



November 3, 2010

## Tanzania Update

Hello to everyone from the shores of Lake Victoria,

We send our heartfelt thanks out to all of you for remembering us in your prayers. As it states in James 5:16, "the prayers of a righteous person are powerful and effective!" And we never cease to be encouraged by your standing by us no matter what we encounter on the mission field.

On Saturday, October 16th, Glenna, I, and Pastor Frank were asked to conduct a "Jericho walk" on a piece of property several miles outside the city of Mwanza. Our friend, Pastor Charles, who has had us speak several times at his church, invited us to pray over land that his congregation had purchased to build a school. The area is quite isolated and thus there are many children who lack a real opportunity to get a basic education. As we walked the boundaries of the property, I kept praying that God would remove all barriers to this worthwhile project. Eventually, we gathered at the entrance and shared the story of how the Lord brought down the walls of Jericho for the children of Israel. Charles, one of the most committed pastors we've met, was encouraged by the service and says he's put his trust completely in God to provide the means.

The following Tuesday, the three of us boarded a bus for the town of Moshi, near the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro and located near the Kenyan border. The trip took close to fifteen hours to complete since highway construction was being carried out in a number of places. As we neared our destination, I began noticing large numbers of the Maasai tribe with their herds of cattle wandering in the distance. The Maasai are easily recognizable, clad in the distinctive red and blue cloth wrapped around their shoulders and armed with spears and long knives hanging from their belts. What's fascinating is that this tribe believes that all cattle they come across belongs to them, so things can get quite interesting on the "open range."

On Wednesday, after receiving a warm welcome from Pastor Job and his small congregation, we began the seminar. One of the topics Glenna spoke on was prayer; where she read from Hebrews 4:16, "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." She explained that through the shed blood of Jesus we have access to the Father who promises to help us in whatever situation we face. She also stressed that prayer is part of a relationship that involves not only speaking, but actually listening for what God has to tell us. In addition, we are not just to petition the Lord with a long list of needs, but praise Him daily for His abundant care and infinite goodness towards us.

One of the messages I gave centered on Romans 6:23, where the apostle Paul writes, "the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." This death, of course, is not just physical but eternal for those not believing in the redeeming blood of Jesus. However, for those individuals who do heed the call of God, who do accept salvation,

it means being with our Lord and Savior for all of eternity! And as Paul points out, it is a GIFT, not something to be earned as all other religions teach, but something that is given out of the unfathomable love and mercy of our Father in Heaven.

Following my presentation each day we were further taught by another visiting speaker, Pastor Andronicus from Kenya. He does much public speaking as well as oversees several churches in the city of Nairobi. He discussed the importance of covenants in the Old and New Testament and how they relate to us today. Pastor Job also assisted in the services by summarizing each night a number of the teachings.

One evening, as the crowd seemed visibly stirred by the messages, a special altar call was given and several people came forward seeking prayer and deliverance. Some had been suffering from physical infirmities while other struggled with spiritual afflictions. Pastor Andronicus led out in prayers for each of those desiring the Lord's hand in their lives. Pastor Job and the three of us also offered up fervent petitions for those in attendance. It was striking how this part of the service grew in intensity and went on for several minutes. We have been told over the last few years that Moshi is quite resistant to the Gospel, but perhaps the time is coming for the Lord to begin breaking down the barriers and bringing these people back to Him.

Although we were hoping to reach even more people with the good news of Christ, Pastor Job assured us that his congregation had been blessed by all the teachings and urged us to return for a seminar/crusade next year. As we boarded the bus Monday morning for the long trip home, I kept thinking of the people in the seminar who studied their Bibles and took extensive notes while we preached. It was encouraging to remember that the Lord can bless our efforts, regardless of the perceived success, in ways we could never have imagined. Eccles. 3:1-2 states, "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under Heaven ... A time to sow and a time to reap." As Glenna and I later concluded, this certainly seemed a time to sow.

This Sunday we will be speaking at a church in Kilamahewa, an area of Mwanza, where we will also begin a five day seminar starting on Wednesday, November 10th. Please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

Finally, we want to again thank each of you for keeping us before the Lord and remembering us with your financial support. The apostle Paul writes in 2 Cor. 9:16, "Whoever sows generously will reap generously," as the Lord promises to bless those who are faithful in their giving. Paul goes on to state in verse 9, "As it is written, He has scattered abroad His gifts to the poor, His righteousness endures forever." May God bless you abundantly in your walk with Him.

***In His service,  
John and Glenna***

[John and Glenna in Tanzania](#)