



September 1, 2006

Greetings again,

I just wanted to add a little additional info to the report I sent you a few days ago. First of all, the town of Bukoba is situated in the northwestern part of Tanzania. Everywhere you look are banana trees. Growing bananas and coffee beans make up a large part of their economy. The terrain is somewhat mountainous and very near the country of Uganda.

We visited many people in the area where James' mother lives. There are several widows living close by. HIV has taken an enormous toll throughout Africa and this region is no exception. It seems that almost all the families have either been directly or indirectly affected by this disease.

It was quite moving to sit on dirt floors in 1 or 2 room houses and watch as Pastor James tried to bring hope to a seemingly hopeless situation. He was very patient and compassionate. In addition to the scourge of disease the vast majority is dogged by poverty and James gave each of them a little money from the meager sum his church sets aside for such causes. Then we prayed for the family. I remember as he, Glenna, and I sat in those houses how quiet it was. There are obviously no TV's or radios way out there where we were. Most places barely have furniture.

One place I really enjoyed was this vocational school that we walked to. It was also out in the sticks several miles from Bukoba. It is run by a real Christian man. He is convinced that giving the young people a trade is one answer to his countries economic problems. The old idea, if you teach a person how to fish. Anyway the school offers classes in carpentry, metal working, blacksmithing, and electrical wiring. The machines they use are not the newest but the man has VISION!!!! He's so determined!! He wants us to come back in future and address the students. When I told him my Dad is a good carpenter he told me to invite him over! I just wish I had the financial means to help such committed people.

On Sunday the 10th James' church is conducting several baptisms and having a big celebration for Glenna and me. It will be FUN!!!!

By the way, I'm getting used to driving on the left side of the road again. I haven't done that since Japan. Glenna is very PATIENT!! She's also a great cook! God is good!

Hope things are going well.

Love you all,

John Paul