

Greetings Friends and Family from Cali, Colombia.

February 8, 2019

"No le busques cinco patas al gato sabiendo que tiene cuatro!"
(Don't look for five paws on a cat knowing that they have four!)

This and many other words of wisdom learned from friends, books and prayer are what I am pondering as I move forward with the purpose of this three-month period in Cali, Colombia. As a reminder, in July of 2018 I sensed God urging me to continue with the work of ADEA in East Africa. Or to put it in His words as I heard them, "Douglas, this is the piece of life's pie I have given you, I wish you would stop fighting it." I am open to the prospect advancing ADEA as I have recently been reminded of the strong foundational work that ADEA has already accomplished, and the authority I possess to develop programming there with so many years of experience in the field. I have decided that if I am going to accept this call I wish to approach it in a more systematic way. Going forward I intend to direct ADEA's work in a calculated manner engaging in innovative and impactful community education programming. This time in Colombia is allowing me needed space to evaluate ADEA and myself examining strengths and weaknesses of both. So far, very good!

I arrived in Colombia on January 14. I have enjoyed the warm weather and hospitality of Cali for nearly four weeks. As I expected, my initial week here was haunted by the question "What have I done coming so far away from dear friends and familiar places?" But God is so kind and faithful. He heard my cries and now things are wonderful. Near my home is a church on a bluff with a small plaza



overlooking the city and mountains. I begin each day there for morning devotionals to get my head and heart in the right place (and to dump on God). There, I met Andres - a Christian with a dog. Most mornings we see each other as he does his morning exercises. On



occasion I attend his Pentecostal church with him where I enjoy the salsa worship tunes and try to make sense of the sermons. Always, between us, there is rich conversation about faith. Diego was a fundraiser for the Cartagena Classical Music festival for six years. He is happy to share his experience in doing this work with me. Julio is a salsa dancer who is developing a "Salsa" tour of Cali; I am considering a musical tour of Mtwara - we will exchange tour ideas. (FYI -Cali Salsa is a lot more rigorous than the salsa one sees in clubs - Cali is the salsa capital of the world they say - check it out on YouTube) Natalie is an architect using primarily bamboo and other sustainable materials, and she does non-profit work. And Piro is an architect, teacher, and community social justice event planner. I will be giving a presentation at his center on March 2 on the occasional tension between the ideas and values of designers and those held by targeted communities. Each of these people link into where I see ADEA going.

I am benefiting from the books of John C. Maxwell: The Power of Your Potential and 3 Things Successful People Do (thank you Donna and Diane - my sisters). From his teaching I am

understanding: The need to focus on a very few areas where I feel I can succeed, the need to trim back distracting and unproductive activities and relationships, to set very clear goals with measurable outcomes, to allow for baby-steps forward, to surround myself with positive and motivated people, to seek out partners, to make trade-offs, and to be focused and disciplined (among other things). A "P" list is emerging: Patience, Partners, Pruning, Precision, Prayer and Priorities (perhaps I should add Profit to the list too). This is just the end of week four. I am thankful there are still several weeks remaining for this process.

As for revelation, I am sensing that ADEA will focus on its MaKuYa Festival program. This is in line with my gifts and the pleasure I find in event planning. This work requires creative programming and artistic thinking. It can be expanded to be more deliberately educational (in line with my studies at Michigan State University and Tanzanian development needs). There is great potential for growth, impact, offshoots, and partnerships. An unexpected confirmation of this direction came in an email I received from Germany two weeks ago on the very morning I prayed for partners. Gabriel, who sent the email, was involved in making the audio portion of the MaKuYa Festival video we had produced in 2012. He had retained several recordings that he found particularly exceptional, but he was unsure what to do with them. He had also lived in Tanzania and was engaged with the music industry. He found his experience recording the rural performances of our festival particularly powerful and he wished to do more. To make a long story short, we are exploring a partnership that will involve recording local groups for the sake of musicology documentation via the festival, as well as radio programming with educational content to broaden the festival reach and have year round impact. We are in the early stages of conversations, but it is a blessing to have a potential partner.



I have also acknowledged my love of design and have been working with my team of artisans in Tanzania to come up with a few new products for the market in Stonetown, Zanzibar which is happening this weekend. These products are inspired by the ornately carved Arab doors found throughout the city. The dish/trays also serve as breadboards when turned over. (Sadly sales were

terrible for all vendors, but the second mission for the ADEA team was to visit the museums of the city and to learn Zanzibar's history. This part was a success.)

So this is a brief update from me. I will send another "newsletter" at the end of the month.

I so appreciate your prays, friendship, and financial support of ADEA's work. I sense a continued future of positive community impact in Tanzania immersing.

Adios mis amigos y familia. May God bless you whatever you are up to, and wherever you find yourselves. *Douglas*

