

# FaithBIT



## Pamoja

Reflection by Mchungaji (Pastor) Angela Fairbanks Jacobson

For months ahead of time, our team already knew the Swahili word pamoja (together), since we had our designated pamoja small groups, to connect, share highs and lows, pray for each other, look out for each other, and even practically speaking for head counts on the bus... "Are we all here? Kupanda's here! Let's go/twende!"

Of course, climbing (and summiting!) Mt Kilimanjaro was spectacular and out of this world! BUT, there was something beyond the extraordinary, even quite ordinary, and that was all things pamoja.

“Together. Sharing, talking, praying, singing, and feasting.”  
- Pastor Angela

Lots of togetherness. Lots of being vulnerable together. We knew all about each other's aches & pains, altitude headaches, swollen lips, blackening toenails, blurred vision, and occasional tears. Together. Sharing, talking, praying, singing, and feasting. Together. Climbing in the darkness and gale force winds. Together. Trusting our fearless leader Festo and the incredible support crew. Together.

Later we learned the word for Immanuel, Mungu pamoja nasi. Of course! God with us. God together with us. God who chose not to stay in the spectacular, not to stay in the highest heights, but to descend into our ordinairness, to be with us, to work with us, being vulnerable together. This became ever more real for me as we descended from the roof of Africa.

Together we can move mountains. Let's go!