

Dear Master Shuey,

I contacted you several months ago. This e-mail is in follow up to that conversation.

My name is Michael. I'm 33 and have been using a cane for the last five years. In September of 2010 I left the US to take a job in Nairobi, Kenya.

Just before leaving I replaced my old hickory crook cane with a Grandmaster made from heart of hickory. I was truly impressed with the quality and look of the cane, but it's real value was revealed in Africa.

While in Africa I visited many rural areas, most of which weren't exactly safe. During one such visit the group I was with was stopped and threatened by 3 men, one carrying a machete. The leader of the group, the armed man, demanded we give up all of our valuables and money.

The four of us did not want things to get out of hand so we complied. The four of us emptied out our pockets, and handed everything over. The man was not happy with what we had and started screaming. Our translator told us the man was demanding more, or he would take the woman that was with us. The wife of the man I was visiting in Kenya. Her husband told them to take the land rover and offered his ATM pin number, even offered to go with the men to get more money but they refused.

One of the unarmed men reached for my friends and everything exploded. The next thing I knew the leader was swinging his machete. It was aimed for the back of my friends neck. Though I have never trained in your style, I am well versed in hand to hand combat. I was able to deflect the blow, disarm the man and take him out of the fight. His friends were not all that interested after their boss was down, and they ran. The cane suffered damage, but not enough to render it unusable. It's got some character now.

The three men discounted me because i appeared to their eyes to be crippled. I was the last person they were worried about.

Oh, on a side note. The Crane head was a great deal more effective than i ever imagined. Though I could have accomplished the same with a stick, your cane proved to be both deadly and extremely resilient. It was training that enabled me to do what needed to be done. But It was you that provided the tool. A tool that helped save the lives of my friends, and myself.

I hope to see your schools opening in Georgia soon. I'd love to have the opportunity to train under you.

Have a wonderful Holiday, and thank you again.

Sincerely,
Michael Alexander