



June 18, 2010

## Tanzania Update

Greetings from Tanzania,

First of all, we want to thank everyone for their prayers for us over the last several weeks. As some of you know, we went through the lengthy process of renewing our visas for another two years. This is always a difficult procedure because of the seemingly endless bureaucracy you face in third world countries. Finally, a Muslim friend in immigration went to bat for us and got them through. The Lord works in mysterious ways!

As soon as our new visas were issued, we resumed our teaching schedule. On Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Frank, Glenna and I spoke at a church in an area of Mwanza called Ghana. We were warmly received by Pastor Emmanuel and his congregation who conduct services in a building which had previously been a pub. It is a simple structure with a concrete floor, tin roof and slab wood nailed on the outside for walls. Despite the primitive surroundings, the people sang and danced with a joy that only God can supply!

In speaking to the congregation, we reminded them that they have a race to run, a journey to finish with God. That they are to “forget about the past” – the old life they once knew – and reach for what lies ahead, with eyes focused, they “press on toward the prize, the high calling in Jesus Christ.” (Phil. 3:13-14) We urged them to let NOTHING separate them from the Lord and the wonderful things He has waiting for each of us in Heaven.

At the end of our talk we were excited to see several people come forward requesting special prayer. Frank and I placed our hands on each one and cried out to God to touch down in their lives in a mighty way.

Following the service, Pastor Emmanuel thanked us repeatedly and urged us to return as soon as our schedule permits. As we left, we felt the Holy Spirit had given us the right message of encouragement for this struggling church.

On Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, we traveled to a church high on a hill overlooking Mwanza. This area is called Kilamahewa and we were forced to make much of the journey on foot. It always amazes me how remote many of the churches are, while still being relatively close to town.

After having to cancel a seminar here a few weeks ago, we were really grateful to finally be able to follow through. Pastor Paul greeted us with great enthusiasm and after being entertained by two local choirs we got underway.

Glenna taught on several topics throughout the week. One in particular focused on 1 Cor. 6:9, “do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you received from God? You are not your own, you were bought with a price.” She elaborated on this verse by saying that God not only wants to live in us, but use us to glorify Him. She further stated that if our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, then we must turn away from the temptations that would defile it.

One of the lessons I preached on, centered on the story we read in Luke 5:1-11, and the calling of the first disciples. After Jesus had taught a large crowd by the Sea of Galilee, He asked Peter if they had caught any fish. Peter replied they had “fished all night and caught nothing!” Jesus then instructed them to go into deeper water, which they did and the catch was so large it began breaking the nets! It’s amazing how when we don’t include God in our everyday lives, we keep going around in circles – “fishing all night and catching nothing.” But, when we follow His instructions, we get blessed in ways we never thought possible.

As we concluded the seminar Sunday morning, Pastor Frank gave an altar call and close to one hundred people came forward! Some came to accept Jesus as their Saviour, while others sought recommitment to Christ along with physical and emotional healing. Many of those who came forward felt touched by the Spirit and began weeping and crying out to God. It was truly a moving experience! Later we learned that one of the pastors attending the seminar had sensed the Lord speaking to him through several of the teachings. He had been looking for insight and felt he had received it. Praise God!

Another word of encouragement came to us regarding a woman with a severe case of AIDs. We had prayed for her at a crusade a few months ago. She now is doing much better physically and is attending church on a regular basis!

Next week we are participating in a youth conference several miles outside of Mwanza in a region known as Pasiansi. Around 200 people are expected to attend and we ask that you keep this event in your prayers.

As always, we thank you profusely for your prayers and financial support. As we witness the events in the world and realize that our Lord’s coming is not far off, “let us not grow weary of doing good, but at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up!” Gal. 6:9

In His service,

John and Glenna