

ACTS IN AFRICA

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Dear Friends and Family,

Warm greetings once again from Tanzania! The rainy season is well under way here and it's nice to have the grass and trees green and blooming again. It's truly amazing to see how fast things grow once the rains begin. Although, unfortunately the heavy rain not only brings damage to mud brick homes and causes much soil erosion, it is also a time of increased cases of malaria and typhoid.

As some of you are aware, Tanzania held their presidential election on October 31st. President Jakaya Kikwete, a Muslim, was seeking a second 5-year term and parliamentary seats were also up for election. The opposition had a strong voice, being a Christian and garnering much support from the various church organizations. Normally a very peaceful nation, we were surprised the following day by riots in and around the Mwanza area. Apparently the ruling party delayed the announcement of the loss of their parliamentary seat to the opposition and people began rioting – burning cars and committing acts of vandalism. At that time, we received a text message from Pastor Frank advising us to stay inside, and also an email came through from a representative of the US Embassy notifying us of the unrest. Until these events took place, we had been unaware that the opposition headquarters was very close to where we live. Police were required to disperse the crowds by dispensing tear gas, which sounded very close. At one point, we had a large group congregated outside our gate, where the road divides three ways. But our ever faithful God and caring Father heard John's prayer for protection and sent a heavy rain which scattered the group. We were reminded of Psalms 91:15, "He shall call upon me and I will answer Him. I will be with Him in trouble..." On talking with friends later in the week, they denied that rain had fallen in the Mwanza area that day, but it did – outside our gate! Praise God!

We continue to keep busy with the seminar ministry as well as weekend ministry, returning to churches previously visited as well as venturing into new areas. Recently we were invited to speak at Hosanna Christian Centre, a church in the Mwanza area. The Bishop and founder of this work had been quite prominent in the region prior to his sudden death in 2006. Since this time, his wife has taken over the leadership of the church and become ordained as a bishop herself. Pastor Irene is also undertaking a building project, expanding the existing structure, adding offices and new washrooms. We were impressed with the reverent attitude of worship there

as well as her heart felt and “up front” approach to her enthusiastic congregation. Following John’s sermon, she elaborated on some of the main points, on how God has the ability to restore and renew us despite our circumstances, but that we must be faithful and true to God in the way we live. Plans are underway for us to return to conduct a seminar in the near future.

In contrast to this larger church, we carried out a short seminar in Kiseke this past Friday to Sunday. It was a privilege to have the opportunity to teach and encourage the pastor and congregation of this small church. During the morning Bible Study,

Glenna did an illustrative talk, using a candle, to emphasize various points on “Christ is the Light of the world” and to “let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matt 5:16) John, in his message, looked at the story of Peter walking on the Sea of Galilee to go to Jesus found in Matthew 14: 22-32. Following the Lord’s command to join Him on the water, the impetuous disciple climbed out of the boat and did the impossible. John



asked repeatedly how many of us is God calling to leave our boats (comfort zone) and serve in a greater way. The congregation seemed challenged by the message and responded enthusiastically!

On Tuesday, November 23rd, we will be travelling to Ngara, a village near the Rwandan border, to conduct a week long seminar. Being a remote village, we plan to carry a box of Swahili Bibles with us to distribute there. As always your prayers would be appreciated, not only for our safety but also for God’s blessing on the seminar.

Recently a friend encouraged us with the verse “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Gal. 6:9) Sometimes as we get caught up in the details of life and ministry we loose sight of the goal set before us. May we all continue to encourage each other in the work of the Lord, whether at home or on the other side of the pond.

As we review the activities of the past few months, we realize none of this would have been possible without your continual prayers and financial support. We extend our sincere thanks and gratitude for partnering with us in this way.

In His service,

John and Glenna Peterson

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