

Letters from Overseas

Ron and Linda Locke Write from Tanzania

December 2010

An Advent Letter from Overseas

Karibu! It is hard to believe that we have been in Tanzania for six months already. Time is flying by. The picture below is what is called a "Christmas Tree" in Tanzania as it blooms at Advent.



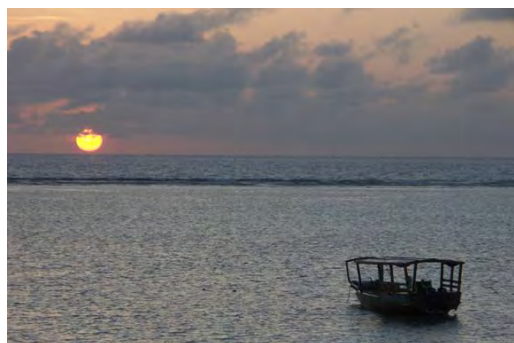
On November 14 we travelled from Dodoma to Dar es Salaam to meet Wendy Gichuru at the airport. Wendy is our United Church of Canada regional coordinator for Africa. It was great to finally her meet face to face and talk about Tanzania. The next day we drove back to

Dodoma. While Wendy was here, we visited a CCT project addressing gender justice issues in Kiteto District. This project is supported by Mission and Service and co-funded by CIDA, and provides micro-credit to community groups while tackling challenging gender issues in the community. We also visited the Morogoro Women's Training Center, an autonomous unit of the CCT that provides economic and literacy training for women.



On November 17 we attended the Round Table meeting of CCT and their partners, on the island of Zanzibar. It was a great opportunity to meet the CCT partners and learn more about how the

partnership works. We were pleased to see the significant way the United Church's Mission and Service Fund supports the CCT financially as well as by providing two wonderfully gifted missionaries to serve with them in Dodoma. We stayed in a beautiful setting looking out over the Indian Ocean, and the ocean breeze provided a very welcome respite from the extreme heat.



We're looking forward to our first Christmas in Tanzania. We have been thinking of buying a can of fake snow for a little touch of home. Ron's sister and her husband are coming to visit and will be here to help us celebrate. As we approach the Christmas season, we are anxious to learn how Tanzanians herald the birth of Jesus and look forward to joining with them in celebration.



Our Swahili lessons continue. We have a tutor, who comes to our office after work three times a week to teach us, and I think we are improving. We are able to go shopping and do the necessary things.

Ron's work on the new CCT website has progressed well. On December 3 he posted it to the Web server, albeit with a limited amount of content. Now the Department Heads need to get information to Ron so it can be entered and voila, CCT will have a new, updated webpage. Have a look at the new site (www.cct-tz.org).

The CCT work on many programs continues, including the HIV/AIDS "Land for Life" project that we are enthusiastic about. The solar LED lights have been ordered and are on the way from Light Up the World.

We wish everyone a joyous and blessed Christmas season!

Bwana asifiwe!

Ron & Linda Locke are United Church of Canada overseas personnel serving with the Christian Council of Tanzania. The work of this ecumenical partner and the work of overseas personnel are made possible through your gifts to The United Church of Canada's Mission and Service Fund.

