



October 27, 2008

Hello to all from the shores of Lake Victoria,

Glenna and I want to express our deepest appreciation to everyone of you for your prayers. As I've said previously, God is indeed listening and blessing us wherever we go! It's been such a wonderful experience to be used by Him at this crucial time in the world.

On October 15th we began our latest seminar, on the outskirts of Mwanza, in an area called Igoma. We were very grateful for the door finally opening since we had encountered some resistance there over the last few years. With Igoma being only about 20 minutes from the center of town, we were also grateful for being able to return home every night. This was such a departure from what we are used to; long and dusty bus rides and staying in somewhat questionable accommodations.

When we arrived on Wednesday to start the sessions we were warmly greeted by Pastor Samwel and many of his congregation. Glenna and I introduced ourselves after which I explained to the crowd how the two of us had met at a seminar through Pastor James and were eventually married. This always elicits cheers and applause since the people are thrilled that such a chain of events actually took place on Tanzanian soil!

After a few rousing songs from the choir, we began the program. One of Glenna's messages centered on remaining faithful to the "one true God" of this world. How there are so many distractions and temptations that can separate us from Him and the unique purpose He has for each of us.

She went on to explain that our relationship to the Lord requires more than outward compliance, that true obedience to God must emanate from the heart. For example, as Christ taught in Matt. 5:27-28, "you have heard it said, do not commit adultery. But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." I always find this teaching so interesting, especially since there is such a terrible problem with pornography, not only in the world, but in the church as well.

I discussed 2 Cor. 5:17 and how we are all "new creations" in Christ. This includes the love and acceptance of our Heavenly Father, the fellowship of a new family of brothers and sisters in the faith, and the fulfilling of a unique destiny that our Creator and Redeemer has called us into.

Glenna and I also spoke on standing firm for the Lord. In this age of increasing confusion, when Biblical truths are often discarded in the face of political and economic expediency, God commands us to hold fast, to fulfill our divine calling, and to be ready to receive as "He pours out His spirit on all flesh" before the "great and terrible day of the Lord." (Joel 2:28, 31)

Pastor Samwel and his congregation received the teachings with much enthusiasm and we were pleased as the numbers attending increased throughout the week. We did learn that there has been some problems in the church and that the lessons we presented could help bring healing to strained situation. As Pastor James offered up prayers each night, the issue of healing and reconciliation remained a constant theme.

We were also heartened to hear that one of the church members had told Pastor James that during the sessions God had been speaking to her. The Holy Spirit had enlightened her on many things that had been happening in her life. James said she was very excited and wanted to share the good news.

As it states in Ecclesiastes, "there is a time for every purpose under Heaven," and I believe that the Lord took us to that church at just the right time. Many people, including the church leaders, said that they had been greatly encouraged by the seminar and were seeing things in a new light. They were quick to invite us back as soon as our schedule permitted.

On Wednesday, October 29th, we leave for the town of Geita to conduct another week of teaching. As always, please keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

Again, we want to thank each of you for your continued prayers and financial support. It's wonderful to have such people of faith standing by us. As each day brings us closer to the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, let us press on with a burning devotion "for the harvest is ready, but the workers are few." Matt. 9:37.

Love to all,

John Paul and Glenna