



August 25, 2010

Tanzania Update

Hello to friends and family,

We extend greetings and heart felt thanks to each of you who prayed for us at the pastors conference last week. The Lord, who is ever faithful, heard your prayers and blessed us abundantly!

The conference, which commenced on August 18th, was held in a small, dusty village called Katoro. The village lies to the southwest of us and it took around three hours to reach our destination. As we climbed off the bus we were warmly greeted by Pastor Lukamisha, who later informed us that around twenty pastors, plus other church workers, would be in attendance. The program was sponsored by Gilgal Christian Ministries International, the same denomination that hosted the youth seminar we spoke at a few months ago.

Glenna began the first day with a session on "Men and women as fellow workers" in the ministry. She read Matthew 9:37-38, "Then He said to His disciples, 'the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His harvest field.'" She went on to cite several examples of how God used both men and women throughout the Bible to play key roles in the great plan of salvation. She also read several other verses which emphasized that Christian workers must "honor one another above ourselves," (Rom 12:10), forgive others as our Heavenly Father forgives us (Matt 6:14), encourage one another and build each other up (1 Thess 5:11) and love one another as Christ loves us (John 13:34).

On the last day of the conference, I spoke on the subject of "vision" in the ministry and used the story of Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. In the first chapter, God births a vision in Nehemiah of helping his people who are suffering from the effects of the destruction of their city and sanctuary. In the next chapter, the Lord, through the King of Persia, provides His servant with all the resources he needs to go back and begin restoring the wall and city. As the study progressed, we examined how with each vision the Lord instills in us, He is faithful to provide the means to overcome opposition and complete it. God is awesome!

In addition to our messages, Pastor Frank, our coworker, delivered two fascinating studies on the role of pastors and the responsibilities of their special calling. We were also blessed by discussions presented by the organizer of the Conference, Pastor Eliab Sentozi.

A few days before we left for Katoro, we were asked by Pastor Sentozi to conduct a crusade each evening. We were a bit surprised by the sudden change in schedule, but this is Africa where events can be altered at the drop of a hat.

As the crusade unfolded we quickly realized that the sudden change in plans was the Lord's doing all along. Each service saw several hundred people gathering to enjoy the choirs and hear the sermons. Sunday night produced our biggest crowd with over a thousand circling the site eagerly listening to the Word of God! (See attached photo.) We even had some, like Zacchaeus in the Bible, sitting in the trees and on tops of buildings to get a better view. Pastor Frank and I preached for five nights and over one hundred people came to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior! There were also many others who came forward requesting special prayer for the various afflictions they were facing in their lives. It was truly a remarkable experience as you sensed the Holy Spirit sweep through the crowd with power and conviction. People were crying out to the Lord, seeking Him in ways that nearly overwhelmed those who were ministering.

As we departed on Monday morning, Pastor Lukamisha thanked us repeatedly and urged us to

continue to minister to him and the people in his denomination. One pastor, we later learned, had ridden his bicycle for two days to attend the conference and crusade! As we journeyed back to the city of Mwanza, we were exhausted by all that happened, but at the same time overjoyed at what God had done in that little village. It is true, "the Lord's compassion never fails, it is fresh every morning, great is thy faithfulness." (Lam 3:22-23)

On Thursday, August 26th, we are traveling to the town of Shinyanga for a four day seminar. As always, please keep us in your prayers.

We want to thank each of you once again for your prayers and faithful giving. As I look back and remember the many faces of the people who came to Christ at the crusade, I'm continually reminded that your efforts, your support and prayers are just as vital as ours. May God bless you richly in your walk with Him.

In His service,

John and Glenna



Crusade in Katoro

[John and Glenna in Tanzania](#)