



March 24, 2010

## Tanzania Update

Hello to everyone from East Africa,

We extend our warm greetings and deep appreciation for your prayers on our behalf. The Lord continues to bless and protect us wherever He leads. It's wonderful to see Him working in so many ways as we travel throughout northern Tanzania.

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, Glenna, I and Pastor Frank headed out for the town of Geita which lies to the south west of Mwanza. We had received a special request for a weekend seminar from Bishop Stephano. The Bishop's church is quite small and rather remote and we felt convicted to honor the request.

Our trip began with a short ferry ride across a narrow point on Lake Victoria and then we boarded a bus to complete the remaining part of our 3 hour journey. The weather was perfect and the dirt roads were unusually dry as we made our destination in record time.

Geita is a gold mining town and thus a little more prosperous than many other places in Tanzania. Despite the fact that most of the gold leaves the country as soon as it is processed, the industry provides jobs and a better than average income for the locals. Another thing I always take note of in this area is the many donkeys pulling two wheeled carts, loaded down with everything from sacks of flour and maize, to large pieces of stone for construction.

Bishop Stephano gave us a warm welcome as we went to his house for a late dinner and finalized plans for the following day. The next morning the program got underway with some inspiring music from the church choir and fervent prayer that the Lord would bless us all in a special way.

During the seminar, Glenna did a series of messages on the theme "Living for God." One of the messages is entitled, "Let your light shine." She quoted John 8:12, "When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, 'I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" This teaching is a perfect object lesson as she uses a lighted candle and tells how the higher the candle is held, the more affect it has. She explains that we are to ask Jesus to give us His light so we, in turn, can be a light to others. She also stated that a close connection to Christ keeps our light burning even in times of trouble when the darkness seems to be deepening all around us.

In one of the lessons I taught, we turned to Psalm 91, and concentrated on verses 14-16. It seems that many times in life as we face difficulties, we cry out, "God, do you know what's happening to me?!" "God, where are you?" "I'm asking, but you're not answering!" In verses 14-16, the Lord says to His followers, "Because he loves me ... I will rescue him; I will protect him ... He will call upon Me and I will answer him. I will be with him in trouble. I will deliver him ... and show him my salvation." Hallelujah!

On Sunday we finished up our two day program with a special altar call. Although the church is quite small we had a capacity crowd and several people came forward; some to receive Jesus as their Savior, others requesting healing of physical infirmities or deliverance from demonic possession. The list of afflictions over here sometimes seems overwhelming, but God is always faithful and never fails to manifest His presence.

After being thanked profusely by the bishop for coming, and receiving several invitations to return we boarded a bus on Monday morning to begin the journey home. As we made our way back through some of the poorer villages, I thought of how Jesus had such compassion on the people of His day, remarking that they were like sheep without a shepherd. "Even so, come Lord Jesus!"

As I am preparing this report to send back to the States and Canada, we are finishing up a five day seminar in an area called Nyakabungo. The Lord sometimes alters our schedule at the last minute and we try to go with the flow. Over the last few months God has really been blessing us and we can hardly keep up with all the requests we're receiving to speak. Next week we will be teaching in a place just a few miles from Mwanza, known as N'gombe. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

In conclusion, we not only thank you for your prayers, but for financial support as well. As I've often written, it will be wonderful when we get to the kingdom and reap the rewards of all our sacrifice. As Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 2:9, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has ever entered into the hearts of men, the things God has prepared for them that love Him." May God continue to bless and keep you!

In His Service,

John and Glenna

[John and Glenna in Tanzania](#)