



Habari from the Ziems

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Todd & Ann Ziems

P.O. 1764 or 4079 Cemetery Rd.
Morogoro, Tanzania Fowlerville, MI 48836

E-mail: sonintl@gmail.com

Web: www.son-international.org

It has been a long time since we have sent out a "formal" newsletter. There are so many things that we could share! That said, I thought I would start by sharing a few my experiences during one 24-hour period last week (skip down to the pics if all these words scare you).....

- Sent a message to our team early morning that we would be late as there were a few things we needed to do before coming out to the workshop, so please start without us. Confirmed with the owner of our favorite hardware store that they opened at 8:30 am. At 8:45, there was no sign of life, except the street sweeper was moving the trash and dust around in front of the door, sweeping it into a pile and then walking away, most likely in search of his morning tea. Eventually, the owner shows up greets us with a smile and after waiting for all of the locks to be unlocked and the doors opened, we learn our order that supposedly came in two days ago, is not, well..., not really ready. We decide to come back later.*
- Arrived at the workshop for the last few minutes of a very animated bible-study, with the weekly treats, brownies and bananas! Had the planning meetings for the week, learning that we were running lower than expected on several of the key supplies of course no one really knows why we are running low..., so will need to go to Dar this week instead of next. Headed back into town to complete the errands and shopping. The order was now ready and mostly right. But they don't have the other things we needed... particularly the special "hangers" to hang the calendars on the cement wall. We head to another favorite hardware store ... got a great parking space, but no they didn't have the hangers either! The planning calendars will lay on the table for a little while longer.*
- Now for the tiles.....the "guest" bathroom at our house has been, well lets just say, very unpleasant for more than 8 months now and we finally agreed with the landlord that we would manage the project, so maybe it will get completed in the future. We do tend to have guests quite frequently! Picked out the tiles, negotiated a price a bit lower than asking, but not as low as we would have liked....paid for the tiles...and then went to the warehouse, a few blocks away, to pick them up. 20 minutes later we are still waiting. We will be back later.*
- Stopped by a very solidly built policewoman immediately after pulling out onto the main road headed toward town at the end of the day, with a full load of SON team members, to be dropped at designated spots along the way. Apparently there was a VIP coming through and the road needed to be cleared, a fairly common practice. After waiting for more than 25 minutes, (2 of the SON Staff have already gotten out and decided to walk home as it will be faster) and watching the rain clouds getting closer and closer, one vehicle with flashing lights sped by. Anticipating that the rest would soon follow and we would be on our way, we turn on the car and start to inch towards the road.But it was not to be! Just then, someone in the car tells me that the sand truck is at our house, (we need sand to install the tiles). But Todd can't find the truck, and it's a really big truck, so it is definitely at the wrong house! After more minutes passed another speeding car passes, but we are waiting still.*

Staff member squeezes inside the truck, while two are still outside trying to stay dry in the crazy rain! Then we see the two cars that passed returning just as fast! Okay so now truly, we will be able to go...there must have been a change in plan! But no, we continue to wait! There is a river starting to run underneath the truck because the rain is so strong! Finally after we have been sitting there for nearly an hour, other vehicles begin to appear and our very competent policewoman decides that we can go!

- As a result of the rain, the road is flooded with several "rivers" running over it. Traffic is crazy. Pulling over so SON team members can get out becomes a bigger challenge than usual...flashers are used, to make sure we are seen and no one hits us! Finally after a much longer drive than expected, I arrive home, explaining to my wonderful husband, who has successfully picked up the tiles and found the truck with the sand, it apparently had decided to visit the Regional Commissioners House, first, that there is a problem with our truck. It is really difficult to shift from gear to gear so I didn't back it in through the gate, which I really hate to do anyway! And then, since it was "vegetable day", the day that I get fresh vegetables from the farmer on the mountain, I spend the next hour picking out the worms and washing (triple rinsing) lettuce and a variety of other vegetables including leeks, spring onions and cilantro. My poor husband didn't get dinner until after 8:30 pm! And yes salad was the main course!*
- The next morning... After Todd does a few maneuvers and says it's fine, I'm convinced that there really is nothing wrong with the truck. I take off for the workshop, successfully avoiding the fancy cars parked along the road next to the Regional Commissioners house, that's typically where the VIP's stay when in Morogoro, as well as the women walking to the markets with their bananas and produce on their heads, getting all the way into town without hitting anyone! I stop at the roundabout, by the bus stand in the middle of town, a very busy place in the morning, because the traffic has stopped in front of me.....And guess what, I can't get the truck into gear. Mmmm...not good, I try hard not to panic, as I am on the main road and there is no way around me, expect maybe for the pikipiki's (motorcycle's) if they squeeze.....Put on the flashers. Yup, I've really learned how to use them lately! I continue to try to get into gear....no luck. I'm doing everything I can, (including praying!) but it's just not happening. The crowd is beginning to gather and the horns are honking.....Finally one friendly man comes to the window and asks me what the problem is....I explain in my broken Swahili....he rallies a few people and pushes me out of the way....into a no-parking zone.....and then about 20 more young men come running to "help" push to the parking zone! But apparently, since I was talking in Swahili, they let me get off with an asanteni sana and sina pesa! Which means thank you all so much and I have no money. I called Todd and waited, notifying the SON Team that we would be late once again!Of course when Todd arrived, he got the car into gear right away, but we did go directly to Babu's garage! It's something about the seals on the clutch.....*
- Upon arrival at the workshop, things are already in full swing...after a quick tour to say good morning to everyone, and not so gently remind a few people to throw things away and pick up their messes.... I notice the caterpillars. We are trying to grow bougainvillea over the chainlink to make a fence and I was looking to see if we needed to spray the flowers.... First I see just a few and then notice that there are more than a few! A lot more than a few! They are literally everywhere! Millions of them! They are even crawling up the wall of the office! We are being invaded!*



PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:



The Rainwater harvesting system on the filter workshop was completed just in time for the first big rain! All of the tanks were completely full after the second rain! We could use more water storage space! The sand drying pad is completed and in use. We are still working on getting the sand sorter running.....in an effort to "improve it", it seems that we have a had a bigger project than expected! Maybe this week.....

OTHER BITS OF NEWS:

- Well as you most likely know, we started making filters again in January. We have made 186 to date and EVERY SINGLE ONE is as near to perfect as you can get! We have made no repairs at all! Thanks to Karim & the SON Technicians for doing such a great job! We think it is the result of doing the "slump" test.....to make sure the concrete has the right amount of water.
- We had more than 40 people attend the first Bio-Sand Filter Seminar in January and have had many other seminars in many other villages and communities throughout Morgoro Region over the past months. We receive requests daily asking "How can I get a filter?"
- The first WASH (that's short for water, sanitation & Hygiene) program of the year has been completed at 3 local primary schools. We will meet with the teachers to review and evaluate. And hope to begin another session at the same schools in a few weeks.



- Translation & recordings of a set of animated videos created by CAWST explaining the basics of the Bio-Sand Filter. Look for the finished products to be available online soon! A great job by Niwaely, Joyce and Charles!
- Karim, Joyce & Pastor Mnyanyi attended the ABINET learning exchange in Bomet, Kenya last month. It was a great experience for them to learn about others who do similar work in other countries, They came away with some great ideas! We will hold a SON learning exchange on March 22nd, World Water Day! So they can share with the rest of the SON Team.



- We have a new "guard dog"..his name is Smokey.
- Introducing several new SON Team members.....Deo, Lighton, and Niwaely
- Our technicians have new workshop attire and safety shoes!
- Emmanuel has been making great use of his projector and speaker over the past month. sharing the story and hope of Jesus through film to more than 1600 people in February.



Please continue to pray with us as we give HIM thanks and praise.....

- For the SON team as they teach seminars, make & install filters, and share the love of Jesus.
- To establish additional effective partnerships to serve the people of Tanzania with clean water.
- For the people of Mkoko Village. Pray that Evangelist Jonathon will be effective in sharing the Living Water. Pray for us and for the hearts of the Mkoko Community to be open as we organize another outreach and education event at the end of this month.
- For provision of all the resources needed to complete this phase of the property development, properly compensate SON Team members, continue with the WASH school program as well as make and install filters.
- Praise God that he has sent the rains...there is still much more needed, but it seems that the farmers have hope for a good harvest and planting has begun in earnest all around Morogoro.



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To partner with us financially, please make checks out to SON International and send to the U.S. address or visit our website and use paypal.



Revelation 22:17
"And the Spirit and the Bride say "Come!" And let him who hears say "Come", whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life"

