

# ***ACTS IN AFRICA***

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April 6, 2011

Dear Friends and Family,

Warm greetings once again from Mwanza, Tanzania! Unlike North America, we only have two seasons – rainy and dry. Since we last wrote we've had a break between the two rainy seasons and are now back into the showers – showers of blessing for the many people relying on the produce of their shambas (gardens). We thank the Lord for His showers of blessing in our lives too as we experience His faithfulness to us.

After a couple changes in our schedule, we were pleased to be invited to conduct a seminar in one of the “suburbs” of Mwanza. It's nice at times to be able to do day trips to our seminars and returning to our own home each evening. In and around the city, there are many small, highly populated communities and Kitangili is one such area. These areas are pretty much self contained and are sometimes like a remote village even though they are on the periphery of the city.

We started our seminar on Thursday afternoon, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Parking the car a street away, we were guided to the church by the sound of the congregation's singing. What a pleasant GPS! As I mentioned, these communities are quite congested with houses and buildings built so closely together, that often only a narrow path separates them. As we taught in the seminar each evening, the occupants of the neighboring homes could not help but hear the Word of God. We noticed at least two of the homes adjacent to the church were Muslim inhabited, and we caught glimpses of people listening inconspicuously. We prayed that seed would be sown and take root in their lives too. At the close of the Sunday morning worship service, a young lady came forward to accept Christ as her Savior and 20-30 others requested prayer for various needs in their lives.





We learned that Pastor Richard, a trained accountant, had worked for the Municipal government for several years prior to answering the call of God on his life to go into full time ministry in 1995. After taking some pastoral training, he planted his church and it has been steadily growing over the past eight years. Pastor Richard and his wife have two teenage sons of their own, and a three year old daughter whom they adopted from an unmarried relative who contemplated an abortion.

We have really enjoyed our work and count it a real privilege to have had the opportunity to share God's Word in Tanzania in these last days. However, over the past year we have been sensing some changes in our ministry and subsequently began praying in earnest for God's leading and direction regarding His will for us. Over the last several months, it seemed that our work here was winding down and that God was leading us in another direction. So, after much thought, prayer and discussion we have decided to return home permanently toward the end of May.

Our primary reason for returning is as we have already mentioned, however it is also supported by the fact that each of us has an elderly, lone parent that has increasing needs for help and assistance. Additionally, Frank, our ministry partner and great Godsend to us over the past three years, is seeking direction from the Lord regarding ministry as well. We believe God will open doors for him to carry on in the work.

As we have written repeatedly over the last several years, we thank each of you for your prayers and financial support. It will be wonderful to someday see all that our Heavenly Father accomplished through the efforts of His children! As the two of us prepare for our transition back to North America we again request your prayers. There is a sadness sometimes, and a bit of anxiety as we close one chapter of our lives, but joy and anticipation as the Lord leads us into another.

In His Service,

*John and Glenna*

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