

Jensen Missions



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George & Joy, Jacob, Luke, Lindsey

October 2010

Transition Time

We express our sincere appreciation to you all for your continued prayers and support. Over the past three and a half years we have learned a lot about Tanzanian culture and mission work. Your backing has enabled us to focus our attention upon changing lives for eternity. The souls we have taught and the men we have helped train can go forth on the *narrow way* and can call others to that Way.

Over the past couple of decades and more, there has been considerable effort focused in northern Tanzania and some in the very far south by the people of God. However, many areas still remain relatively untouched by the gospel. Tanzania's population has grown from about 10 million (1960) to over 42 million (2008) in less than 50 years. More than 80% of the population is rural. Evangelistic efforts certainly have not kept pace with this multiplication of souls. At nearly one million square kilometers it is the world's 31st largest country. The country is divided into 26 regions and 99 districts. Municipal councils are located in Arusha, Dodoma, Iringa, Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Morogoro, Shinyanga, Tabora, and Tanga.

With a desire to focus our efforts upon a new field and upon indigenous methods we are considering the town of Iringa (one of the key cities named above). As far as we can determine there is at most a small group of about 15 Christians meeting near this town, and no missionaries from the Lord's church. Iringa is the capital of the region. According to a 2002 census this region has a population of nearly 1.5 million.

Before leaving on our recent furlough we (Jacob, Carey Samford, myself) were able to make one survey trip to this city. Since furlough was hard upon us, time did not allow for proper in-depth investigation and assessment. In just a few short weeks, the Andrew Connally School of Preaching will hold the graduation for eight men who will return to various places in Tanzania and Kenya. That will conclude my responsibilities with the school.

We are requesting your specially directed prayers for our transition to a new phase of evangelism here in Tanzania. My mind reflects upon missionaries of years gone by who had a willingness to chart a course into the unknown. The determination and vision of the apostle Paul provides us great encouragement. He said: "making it my aim so to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named, that I might not build upon another man's foundation" (Romans 15:20). Our experience of starting a congregation in Pacifica, California (1993) where the Lord's church had not previously been established makes the present proposition a little less intimidating. Thank you again for your love and support of the Jensens in the work of spreading the saving message of the Savior.

George Jensen 2010

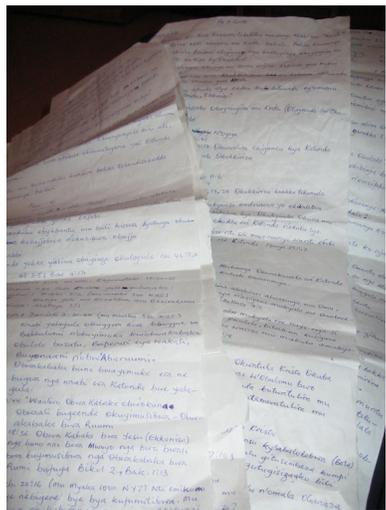




Children lined up on the step eating lunch, after Sunday services.



Lindsey and her new puppy, Panya!



Lugandan transcript for the Evangelism booklet.

Settling In Again....

We've been back home in Tanzania for about three weeks and are settling back into a "sort of" routine. It has been a little bit of an adjustment to once again get used to rationing water and never knowing when we will have the needed electricity to do certain chores. But, all in all, we have settled back into life in Africa.

We hit the ground running as soon as we got home. The day after we returned we needed to do some major grocery shopping to restock our supplies. It has been SO nice to be back in my own kitchen and cook for my family once again.

The Saturday after we got home Lindsey was able to pick up the puppy that had been waiting for her. The puppy is a Jack Russell Terrier, and Lindsey named it Panya, which is "mouse" in Swahili. She is the cutest thing and although she doesn't replace Julia by any means, she has been a nice companion for Lindsey. :)

One project that I tackled soon after we got home was typing and formatting George's evangelism booklet that has been translated into the Lugandan language by an ASCOP graduate, who is from Uganda. That was quite a tedious task, but I have completed it. We now need to communicate with the brother and do some editing, etc., but we are that much closer to getting this in print. We are excited about that!

Shortly after we returned there was a Leadership Conference for men. A number of Tanzanian brothers traveled a considerable distance to attend. It was held on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We attended the Sunday service and enjoyed a Bible class taught by Terry Carlisle, from Elmore, AL and a wonderful sermon by Mike Benson, from Hattiesburg, MS.

While we were away we acquired new neighbors! One of the men (a member of the church) who had been helping to keep an eye on our place while we were away met them and talked with them about having a Bible study with George once we returned. We met them a few days after we got home. It so happened that both the husband and wife were graduating from a local university about a week after we got home. I baked a cake as a graduation present for them and we gave it to them the night before their graduation. They were very agreeable to having a Bible study and we have had one so far. We were scheduled to have a second one, but the wife went into labor the day we were scheduled to have class. The day after she came home from the hospital, Lindsey and I went over to visit, taking some banana bread and a baby quilt that I made for her.

We have been sorting through some of our things, and making a list of bigger items we will sell, in order to downsize for our move. We have a lot of work ahead of us; the thought of it is a bit daunting! But we will take one day at a time. :)

In the past, some have sent care packages to our family, especially around the holidays. If that is something you plan to do again this year, please keep in mind that the mail runs pretty slow, and that by mid-January we may be in our new location, so it would be harder to retrieve those special packages. Therefore, you may want to mail any packages by mid-November.

Thank you for your love and care for our family. It means more to us than we can adequately express! Joy