



November 11, 2008

Greetings from East Africa,

Glenna and I just returned from another seminar and again we are so very grateful for your continual prayers. God is faithful and never ceases to bless us regardless of the circumstances.

On October 29th, we set out for the town of Geita which lies southwest of Mwanza. It was a beautiful morning as Pastor Frank, Glenna and I stepped on to a crowded ferry for a half hour crossing of Lake Victoria. From there we boarded a bus and began the 2 ½ hour journey to our destination. It's the rainy season here and the driving was stop and go as we plowed through large pools of water covering parts of the winding road. Finally, at around noon we pulled into town and were greeted by Pastor John and escorted to the local guest house.

Geita is a gold mining town and has prospered, to some extent, over other places in Tanzania. Most mines are owned by people from the west, with the Africans receiving a small percentage of the actual profits. However, the mines have provided a job and steady income for many of the local residents.

That afternoon, after lunch and a short rest, we headed off to Pastor John's church to begin the seminar. The people were very excited that we had come and were eager to study and take notes. Glenna taught that if we are to love the Lord completely, we must take good care of our bodies, minds and spirits. She used several verses of scripture including 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own. You were bought with a price, therefore honor God with your body." And Philippians 4:8, "whatever is true, whatever noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely ... if anything is praise worthy – think about these things." Even in Africa, the temptations in our present age are nearly overwhelming and we are to draw close to the Lord who is our "rock and safety."

Among the messages I presented was one on 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, in which Paul states that not many who were called by God "were wise by human standards, not many were influential, not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of this world to confound the wise. He chose the weak things of this world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world ... and the things that are not to nullify the things that are." With that in mind, we looked at how the Lord is "no respecter of persons." He can use anyone, regardless of his circumstances, to accomplish His purposes. We simply have to learn to submit.

Following the program on Sunday morning, Pastor Frank and I were asked to have special prayer for many people in the church. It's always a great privilege to offer up petitions for such things as healing, forgiveness and recommitment to Christ! Later that day we met at the Pastor's house where we prayed and offered encouragement to each of the church leaders. That evening we finished up with an extended service and emotional farewells.

Despite the obvious financial limitations of Pastor John's church, he does have a vision for the future. He is in the process of building a new sanctuary which he sorely needs. His present one is somewhat dilapidated and conditions are cramped during regular services. He and his wife are also using their building as a nursery school for educating children who are unable to afford public education. Glenna and I were greatly impressed when we paid the school a visit during our stay. It's remarkable how he and his congregation are reaching out to the community with what little means they have. They asked to be remembered by each of you in your prayers.

On Wednesday, November 12 we are leaving to do a week of teaching in the village of Kakola, which is southwest of us. Please remember us in your thoughts and prayers.

In conclusion, Glenna and I thank all of you not only for your prayers, but for your financial support as well. Pastor John said he and his congregation were greatly blessed by our teachings, but we know that none of this would be possible without your help. May God bless and keep you until the glorious day of His returning!

Love to all,

John Paul and Glenna