

Prayer Letter

December 2007

Karubuni

On Nov 23 our team took a field trip to visit the old Lutheran mission station started in 1895 in Maneromango, the heart of Zaramo territory. We had spent some time studying past mission efforts and their apparent failure amongst the Zaramo. The Maneromango mission is still open, and located an hour away from us. (see pic #1) However, the remnants of the mission are quite dilapidated with few workers. (see pic #2) Man-

eromango is a town divided with the “Christians” living on one side and the Moslems on the other. [Connection to their respective religion is based on the location of their homestead and not out of their own convictions.] Our time visiting the mission station was a somber event as we each pondered what could have been a thriving Zaramo church today.

Inside this issue:

History with the Zaramo	2
Praises	3
Prayer requests	3
Pictures	4
My address	4



Myself & Tanya by the Maneromango sign.



What's left of old dorms.

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.



Possibly the old missionary residence. Before plans changed our team was scheduled to spend our first week in Africa here! Thank you Lord for changes!

A look back at almost 150 years of missionary work amongst the Zaramo (info from Ethnographic Study of Zaramo by L.W. Swantz):

Lutheran Church:

- 1862 mission work started in Dar
- 1887 established settlement SE of Dar in Magogoni
- 1887 (approx) Lutheran HQ and city's first hospital set up in N. Dar
- 1892 settlement established in Kisarawe (1 hour away; we live in Kisarawe district)
- 1895 a church, school and hospital set-up in Maneromango
- From these 3 centers above 38 churches and preaching places, 2 upper primary schools, 7 primary schools, 12 bush schools (remote), and 1 girls home craft school were established
- The Lutherans also opened a hospital, dispensary, trade school, farming projects, wood carving school, furniture making center, and printing press

Roman Catholic:

- 1863 the Sultan of Zanzibar granted permission for a mission station to be established in Bagamoyo (N of Dar)
- The station set-up an orphanage, agriculture and training station
- 1888 mission work began at Pugu (W of Dar) and in Dar itself
- (year unknown) a large secondary school formed in Pugu
- (year unknown) in Dar a large church program developed with a cathedral that seats 2,000, a dispensary, orphanage, trade school, farm school, community center and bookstore, 7 churches and several preaching places

Anglican Church:

- 1893 2 settlements in Mtoni & Kichwele

in Dar formed

- 1925 a college formed at Minaki
- 1931 a medical school and hospital opened at Minaki

Overall:

- 1900s L.C. work at Maneromango seemed to be most vibrant of missionary work
- Missionary work continued throughout 1900-1940s with great interruption of mission work & services during WWI & WWII
- 1950s leadership began to shift hands from western missionaries to African pastors, but few mature Zaramo believers were available
- 1950s Finnish missionaries also came & attempted to revive services sus-

suspended during the WWs

- 1964 last western missionaries left Maneromango station. Subsequently, services ended & membership declined in the L.C.

- 1960s great political change in Tanzania occurred as it became fully independent of colonial powers

- Little is known of mis-



sions in subsequent years

A Sharp Contrast:

- Islam afforded the opportunity for Zaramo to maintain their animistic practices & have multiple wives
- Islam was almost wholly accepted between 1890-1925 → within 35 years.

****Today, less than 1% of Zaramo are Christians****

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

Praises

- Dulla is getting close to a decision for Christ.
- Mwanaisha let me read John 3:16 to her in Swahili publicly several times. AND, she's enjoying looking at pictures in the story Bible we have.
- God is sustaining our team through relational and familial conflicts and helping us to resolve those together.
- A recent team prayer meeting was a great encouragement AND allowed us an opportunity to acknowledge personal struggles and be prayed for and held accountable for growth.
- Opportunity to share upcoming Christmas meal and the gospel with Zaramo friends.

Prayer Requests

- Pray that our team would overcome moments of feeling defeated; team unity
- Pray for those mentioned under Update
- Pray that my friend Mwanaisha would be willing to start Bible storying with Emily.
- LaJabu (Tim's friend) is back and starting up Bible storying again after many distractions.
- Pray that my housemate Paulina and I may continue to foster a friendship of trust.
- Dan's (teammate) friend Lukas recently lost his wife. Dan has been able to encourage him in God's word. Pray that Lukas will be open to what he "has heard before."
- Pray for opportunities for Paulina to begin sharing the gospel with Momma Halima.
- Pray we can find and buy a cat soon – we've got a rat problem.

Updates

- **Dulla** (receiving Bible teaching from Tim) – recently witnessed to by a former Muslim Imam (now Christian). Dulla was asked, "If you're driving and come to an unknown intersection and see two men, one lying down fully covered up, the other standing, from whom do you ask directions? The man still living; Christ is still living!" Dulla has shared with some of his close friends that he is studying the Bible and has even taken a Swahili Bible home.
- **Amina** (in-law of my neighbors) – sadly, she did not take the Swahili Bible home that was given to her by Emily. Emily feels she may be afraid of repercussions.
- **Miriam** (our neighbor who believes our landlord has cursed her and, therefore, won't set foot in our house) – still won't visit us, but her daughter did! 😊
- **Bibi Aisha** (landlord's wife) – she had a bad case of malaria in Oct. I believe she still hasn't fully recovered. The good coming from that → she hasn't been yelling much or bothering the kids.

Clarification – In the Sept newsletter I wrote that SIL hopes to begin translation and literacy work among the Zaramo in the next 1-2 years. The translation organization is actually Pioneer Bible Translators (PBT).

*Pray for language
learning,
In Him,
Monica*

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The Maneromango church. The building fell apart once and this one was rebuilt as a replica of the old.



Arthur Worms was one of the missionaries we read about. I can't imagine how saddened He would be today by the lack of progress made amongst the Zaramo.

More pictures have been posted on my website. Please check it out...

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monicamiller/](http://mysite.verizon.net/resxpvo/monicamiller/)