



Newsletter: August
2008 Douglas McFalls

USA: P.O. Box 45751 – Seattle, WA 98145 Tel. 206.227.0082
Tanzania: P.O. Box 233 – Mtwara, Tanzania
Kenya: P.O. Box 142 – Loitokitok, Kenya

Email: Douglas@ADEAAfrica.org
www.ADEAAfrica.org

*ADEA is a registered 501c3 Not for Profit and all contributions are tax deductible
Your support is greatly appreciated.*

AUGUST 2008 NEWSLETTER

No, you did not miss the July newsletter. I skipped July. I'm swamped with activity here and instead of carrying the shame of a late newsletter, I have the good feeling of actually getting a newsletter out early in the month! Thus, August 2008!

Well ...as you can see, I didn't quite succeed. It's now 8:30 p.m. August 20th. Our MaKuYa festival is just nine days away. We are launching a performing arts festival celebrating the traditional performing arts of the Mtwara region of Tanzania. As you can imagine, there's a lot to be done. I am trying to make the venue (a half completed stadium) look and be festive. Thus my office is full of local handmade items: I've had rice cleaning trays (nyundo) painted to be signs and targets for the bow and arrow shooting gallery (still the common devise for hunting) for which I have had 100 arrows made, trimmed with guinea fowl (kanga) feather and tipped with foam (for safety). Locally made tin plates have been painted with various wildlife for the sling shot gallery. Grass ring (susu) normally used for holding pots, will now be tossed over standing dust booms (fagio ndani) and gourds (vibuyu). The small brooms are not unlike giant curtain tassels; I am thinking to hang them on long strands of local string – but I ask myself, instead of seeing beauty, will they just wonder “Why did they hang up a bunch of brooms?” I have miles (sorry kilometers) of the grass band (mtefu) the women normally sew together to make mats; we'll be making them into head bands for the visitors. I have spinning tops made from gourds, rattles made from mango pits and fabric made of tree bark.



The women tailors of ADEA took on the challenge of learning to sew shirts. They completed 100 of them and are now quite skilled at it. Another tailor has taken on 250 shorts. The local stadium has had a wonderful facelift with restored and improved painting (by ADEA painters), and is receiving cleaning like it has never known (much to the chagrin of the local cleaning crew that opted for the job – not realizing the extent of my standards). Several ADEA carvers from the villages are responsible for the building of 6 large bandas (wall-less huts) for display

and producers of local items. One banda will be exclusively for ADEA - more to let local people know what we are doing than for sales. The ADEA banda will be manned by artisans all day. We will shut our workshops and move the tables, paints, sewing machines ... everything that's needed to work on orders and do them right there.

Mtwara has never seen anything like this, as well as our level of professionalism – contracts and receipts for everyone! [Makondefestival.blogspot.com]



This will be a wonderful two days. 15 performing groups are coming - the majority from villages five or more hours away! Transport, housing and meals must be arranged for over 250 performers! This festival is about celebrating the traditional performing arts – so the elders will hold a special place of honor. It's our first time around, so much of our efforts are logistical –nonetheless it will be wonderful, and I'll do my best to make it look super! The next letter will tell you how it went.

MAASAI BOMA SCHOOLS - Brief

Tipape continues to manage the school wonderfully. We have begun the last term of this year. With the support of many we have paid our teachers through the year, acquired the workbooks needed and have finished one new classroom and will begin a second very soon.

The challenge for the upcoming year to cover teachers need for increased salaries, curriculum and additional students and teachers is always before us. But we've made it so far, and so much of that is due to Tipape's dedications and his willingness to grow and learn.

I must leave you with that before this get further delayed.

Douglas – Kupikita (Makonde language for someone running about from activity to activity)

PS. On a much sadder note: My father, who I returned home in 2007 to care for and keep company, has been diagnosed with cancer. It appears to be very advanced, so it is only a question of time. I cannot thank God enough for the incredible year we had together- a time to become friends and get over any issues of the past. Because his health was not solid at that time, we said our goodbyes before I returned to Tanzania, so I won't be returning home immediately. Instead, in my heart, I shall dedicate this first festival to him. But please pray for him and my family.

