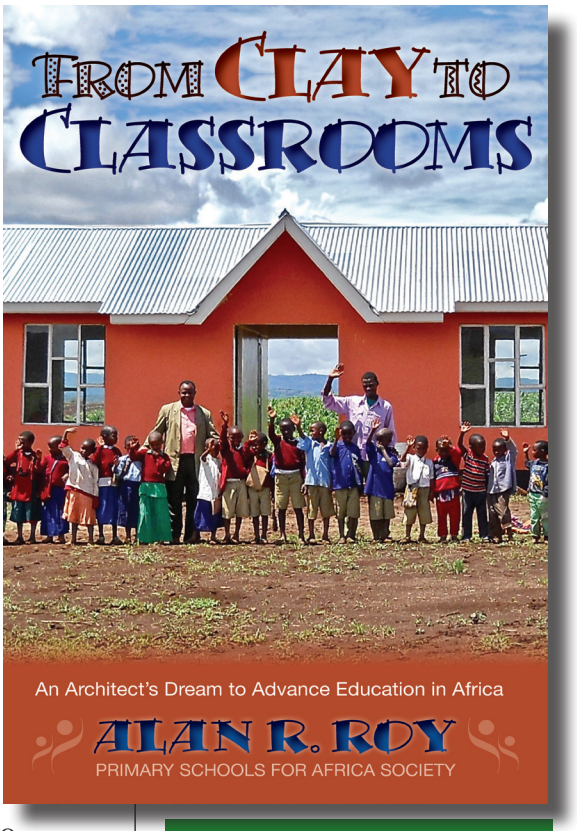
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canadian architect pursues his dreams in Eastern Africa

Sponsors and oversees construction of primary schools in impoverished areas of Tanzania



(Victoria, BC) – In September 2010, Canadian architect Alan R. Roy left for Tanzania to realize two long-held dreams – climb Mount Kilimanjaro, and build a school. He accomplished both, and ended up building *two* schools, in only five weeks! One school is in the slum district of Majengo in Arusha, and the other in the village of Gongali, on the doorstep of Tanzania's world-renowned safari country. Now he's on a mission to recruit others to help him build more schools.

From Clay to Classrooms, published by Agio Publishing House, is the story of Roy's amazing adventure – a journey of discovery, full of colourful insights and amusing incidents that expose the charm and friendliness of a struggling people determined to educate their children. Roy balances the serious business of construction with an open-minded willingness to learn and celebrate the local culture. Though he can create blueprints, he soon learns how local building techniques and materials – and the local people's own ideas – will dictate the exact final form of each school.

From his experience, Roy gained a renewed determination to make a significant improvement to the lives of a growing number of African children. He has established a registered charity, *Primary Schools For Africa Society*, as a mechanism for others to join his mission. Two more school projects are scheduled for November of 2011.

"The return on donor investment is incredible," Roy emphasizes. "Each new classroom will enable hundreds of graduates over the next decade. Education is the key to ending the cycles of poverty, and promote stable government."

From Clay To Classrooms: An Architect's Dream to Advance Education in Africa *by Alan R. Roy is published by Agio Publishing House, Victoria (Canada), 2011, 198 pp., trade paperback $19.99, ISBN 978-1-897435-67-0.*

INTERVIEW TOPICS

- Who did you hire to actually build the schools? Why?
- How much does it cost to construct and equip a four-classroom school?
- How do you ensure the schools will get on-going funding and support?
- How do their construction techniques differ from ours?
- How can people help?

CONTACT

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About the author – Alan R. Roy

Alan R. Roy grew up in Cornwall, Ontario. After graduating from Royal Military College, he spent four years in Canadian and overseas postings. His architectural degrees from the University of New South Wales and RAIC Syllabus preceded 32 years in the architectural profession. His previous most memorable humanitarian experience was working with ex-president Jimmy Carter on a *Habitat For Humanity* project in New York City's Lower East Side. He lives with his wife Maureen in Victoria, B.C.

More info at *www.PrimarySchoolsForAfrica.com*