MKLM will be coming to an end in May 2015. **After serious deliberation, prayer, and discernment, we have decided that we will NOT renew our contract and will return to the US.** It was a hard decision, and one that we are still coming to terms with ourselves. Despite the challenges and hardships over the past 3 ½ years, Mwanza has become our home and we love our life and our work here. However, family and personal obligations that need our attention in the US are calling us back at this time. We ask for continued prayers for us and for our families as we adjust together to this upcoming change. And we ask for prayers for our ministries and for those people we leave behind in Mwanza, that the work we started here will continue in our absence.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

While we may be leaving in May of 2015, we still have six more months of ministry work to go, and we still need your support! You can now directly support our mission work with MKLM. Financial Support can be sent to MKLM, P.O. Box 307, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0307 or online at <http://tinyurl.com/ChrisandKatieReid>. Donations can be made to either to the **MKLM Missioner Sustenance Fund** or to our **Ministry Account** (see above for changes in the Ministry Account policies). Denote "*Chris and Katie Reid- Ministry Account*" in the memo line or intention box to specifically support our projects. All contributions are tax deductible.

As usual, we want to thank you all for your prayers, support, and contributions. We're just one small part of the whole that helps us answer the call to help the least of those among us. We couldn't do it without you! God bless!

Handwritten signature of Chris and Katie Reid.

ASANTE SANA! THANK YOU!