



October 13, 2010

Tanzania Update

Greetings to friends and family from East Africa,

As Glenna and I continue to pray for the crucial elections coming up in the United States in November, we are also praying for the presidential elections here in Tanzania. President Kikwete, a Muslim, is running for a second term of five years and we are all hoping that Christians will maintain a strong voice in the government. Tanzania still struggles in many areas and we're calling upon God to provide committed "public servants" both here and in North America.

In regard to prayer, we thank all of you for faithfully remembering us in your daily devotions. We have faced many challenges over the past year, but as promised in scripture, the Lord "sustains and strengthens us" when we "seek Him with all our hearts."

One week ago Glenna, I and Pastor Frank travelled several miles outside of Mwanza to do a seminar across the road from our small local airport. The name of the denomination is "Highway to Holiness" and Pastor Eugene and his congregation welcomed us with much enthusiasm.

Their church building was comprised of rough lumber, nailed to occasional posts and painted white. Tin sheets, found on almost all small structures over here, covered the roof. When the wind gusted a small corner of an iron sheet would lift and I kept praying that we wouldn't see rain until after the seminar's conclusion.

After some truly inspiring numbers from the choir and several minutes of fervent prayer for the Holy Spirit, "to lead us into all truth," the program got under way.

In one of Glenna's sessions she discussed how we must unite our daily living with our Christian faith. In the lesson she pointed out that too often our faith in Christ is not reflected in our everyday actions. In Joshua 22:5, we are commanded to "love the Lord and walk in all His ways, to obey and serve Him with all our hearts and souls." Only through a deep commitment to God, can we experience the rich blessings He has for each of His children.

I began my sessions by talking about several important pillars of our Christian faith. The first was taken from Psalm 139, where King David writes that each of us are "fearfully and wonderfully made" by God. We are not here by accident or the result of a chemical reaction occurring on the surface of some primordial swamp, but the Lord "put us together in our mother's womb." Since God doesn't create "bad things" every human being is endowed with a uniqueness, a special significance that can either be fully realized in a relationship with Him or wasted on the things of this world. Both Glenna and I kept stressing how precious and important each of us is to our Lord. So precious in fact, that if just one of His children had sinned, Jesus would still have paid the ultimate price. What an awesome God we serve!

Following the final service, Pastor Frank gave an altar call and over 150 people came forward to receive special prayer! We had sensed the Holy Spirit working all week, but when this many walked to the front we were all amazed and a bit overwhelmed. With the help of several elders organizing the large crowd, Frank, Glenna and I prayed fervently for those seeking the Lord with such determination. The vast majority wanted to recommit themselves to Christ, to be used by Him in a much greater way – responding to the subject of the message that morning. With hands raised, they also cried out to God, their faces reflecting the passion and purpose of their words.

With a bit of reluctance, we left Pastor Eugene's church that afternoon. God's blessings had worked

both ways and the three of us came away greatly encouraged by all that we had experienced. As we drove back to town we remained in awe of how the hand of God can move in such a powerful and dramatic way -- "Praise Him for His acts of power, for His surpassing greatness!" (Psalm 150:2)

On October 19th, we are travelling to the town of Moshi near the Kenyan border to do a week long seminar. We have been trying to bring it together for the last few months, and now it seems God is giving the go ahead. Please remember us in your thoughts and prayers.

Finally, we want to express our deepest appreciation for not only your prayers, but financial support. Because of your selfless giving it has made it possible for us to continue working in Tanzania. As we have said in previous updates, we realize that for some of you it is a gift of sacrifice. However, the Lord has promised to reward our generosity. Jesus states in Luke 6:38, "Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over ... for with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

In His service,

John and Glenna



Highway to Holiness Seminar

[John and Glenna in Tanzania](#)