



July 28, 2010

Tanzania Update

Hello to everyone from East Africa,

We pray that God is blessing each of you in a special way, that you're experiencing His goodness in your life as never before. We want to thank all of you again for your prayers for us and this ministry in Tanzania. The Lord continues to lead and direct us in ever changing ways!

On Wednesday, July 21st, we began a five day seminar at a church in an area near Mwanza called Mahina. We had been invited by Pastor Rose to teach and encourage her small congregation. When we arrived we were warmly welcomed with some lively singing and dancing from their choir. The church had been planted about two years ago and has gone through some real struggles just to survive.

The building itself was approximately 12 feet wide and 30 feet long, with a dirt floor and large reed mats for walls. There were two poles in the middle holding up a thinly covered thatched roof. (See attached picture.) In the rainy season the roof is obviously a real problem and they've had many services washed out. Over the last few months, the members have been fundraising to build a stronger structure with a metal roof. The two of us have spoken in many small churches over the last four years, but this has to be one of the poorest.



One of the subjects Glenna taught on was found in Psalm 100:3, "know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us and we are His." She stated that as God's children we were originally meant to have a deep and satisfying relationship with Him, to know Him intimately and enjoy the wonder of His presence. Our first parents, of course, did experience all that until a tragic act of disobedience in the Garden brought it to a sudden end. However, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, mankind can begin the process of total restoration which will culminate in the coming of Him in the clouds!

In one of the sessions I did, I taught on John 2:1-11 and the miracle at the wedding in Cana. I began the seminar by talking about how the Lord created us and saved us through the shed blood of Jesus and now wants each of us to serve Him. In the famous wedding story, the wine had run out and Mary, the mother of Jesus, after informing her son of the predicament, says to the servants to "do whatever He tells you." Jesus has them fill six large water pots which He then turns into a delicious wine. When the master of ceremonies tastes the wine, he is flabbergasted that they kept the best for last. The real point of the story is when we finally surrender to the will of God, doing whatever He tells us to do, miracles happen. Lives are changed forever!

The response to the messages was very encouraging. Each night when we gave an altar call, several people came forward. Some were in desperate need of prayer for personal problems while others came to receive Jesus as their Savior. After speaking to each person briefly, Pastor Frank led them in the sinner's prayer. With only about 20 people attending Pastor Rose's church on a regular basis, it was wonderful to see ten or more people stepping forward each night.

On Sunday we were also greatly encouraged by several testimonies from people being blessed by the teachings over the last week. One man in particular, an elder in the church, said he had been convicted by the Holy Spirit to follow God wherever He led him. He hadn't been obeying as he should, but now he planned to.

Following a final altar call and after several spirited numbers from the choir, the church presented us with gifts. It always amazes us how people with so little in life can be so generous to others. Sacrificial giving seems to be a way of life for them.

Later, as we said our goodbyes to Pastor Rose, she urged us to return as soon as the Lord permitted. We were all greatly impressed by what God had accomplished in Mahina.

On Sunday, August 1st, we are speaking at a small church in an area called Igogo, near Mwanza. On Tuesday, August 3rd, we are taking a load of Bibles and traveling to the village of Ushirombo for a week long seminar. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

As always, we thank you for your prayers and financial support, without which this ministry would not survive. Right now the door is open for the spread of the Gospel in many parts of the world. As Jesus explained to His disciples, we must do the work of Him who sends us while it is still day; for the "night is coming when no one can work." John 9:4

In His service,

John and Glenna