



January 11, 2010

Tanzania update

Hello to everyone from Tanzania,

Glenna and I send our warmest greetings, wishing you abundant blessings in the coming year! This is the season for not only looking back, but for pressing on toward the future, for making adjustments and seeking change. And this has been the case for us as well. After keeping speaking engagements in local churches, restructuring our missions operation, and preparing new teaching material, we were finally able to begin our seminar ministry.

On Wednesday, December 30th, Glenna, I and Pastor Frank, our African coworker, arrived at a large T.A.G. (Tanzania Assemblies of God) church in the village of Igogo, where we were enthusiastically greeted by Pastor Hisabu and several of his congregation. Earlier in the month, we had spoken there and they were anxious for us to return and do a five day seminar.

Igogo sits high in the hills overlooking Lake Victoria. The roads are almost impassable in places and we had quite a rough ride by car to get within walking distance of our destination. It's amazing how isolated these villages are while still being relatively close to the city of Mwanza. Igogo is an area well known for witchcraft and also has a strong Islamic presence. Despite these obstacles, we were confident that the Lord was with us and would provide the power to overcome!

Glenna began the sessions teaching from Matt. 7:13-14. Her lesson detailed our walk with Christ, how each of us are on a life long journey with God. And, of course, during that journey we have a multitude of decisions to make which either lead to eternal life or eternal death. Jesus said, "but small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Glenna talked about the many ways people get off track in this eternal pursuit, whether it be greed, adultery, drugs or any number of other deceptions Satan presents, it is only through Christ that we can complete our walk at the foot of God's throne.

With witchcraft so prevalent, I elaborated on the story in the fifth chapter of Mark concerning the demonic who was healed by Jesus. I enjoy teaching this story for basically two reasons. First, it demonstrates who really holds the power in this world. It's not Christ who's bowing and begging for mercy, but the demons who have taken possession of this man, tormenting him night and day. Second, the people are always encouraged to hear that God can use anyone to accomplish His purposes; including a man with no money, no house, no clothes, no friends, no family – they've obviously abandoned him – demon possessed and without hope. When Jesus comes into your life wonderful things happen and this individual became an "instant evangelist" to the entire area.

The first time Glenna and I spoke in this church several people came forward for special prayer and to receive Christ as their Saviour, including a follower of Islam. We were likewise encouraged by the number of people who came forward during the seminar. Each day saw thirty or forty people requesting prayers for health, family, prosperity, or to make a decision to follow Christ. The Holy Spirit was indeed with us and His presence could be seen on the faces of those crying out, truly seeking the Lord.

We finished our seminar on Sunday, with rousing choir music and everyone standing to recommit themselves to Christ in the new year. Pastor Hisabu was very excited and urged us to schedule other churches in his denomination for a seminar or crusade.

On Wednesday, January 6th, we are commencing a seminar in Pasiansi, an outlying area of Mwanza. Despite a church presence in this place, it is greatly in need of the Gospel. As you turn your thoughts toward Heaven, please remember us.

In closing, we want to thank all of you again for being so generous toward this ministry. The Bible states in Galatians 6:9, "Do not grow weary of doing good for at the proper time you will reap a harvest if you do not give up." And with all the prophetic signs in the world, we know that the "great harvest" is growing ever closer. May God bless all of you as we wait for our Saviour and Lord.

In His Service,

John and Glenna

[John and Glenna in Tanzania](#)