

## Chapter 4

7 September. Hurrah, it's Saturday and time for a lie-in. Our target for today was to buy bus tickets for our trip to Dodoma, and at the same time to visit the market. Dala-dala into town with Felix – we all had seats this time.

There were any number of touts offering us tickets, but we settled for the Champion service, with seats allocated just like on an aeroplane.

Next into the market and then stroll around the town a bit.



In the afternoon we went for a short walk on a path behind the school, spotting donkeys

being used as beasts of burden.

I should have mentioned that each night in the Masenge household finishes with evening prayers. It is a very spiritual end to the day, with Felix reflecting on our achievements of the day and plans for the morrow. Last night it was my turn, and this night Felix had planned for Rosalind to lead. Rosalind was planning a special mention for Jediga, Hanifa and all the others looking after the household. Felix had forgotten the assignment, and led the prayers himself tonight. To our pleasure, he specifically mentioned the folk of the household.



8 September (Sunday). I specifically wanted to attend the Swahili service in Arusha Cathedral, so that the others could see how a Sunday service can be an occasion of worship with real joy. As on previous occasions we were invited to introduce ourselves and be welcomed. Anna left her place as leader of the Cathedral choir and sat with us for most of the service, guiding us through the pages. There was a second choir, from a local secondary school, and their singing



was applauded. The sermon was full of references to the widow's mite and God loving a cheerful giver, which seemed appropriate. I had primed the others to expect multiple collection boxes, so we were prepared for the 3 separate good causes to contribute to. Afterwards there was tea on the lawn and we were welcomed again by the sub-Dean.

Jacky wanted to see the process of batik work, so Felix took us



down a back street to a batik workshop. We all found some souvenir pictures and Jacky commissioned some work in desired colours.



In the afternoon I had a long talk with Naomi about what she called microfinance, but which I understood to be a credit union. She belongs to two circles (ladies only – men don't understand

these things) where each member put a sum in each month. The fund attracted only a nominal bank interest, but when a suitable sum was reached (Tsh 1 million) they took it in turns to receive a loan, the interest on which went back into the fund.

At this point Kate disappears with Teddy, first to go swimming, then to go to the pictures. Teddy is delighted to have the company, as it means she can meet her nice young man, about whom her parents know nothing.

Tomorrow we are off to Dodoma. There is not much point in staying in Tuishime for the next couple of days, as the school is closed for exams. The invigilator has to be housed by the school, so he is taking over our bedroom. The exam papers have a police guard.