



April 23, 2010

## Tanzania Update

Hello to all our friends in North America,

Glenna and I send greetings from the mission field here in northern Tanzania. We thank you once again for all your prayers on our behalf. It's so encouraging to know that you are lifting us up before the Lord. The obstacles we face at times seem much smaller when we remember that you continue to stand with us.

On Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, our mission's team left Mwanza to do a seminar/crusade in the tiny village of Butundwe. As I mentioned in the last update, this is one of the most remote and challenging places we travel to. It has neither running water nor electricity; even cell phone service is seriously hampered in this area. This was our third time to visit and we felt God's providence in this trip from the very beginning.

Early in the morning we boarded a bus and began a journey lasting several hours. After changing buses in the mining town of Geita, we continued on a narrow, winding, dirt road that finally brought us to our destination. As we grabbed our bags and climbed down we were enthusiastically greeted by Pastor Joseph and his congregation. Their choir surrounded us and commenced singing and dancing to the Lord! This is the poorest village we visit, yet the people are so full of life and love for God.

On Wednesday morning our seminar got underway with Glenna beginning a series on women in the Bible. One of the people she spoke on was Rahab the harlot. She talked about how Rahab was far from salvation, living and prospering off the wickedness in the city of Jericho. But the Spirit of the Lord was at work in her heart so when Joshua's spies turned up she openly confessed to them her fear and respect for the God of Israel. "We heard how the Lord dried up the waters of the Red Sea for you, when you came out of Egypt ... when we heard it our hearts melted and everyone's courage failed ... for the Lord your God is God in Heaven above and the earth below." Joshua 2:9-11. Because of her courageous protection of the spies, when threatened by the king, she and her whole family were saved when Joshua's forces swept through the city. Glenna finished by saying that this woman, living at the very bottom of a totally degenerate society, became a receiver of divine mercy and grace and would later be included in the very lineage of Christ himself! What an awesome God we serve!

In one of the messages I presented, we discussed what it meant to be a servant of the Lord. We looked at the Last Supper and how Jesus, the Son of God, took off His robe, wrapped a towel around His waist and washed the feet of His disciples! The disciples were obviously shocked at such an act and Peter let his disapproval be known. Jesus answered, "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord' and rightly so for that is what I am ... and I have set you an example that you should do for others as I have done for you." In Mark 10:45, Jesus also states, "the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many." It seems so easy in our human weakness and self centeredness to lose sight of this particular part of Christ's teachings. May we never become blinded by our own "self importance," but reflect the true humility and sacrificial attitude of our Lord.

On Sunday morning, the church was filled to capacity and after we finished the message Pastor Joseph stood up and gave an altar call. Around twenty people came forward, some to receive Jesus as their Savior, while others sought to recommit themselves to Christ. A few asked for special prayer for healing for themselves and their families. Pastor Frank spoke to each one and then led them through the sinner's prayer. Afterward, there was much celebration as the choir sang praises to the Lord for what He had done.

Our crusade was equally blessed as Frank and I took turns delivering the evening message. Sunday saw our biggest crowd with close to a thousand in attendance! With each altar call, people came forward to receive Jesus and make a fresh start in life!

We were especially touched by a woman who slowly made her way through the crowd. She was suffering from AIDS and had been seeking help from the local witch doctors. It's truly miraculous how the Holy Spirit led her to the program and then to accept Christ! Pastor Frank counseled her for several minutes as we all prayed fervently for God to do a mighty work in her life.

We were also very happy to deliver yet another case of Bibles to a place where they're so sorely needed. The three of us knew that Butundwe is the poorest area we visit and we were determined to take the Word of God to these people. Our efforts were greatly rewarded and Pastor Joseph has asked us to thank all of you so much for contributing to this worthy cause!

On April 28<sup>th</sup> we are leaving for the village of Ushirombo for another seminar/crusade. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Finally, we want to thank all of you profusely for your prayers and financial gifts. The apostle Peter wrote "be a blessing to one another, for you were called to inherit a blessing." Each of you have not only been a blessing to us, but to the thousands we've ministered to over the last four years. May the Lord continue to use you in a mighty way!

In His service,

John and Glenna