

Dar es Salaam January 25th, 2006

Wednesday January 25th, 2006

DAY

Today we will start our lessons in Swahili, but first we needed to go to the bank for cashing in some traveler's cheques. The recommendation using traveler's cheques was no good as we had much problems, without passport and the receipt when buying the cheques as well as not having a bank account at the bank caused us headache. The Finance officer at WFP helped us by calling the bank and explains that we were temporary UN staff and asked what to do. We were directed to a specific bureau de exchange located in the Movenpick house who also was an American Express agent. The exchange rate sign for USD had obviously been changed during our way to the office to a lower rate. They knew we were on the way and having problem so for sure, we were taken on a ride.



Even though the rate was low, we now had more than 2, 5 million shilling. We sent most of it with our driver back to the Country office as they have a safe.

Emanuel, our driver took us to the Salvation Army where the lessons are to be held. Clarification, the lessons are not held by the Army, it is held by Swahili and Culture Ltd, who has an office there. On the way to the Army I took a picture of how women are carrying their stuffs, on the head.

The lesson was held, sitting under a tree during the first day for 6 hours. Our teachers name is Mama Jengo, an older and very nice woman who is trying to teach us Swahili. Today lesson was to learn how to greet people which are very important in Tanzania. We also tried to build sentences with the words learned, this is not easy. For instance, if you forget one character in a word it can easily have another meaning. For sure, my brain ran out of memory the last 30 minutes after such a concentrated day.



EVENING

Back home from the Swahili course some work were done in front of the computer screen. Janet took a walk to the internet café as she had some work to collect and send by mail. I joined her later and we downloaded the PDF Writer as this could be useful (we have only Adobe Reader installed on our computers). At 9.30PM we were back at the hotel again and went in to the restaurant. Tonight they had African Music Evening and we had good music and entertainment while eating. After dinner we joined the Africans on the dance floor to perform typical African dance. Everybody dancing in a ring following each other and sometimes one or two people are in the middle. Even some of the personnel joined the dance.