



August 12, 2010

## Tanzania Update

Hello to friends and family,

We send our greetings from the mission field here in Tanzania. We want to thank each of you for your continued prayers on our behalf. God is every faithful and we are always amazed at the doors He opens for this ministry.

On Sunday August 3<sup>rd</sup>, we spoke at a small church in an area near Mwanza called Igogo. It is located high in the hills overlooking Lake Victoria and has a reputation for witchcraft and petty thievery. It had been 2 ½ years since we had last preached at Pastor Marcel's church and we received an enthusiastic welcome when we arrived. It was a festive occasion, not only because two wazungu (white people) had come, but also a marriage engagement was announced. The prospective husband was a pastor and both he and the woman standing beside him were middle aged. The announcement was a unique experience for us because, with the average life expectancy still so low, it's rare to see two people in midlife getting married!

After conducting special prayer for the pastor and his future bride, Glenna and I tried to encourage the congregation with a message of staying faithful to Christ regardless of our circumstances. As the writer of Hebrews exhorts us, in chapter 12:1-2, "therefore ... let us cast off the burden's and sins that so easily entangle us and let us run with endurance the race set before us, with our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." Pastor Marcel and his small group of believers seemed very uplifted with the sermon and after praying for each person in need, we made plans to return for a seminar in the fall.

The following Tuesday, we boarded a bus in Mwanza and made the long, seven hour journey to the village of Ushiroombo. At each of a number of stops along the way, the bus was deluged by vendors carrying trays of candy, cookies, oranges, hard boiled eggs and popcorn. Surrounding this beehive of activity in the large, dusty parking lot were kiosks selling everything from women's clothing to used auto parts. It's also not unusual to see a few buses or vans with hoods up and tires off receiving "emergency" repairs before venturing on to another destination.

On our arrival, Pastor Frank, Glenna and I were warmly greeted by Pastor Shilla and escorted to a nearby guest house. Ushiroombo has neither electricity nor running water so our shower consisted of a pale of water and a large cup. The guest house did have a small generator and we were blessed with power for a few hours each night! God is merciful!

The seminar went very well with Glenna teaching on various aspects of maintaining a Christian family. One of the points she discussed involved forgiving others as the Lord has forgiven us. Colossians 3:13 states, "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as God forgave you." The lesson emphasized that we should put off pride and put on humility. Jesus is our example and His power gives us strength to extend forgiveness even in the toughest of situations.

In the first lesson I taught, I expounded on Psalm 139. I stressed the fact to everyone in attendance that each of us are "fearfully and wonderfully made" by God. That He knew us and had plans for us before the world was created! He thinks about us constantly and we are precious in the Lord's sight. To many Africans, as well as North Americans, God seems distant and somewhat removed from our everyday life, but NOTHING could be farther from the truth!

Following the message each evening, an altar call was extended to anyone in need. Pastor Frank led several in the sinner's prayer and even many children requested God's blessing upon their lives! On Sunday evening, we had our largest response, with around thirty people, stepping forward seeking the Lord's hand in their lives. I have to admit that the altar calls have provided some of the most moving experiences as we seek to minister to the many hurting people.

In addition to the seminar, we were also blessed to be able to deliver another case of Bibles to this remote area. We not only sold Bibles at an affordable price to Pastor Shilla's congregation, but to members of another small church as well. We again express our appreciation to those of you who have contributed to this project. God is good!

On Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, we are hitting the road again for a pastor's conference in the town of Katoro. Then on August 26<sup>th</sup>, we will be traveling to the town of Shinyanga for a four day seminar. As always, we request you prayers for these events.

In closing, we thank all of you profusely for your prayers and financial support. God has promised to bless those who are a blessing to others. As Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matt. 25:40)

In His service,

John and Glenna

(see pictures on next page)



Glenna teaching



Bible distribution in Ushirombo

[John and Glenna in Tanzania](#)