



January 20, 2011

Tanzania Update

Greetings to everyone from East Africa,

It's exciting to be off and running in this new year! Glenna and I, like so many other North Americans, made our plans and resolutions only to be reminded that it's the Lord who directs each of our steps.

After a short break during the Christmas holidays, we planned to resume our teaching ministry the first week of January at the Gilgal Praise and Worship Center – a rapidly growing church just outside Mwanza. However, due to some last minute complications in the pastor's schedule, we were forced to reset it for the following week.

On January 12th our mission's team was warmly welcomed by Pastor Sentozi and a large number of his congregation. We had spoken there in December and he had urged us to return to conduct a five day seminar.

Following some lively songs from the choir we began the teaching phase of the program. Glenna presented an entire series on the subject of prayer. One facet of the study concerned why we fail sometimes to see our prayers answered. She touched upon the problem of sin in our lives and how it can obviously impact our relationship with God. 1 John 1:9 states, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Once we come to the Lord and confess all, we are completely restored as is written in Psalms 24:4-5, "He who has clean hands and a pure heart ... will receive blessings from the Lord."

In the sessions I presented, we studied Isaiah 43:18-21, "Forget the former things ... for I am doing a new thing, don't you perceive it; to give you a path through the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people ... the people I formed myself to proclaim my praise." During the week we looked at the various things that keep us from moving forward with Christ, such as unforgiveness, bitterness, anger, love of money or sexual sin. We also studied several of the people of the Bible who struggled with such problems. Reinforcing what Glenna taught, I emphasized that once we let go of such things we begin to receive the blessings of a deeper understanding, experience and relationship with our God!

We were very pleased with the seminar, as it was well attended, with people listening attentively and many taking notes. There was a genuine enthusiasm in the crowd which proved to be a real encouragement to each of us. On Sunday the program came to a powerful conclusion when our coworker, Pastor Frank, delivered a sermon which also centered on the subject of prayer. He discussed the influence of the Holy Spirit found in Romans 8:26, "We do not know what to pray for, but the Holy Spirit Himself intercedes for us ..." In addition, he stressed the importance of faith in our prayers being answered. He quoted from James 1: 5-7, "if any of you lack wisdom he should ask God ... But when he asks he must believe and not doubt ... for the man that doubts will not receive anything from God."

During the service around fifteen people came forward to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior! Each of us lifted our hands and offered special prayer that their new found faith would grow and that the Lord would use them in a mighty way! Pastor Sentozi has a very effective radio ministry and many of these people came seeking salvation as a result of that outreach. It's always a very moving experience to see how God works in the lives of His children and to be able to help them begin their spiritual journey.

As I stated in a previous update, the worshippers at Gilgal are in the process of raising money to buy land for a new church. Pastor Sentozi and his congregation have plans to not only build a new

sanctuary, but a school, a center for widows and orphans and even a Bible College if funds continue to flow. It's a very large vision, but he's confident God will provide the means. His church is one of the largest and most successful in the Mwanza area with over a thousand people attending each week. The pastor is a very determined man of God and our prayers are with him in this great endeavor.

A few days ago the three of us were invited to meet with a Pastor Irene, whose church we had spoken at in early December. She is a widow and is facing many challenges in her personal life and in the ministry. We offered words of encouragement followed by heartfelt prayers that God would provide wisdom and strength in dealing with her difficulties. She told us that the seminar we held had been a real blessing to her congregation and that several people had been visibly changed by the teachings! It's always uplifting to hear such testimonies and to be reminded that the Lord does use ordinary people to do extra ordinary things.

On Wednesday, January 26th, we are beginning a five day seminar at a small church near Mwanza, in an area called Shabi. Please continue to lift us up before the Lord.

In conclusion, we thank all of you so much for your prayers and generous financial support. You have been such a blessing to us and to the thousands of people we have ministered to over the last several years. Our prayer is that God will do a "new thing" in your lives in 2011. That He will give you direction, "a path through the desert" and provide all your needs, "streams in the wasteland." May the Lord bless you beyond all measure!

In His service,

John and Glenna

John and Glenna in Tanzania

(Pictures on next page)



Gilgal Congregation



Praying for Salvation