



## HABARI FROM THE ZIEMS - JANUARY 2019

### Happy New Year from Tanzania!

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." We are holding onto this promise that God gave to the Israelites as we start this New Year. But we need to continue reading a bit further ...."Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." These verses are a reminder to us of what we need to do each and everyday of this year. Please join us in this new year as we call upon the Lord, pray to him and seek Him with the assurance that he will listen and fulfill the plans he has made for us so that we will have hope for the future, no matter where we are!

### MKOKO VILLAGE

Our ministry work and outreach in Mkoko continues! In November the SON Team was able to visit those with filters, have an end of the year event at the primary school, show the Jesus Film and work with the women of the village. Neema has been doing a wonderful job of community education with these beautiful women!





## WASH "Road Show"

A year or so ago we were asked to participate in an awareness project showcasing various Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Products which are available in Tanzania as part of the USAID Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (WARIDI) It was a long process with more than a little frustration on our part. We

really were beginning to think it would never happen! But in December the road show actually started! Rock, a SON educator and technician has been participating over the last month. He has been touring around the Morogoro Region with a group of others, moving every other day to a different location with loud speakers, tents, several other WASH products and of course our Bio-Sand Filter. In the morning, presentations on the products are done with local business men and village leaders and then booths are set up for people to come and see the various products. We are hoping to generate some significant interest in the Bio-Sand Filter through this project. So far it seems that the bio-sand filter is a big hit!





## SON Team Christmas Party

We typically close the SON Workshops during Christmas & New Years. It is a requirement of the Tanzanian government that all full time employees are allowed one month of holiday per year, so traditionally we have had a Christmas Party and then everyone gets a month to spend time with their families at home or visiting relatives living in other places. We had a fun day of scripture reading, songs, games and a special dinner of chicken, pilau and of course cake!



## A Visit from Emmanuel

Emmanuel has been diligently working near Bukoba Town in northern Tanzania since February of last year to establish a more permanent filter workshop in cooperation with the Kimondo Children's Centre. We are praying for additional funding resources to make this workshop a blessing to the people in this area. Emmanuel and Hilda along with their children visited us during the Holiday! They were able to spend some time with Hilda's family for Christmas and then stopped in Morogoro on their way to visit family in Dar. It was so very nice to see them and get to know their children a bit. It had been a very long time since we had seen them. We chatted, read a few books and showed them a bit of Morogoro Town. The finger puppets, balls and Todd's exercise machine were a big hit! They ate "wazungu" food for a couple of days and survived Simba the HUGE crazy dog. Traveling around Tanzania with 4 children and all the bags, using buses and all that goes with it was quite the adventure!





SOME FAMILIES WHO RECENTLY RECEIVED FILTERS





The entire SON Team in Morogoro under the leadership of Karim, Charles and Dennis did a great job of keeping things running during our time in Michigan. Seminars were held, filters built and installed. There were several challenges, mostly involving repairs of vehicles!



The SON Morogoro Team built and

installed a large scale sand filter at a fish farm near Morogoro Town. The owner of the farm had been using one of our household bio-sand filters for several years. He came to see us to ask if we could help him with the fish pond water. The purpose is to clean the water and recycle it back into the fish ponds. While Todd worked on the design and build, Karim supervised the final installation. There are several other people and organizations that have inquired about larger scale filters. We are looking at how to make this a part of our ministry.



As many of you know, Todd's mom, Chris Ziems left this world on November 7, 2018 after nearly 87 years. It was a wonderful blessing for us to be able to spend several weeks with her sharing memories, helping with everyday activities, watching Jeopardy and chatting. This picture was the day Todd took her on a fall color tour. We are so grateful for everyone who was praying for us during that time.

Your prayers are so very much appreciated.....

- Continue to pray for Emmanuel and his family as they serve in Bukoba. Additional funds are needed to fully support them in the work they are doing, especially for school fees, workshop infrastructure, continued good health and a dedicated assistant for the filter training and installation.
- For Dismas and the families of the SON team in Dodoma. A relocation of the Dodoma workshop will be needed in the next few months. Please pray that the resources needed to support the 3 young families ( Siamon & John) that are serving in the Dodoma area will be provided. Please pray for the truck they are using to continue to be reliable and safe.

- Mkoko Village Outreach at the end of this month. Please pray for Neema as she works with a group of the village women. That she will have the opportunity to share Jesus with them and that their hearts will be open and receptive to him.
- Pray for Todd & I as we are making decisions about the future of SON in Tanzania. Pray that all of the financial resources will be made available for the work that God has put on our hearts. It is HIS ministry. Pray that we will be able to really give it all to Him.
- Pray for wisdom and grace for all of the SON Team as we travel around for filter delivery and education seminars...the police are increasingly difficult and stopping vehicles for no reason trying to find things wrong. This can be very difficult, frustrating and time consuming.
- Pray for additional financial resources to be provided as we grow and expand our WASH, Community Education, and Puberty Education activities in the coming year.
- For the entire SON Team especially those in the area of leadership. Karim, Charles & Dennis.
- Pray for God to be glorified through all of our activities as we serve him by Serving Our Neighbors.

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."

Revelation 22:17

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