

Heri ya Mwaka Mpya!

Happy New Year from Tanzania. The new year has started off with a flurry of activities. Our region has grown by two as we welcomed two new missionaries to TZ. Chris serves as TZ's Regional Orientation Contact (ROC), which has him in charge of organizing all the activities for newly arriving missionaries. Of course, welcoming new folks to TZ involves **all** missionaries, so Katie was also very much involved in the preparations. Our two new missionaries arrived December 30th and were in Mwanza for just a week before heading out to language school for the next three months. Their week in Mwanza- which included such activities as a New Year's party, Mass, museums, and plenty of errands- kept Chris and Katie (and the whole region) busy.

Of course, we can't have too much of a busy streak without some illness cropping up and slowing us down. Since January, both Chris and Katie have had bouts of malaria, Chris had a bad case of amoeba, and each has had bacterial infections. Such is life in a tropical country.

Update on Chris's Ministry

In the last month I have taken a more active role in my ministries. For the last year, mainly due to language barriers, most of my work has been behind-the-scenes, providing feedback and planning activities. When we actually met with people, I generally have faded into the background while others did the talking. To become more involved with the cooperative groups, I have made it a point to lead a few meetings (or at least speak up more) either in Swahili or in English with the help of a translator. I've also become more involved with a youth group primarily composed of orphans.

At the end of last year, the staff made the decision to split one of our women's groups into two smaller groups. Since January, we have been working with each of these new groups to engage the women in the process of drafting constitutions so that these women have ownership of the groups. This has been an eye-opening experience. One of the central tenets of Social Work is provide education and encouragement for people (or groups, communities, etc) in order to empower them to help themselves. Knowing what I know about the women still did not prepare me for how utterly disenfranchised some of these women are. They're not hopeless- if they were they wouldn't keep striving to improve their families- but they seem convinced that they themselves have no part in the solution to their problems. It will take time and energy to get these women to a place where they believe they can actually help themselves- but that's why I'm here. The next step in working with these new groups is to teach them some new skills (such as simple record keeping) so that they may develop confidence in their own abilities. It must be noted that I couldn't do any of this without the help of my coworkers; this work is decidedly a team effort.



Katie, along with our two new missionaries, Veronica and Rich, listen to a tour guide at the Sukuma Museum in Bujora.



Chris and his coworker Mary pose along with members of one of the two new co-ops.

Update on Katie's Ministry

The past few months have been busy ones at Kivulini Women's Rights Organization, my work site. November 25th is International Day Against Violence Against Women and December 10th is International Human Rights Day. Every year between these two dates organizations around the world commemorate a campaign called 16 Days of Activism. This time is marked with various activities, marches, celebrations and other events to bring attention to the issue of violence against women. This year Kivulini supported a countrywide caravan that transported advocates, lawyers, police officers, politicians and survivors of violence around Tanzania to hold rallies and demonstrations about the rights of women. The activities were very successful and brought a lot of important information to the community.



Members of the Caravan travel on the back of a police truck holding signs about violence against women.

A lot of my time over the past few months has been spent trying to drum up and sustain organizational support such as international volunteers and continued funding. Most crucially, the transition from one year to another marks the turnover of a lot of our grants. Due to struggles in the past, Kivulini has lost several of our long-term major donors. I am working closely with the Executive Director to fix past discrepancies and put systems in place to closely monitor our successes so we can let donors and the community know about our great work. Over the next year I will be training staff on critical professional skills and currently I am helping to write new proposals and grants to help restore the organization to full funding. By helping the organization to find international supporters I am ensuring that Kivulini and the important work we do will continue long after I or any of the other current staff have left the organization.

Thank you again for all your prayers and support!
Katie and Chris Reid

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!