

# My First Month

Greetings!

Wow! Over a whole month has passed since my arrival in Arusha. There have been so many wonderful and stressful occurrences since my arrival, I am not sure where to start. Here are a few highlights: (Note: I have been trying to send this update for over a week now so a bit of this is old. I have added in () some new information. Thank you for your understanding.)

The Office:

I have had the chance to work with Scott most days as I learn the procedures and needs. Now that it has been a month, I have gotten to participate in everything from going through the filing system to payroll and the Tanzanian income tax system to a visit from Doug G. out of our Indy office. I feel like I have a much better understanding now and will be moving forward with finding an accounting program, setting up the library and streamlining processes and procedures.

Unga Limited:

You may already be keeping up on the work in Unga through Pam's blog. We have had the first vision seminar, which was very successful. We were blessed to hear on Thursday that we have a group out of the seminar that want to proceed with the one-week training class that comes next. Praise the Lord!

Also on our Thursday visit, we had the chance to have lunch with Mama Ibrahim. It was one of those days where you are hit with a bit of culture shock.

Even though we were invited, they were obviously not prepared for us. We were seated in the 12x8 room that Mama Ibrahim calls home. The room is so full with a double bed, couch, two chairs, two china cabinets and a TV stand that there really isn't room for people. Mama Ibrahim seats us on the couch and proceeds to turn on the TV to the "Asian Flava" music videos, then leaves us. Thirty minutes later, the hindi music dies down and we are suddenly invaded by 3 young ladies who act as if Pam and I are not even there. They quickly change the channel and we are forced to join their lunch time showing of a Tanzania soap opera! Is this for real? After thirty more minutes of Pam praying for the electricity to go off (a rare prayer indeed!), the show ended and lunch is served. We are once again reminded that we are in Tanzania as we each receive a heaping plate of ugali (maize meal mush), a spinach like veggie, and 3 samaki each (small fish that still have their heads and tails and have been dried). I finished the veggies and half of the ugali, but just couldn't do the fish. Mama Ibrahim joined us then ~ laughed at my "attempt" to eat the fish, took it and tore off the meat, which she returned to my plate. I ate the fish. Let me tell you, that meal stayed with me for the rest of the day and part of the next!!

Swahili School:

I began Swahili School on Monday. So far we have made it through greetings, simple introductions, animals, bugs and today - short sentences. Class moves fast, but I already feel so much more competent in the language. I am in a class with four others who are all non-Christians. I am really enjoying them and the opportunity to witness in a non-threatening environment. I drive to/from here each day, a 30 - 45 min drive, and will do so five days a week for a total of three weeks. Class ends on September 29. (I have now finished

my first week of Swahili School and moved into week 2. Things are going well, even though I feel a bit overwhelmed at times. Today we spent an hour each speaking with an individual native speaker... a bit challenging, but for the most part could understand and make myself understood! It was a good feeling. I am very tired, but all is well.)

Work Permit:

I HAVE IT!! It came to the office just yesterday! Praise the Lord!! Thank you all for your prayers on this matter. Now I just need to arrange for my shipment to come within the next 90 days.

Prayer Requests:

My brain as I learn Swahili!

Finding a sufficient accounting program

A smooth transition into the office and life after school

Travel to/from school

All of the shipment details to go smoothly

Setting up of the one week training in Unga and that the vision will be caught by all attending.

Thank you and Bless you all! Your prayers and your support are precious and greatly appreciated.

In Him,  
Kendra

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