

# Prayer Letter

September 2007

## Karubuni

*A dim light crept through the haziness of the lantern glass, just enough to unveil the first paragraph or two and leave a shadow cast on the rest. Nevertheless, with strained eyes she began reading the most eloquent and wonderful story. A story about God creating man in His image and loving us so much He sent His Son Jesus to take our sins upon Himself. And, by doing this He turned God's wrath away from us so that we may live in God's presence eternally.*

*The children sat listening to Mouwa the oldest read the story of God's love. There was an occasional stirring to re-*

*position oneself or an exchange turn to hold the lantern, but mostly they sat and listened. When the totality of the story had been read there was a buzz of conversation and charades as the children recounted Jesus' death on the*

*cross. Even little Mariamo curled upon my lap joined in, touching each of her palms with her finger as is saying, "Jesus was nailed here," and pushing her hand firmly down upon her head as if she had read it herself, "Jesus was made to wear a crown of thorns."*



Mouwa reading the gospel in Swahili with Norloo (behind), Adija (facing camera), Dulla, and Paulina my roommate listening in.

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**Important Info...**  
All packages that are mailed to the P.O. Box must be 8 1/2 x 11 or smaller. Letters are very much appreciated as I can read them over and over again. If you send large packages to the Kenya or New York address, remember that I must pay to get them out of customs.

## The rest of the story...

This was my wonderful experience here in Mitengwe (Mineengway) last week! My housemate Paulina and I had borrowed children gospel books in Swahili from our team leader only a few hours before. On this particular night they had gathered on our porch and were enjoying sharing our dinner. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will help them to understand and believe the truth they heard that night.

Five of the children – Mouwa (14), Dulla (11), Arridi (7), La Jabu (5) and Miriamo (4) are extended family members to one another being raised primarily by their grandmother Aisha and live next door to us. Please remem-

ber this family in your prayers as they are in great need of the Spirit's transformation. Their grandfather is an alcoholic and their grandmother is liberal in beating them with a stick. Unfortunately, this form of "discipline" is acceptable in the Zaramo culture. Like us, the rest of their neighbors are fatigued by the constant verbal fights and screaming but because of their communal worldview much is tolerated. As well, Paulina and I desire wisdom in knowing how to intervene during "discipline" in a culturally appropriate way that we might maintain good relations with these neighbors in hope of sharing the gospel one day. Please pray as the Spirit leads you.

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## The people...

As a side note, the Zaramo children are not required to go to school so many do not. Those who do learn to read, read Swahili, but unfortunately, the overall Zaramo literacy rate is dismissal. Our team leader struggled to find just five women who could read and write to help us with language learning. Kizaramo thus, is an unwritten language. The only true portion found is a tiny composition of a translation of the Book of John. However, this translation was completed in an old and obsolete form of Kizaramo. Praises though!! SIL (Wyclife) has announced plans to increase their staff in a year and would like to begin written language work among the Zaramo!! So potentially, our team could assist in written language work before we leave – what a tremendous thought! Of nota-

ble interest as well were the discussions of an African hosted (non-western) conference held early August in the interior of Africa. Among the attendees was a missionary colleague with EFCM our Tanzanian sponsor and authority (as they are legally recognized in Tanzania by the government). He reported that the conference delegates from numerous counties desired to build attention and focus for evangelization and church planting on primarily six unreached peoples. The Zaramo were among them! I truly believe that you and I are a part of a God focused mission in reaching out to the Zaramo and that He is pushing this unreached peoples to the forefront. Thank you for being a part of this and allowing me to be here with them!

## Life here...

My language work continues at a snail's pace (mole mole [molay molay] – slowly slowly) but I'm marching on. I recently visited a non-Zaramo village an hour away for their larger produce market. I happened to be walking along when a group of women whimsically said to me in Kizaramo, "How is your morning?" And, when I correctly answered them back in Kizaramo they were so astonished and excited they began shouting and slapping each others hands. They loved it! I felt like a star



for a day...until they rattled out an entire paragraph and I was utterly lost. Too, I'm adapting to life in Tanzania better everyday. The second photo is of me in my kitchen making homemade bread (for the first time!). I had to cook it in a pseudo-oven – small pot turned upside down in big pot with another big pot for a top. It was quite tasty by the way!

*Please continue  
to be in prayer  
for our team, the  
Zaramo, and  
God's work here.*

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## ***Praises***

- Team starting to relax and enjoy themselves
- Sleeping better through the night
- SILs up and coming work
- Needed future literacy work
- Zaramo focus in missions



Me and Salome' our friend, house helper, and one of only two Christian Zaramos in Mitengwe & Mezenga.

Salome' and Malena (the 2 Christians) were ostracized horribly initially by their families for their decision to become Christians. Malena can read and write so she reads the Bible to Salome'.

## ***Prayer Requests***

- Aisha and family
- Ability to minimize and gnat problem
- Language learning
- Ability to encourage others (not my strong suite)
- Troublesome tooth that's bothering me
- Couch (Kooch) family – team members away for 3 weeks for medical reasons

*Pray for language learning.  
In Him,  
Monica*

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Tanzania, Africa**

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Kids playing with balloons on the front porch



view of Mt Kilimanjaro on our way to TIMO admin camp EnGedi for our team retreat.



Our guests house at EnGedi