



CRWRC

## Letter from Mwanza, Tanzania

*"Yeah, Steve's a greasy guy"*

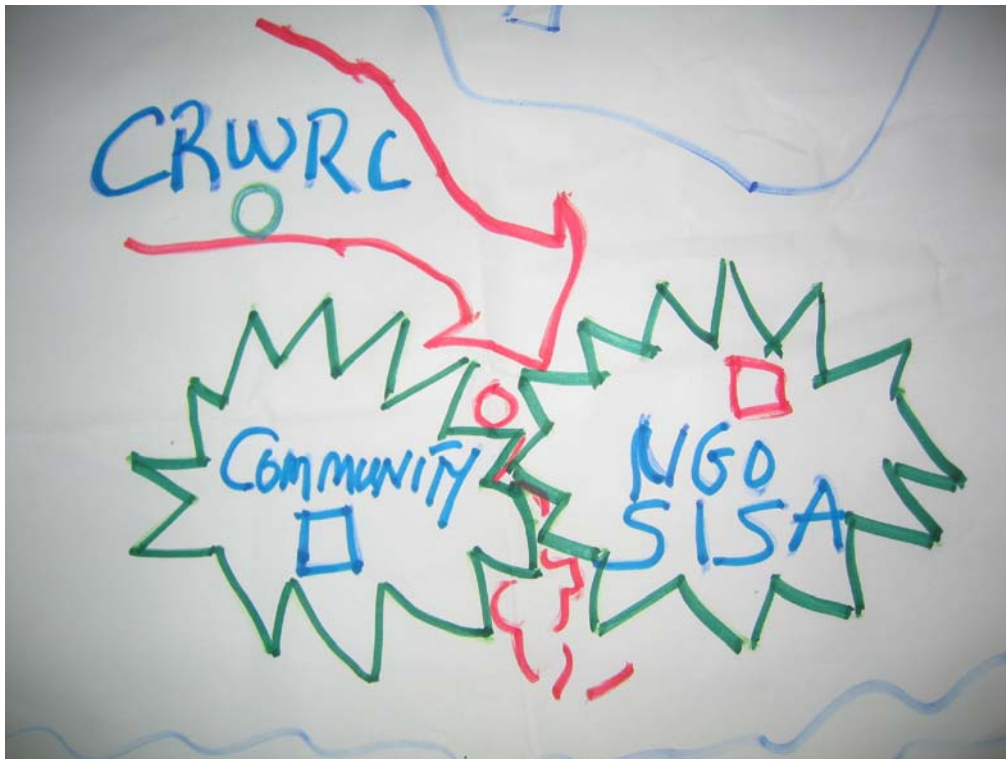
September 2007

Greetings,

Someone gave me a compliment that really didn't sound like much of one....they said I was a "greasy guy." Not quite sure how to take this statement I tried to think of what they were referring to...then they reminded me. And I am a "greasy guy," pleasantly greasy, in fact.

This all started during one of our staff training sessions here in Mwanza. Once every three months the partner development staff and I get together for a two-day training. It's a great time to connect with each other, share some ideas, and learn about community development, the Bible, and our work in this ministry.

During one of the sessions we were talking about who we are and what we do. Part of the exercise was to illustrate with a picture what we do together for the process of community development. Joseph Shigulu, from Sengerema Informal Sector Association (SISA) said, "CRWRC ni kama mafuta." "*CRWRC is like grease.*" And then he showed me the picture below.



Joseph said that we have two cogs that want to move together: the communities and the non-governmental organization. In this case, SISA is a Christian Business and Community Development Organization registered and working in Mwanza Region. And with the people in communities is how SISA wants to work. He saw those two cogs as moving together. And, in Joseph's opinion, CRWRC, among other things, works like grease between these two cogs making them move together and helping them find their way *together*. And, in his opinion, CRWRC is more than just grease; he says it's new grease: new ideas, trainings, education, and capacity building tools. Those new ideas and trainings he said help the communities and SISA to refresh themselves with new capacities, more abilities, and a greater sense of moving on. In that way he believes that CRWRC is not a cog in this picture, but more a facilitator of the entire process. Joseph is a man very familiar with machinery and what is required for machinery to run effectively. He added next that without the grease to keep things moving smoothly, moving together the cogs would seize up and stop.

Quite often we like to think of ourselves as something natural or beautiful. A person is like a mighty oak tree. Or we say that an organization is like a seedling, then a young tree, then bearing fruit, etc. There is something nice about being compared to a living plant that is more appealing than a piece of machinery. Or grease for that matter. But that's not really the point – the point is that someone here in Tanzania understands quite well how this all works together and has a picture in mind of what it looks like if he drew it out. And he is talking about that with all the communities and with the leadership. So, I may be a “fruitful banana plant” for some people; and I also know that I am that “greasy guy” for others.

*peace and blessings, Steve*

*Join us in praising God for the return to health of our young son Sam. He had pneumonia and malaria at the same time about two weeks after we got back from spending the summer in Michigan.*

*Join is praying to God for the rains here in Mwanza Region.*

*Join us in thanking God for the real changes that have occurred in people's lives here in Mwanza Region with these partners: healthier children, adults and youth who understand HIV/AIDS more, tree planting, improved crops, and more savings.*

These are significant positive changes in individuals and households that you have been a part of through your prayers and financial support.

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Steve and Jan Michmerhuizen, with their sons Gerrit (8), Henry (6) and Sam (2), are now in their fifth year serving with CRWRC in Mwanza, Tanzania. They have recently acquired nine chickens which provide a couple eggs a day and a constant source of entertainment for their children.