



Jensen Missions

Tanzania, East Africa

August 2009

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

The month of August has been quite a busy one. Here is an overview of some of our activities:

July 31st: George and Jacob flew to Lilongwe, Malawi, where they spent the entire month teaching and preaching. Aug. 3 began their first day of the Mobile Bible School for the month of August. George taught Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, while Jacob taught Tuesdays and Fridays. On three different Saturday mornings, Jacob also taught some classes for youth. Every Sunday they visited a different location. Jacob taught the Bible class, and George preached. It was particularly encouraging the Sunday they worshiped with the church in Bunda. This congregation is a wonderful example of what it means to be indigenous. They do not receive outside support, they have built their own building, a little at a time, as their contribution has allowed. In a time when many countries are experiencing economic strain, including the U.S., perhaps it's time to reexamine many mission efforts. We highly recommend a book by Rod Rutherford, entitled "*Practical Principles of World Evangelism*" as a great educational resource for both supporters and missionaries. It can be purchased at <http://www.rodutherfordbooks.com/>.



August 1: Joy, along with several others, traveled to Longido, in the heart of Masai country, where they held a seminar for ladies. Lessons were given on the lives of Eve, Sarah, Vashti, and Jezebel. It was quite a different experience, reminding us of the sad reality of how much people need to change when they are so far removed from God's plan for humanity. Only one or two of the women had even heard of Eve.

August 15: Julia and Lindsey taught a seminar for single women, ages 13-25, on the topic of how single women can serve the church. Trina Gee hosted it – she provided morning tea, lunch, and a little goodie bag for each of the girls to take home. Julia and Lindsey each taught a class, and Julia organized a craft for them to do, which involved making a little picture with a Bible verse to be inserted, reminding them of the lessons of the day.



Miscellaneous: Lindsey continued her volunteer work at the medical clinic, once or twice a week, in addition to her high school work. She is rapidly approaching completion of her high school work. Luke began college courses online. Unfortunately, we are still waiting for some of his books to arrive, so this has put a little kink in his start. Hopefully they will arrive soon. We celebrated Julia's 22nd birthday August 8. Julia left August 24th to make a visit to the states. We had some airline miles that would expire before our next furlough, so we decided it would be a good opportunity for her to attend Polishing the Pulpit, visit some friends, and also attend Round House, a home school camp for members of the church.

Vehicle Update: We've had a number of inquiries regarding the status of our vehicle. Unfortunately, we are still waiting on the Tanzanian government to complete paperwork. We cannot even begin to describe the tangled mess of red tape which is involved in getting a new vehicle. Paperwork goes back and forth between a number of internal departments. One of the biggest reasons for such a long process is the tax-exempt status that we are allowed, due to the nature of our work. However, that comes with a price: a process which takes many months. Otherwise, the cost of the vehicle would almost double, due to tax and duty fees. In the mean time, we've secured an older vehicle so that we can at least have our own vehicle to drive. It is not possible for us to continue to borrow a vehicle for such a length of time. When we get everything sorted out, this second vehicle will be of great service to Jacob, who is planning on doing some work on his own, with outlying congregations.

A Note From Joy

What is life like for us in Tanzania? Often times we do not mention some of our daily challenges. One reason is because we do not want to sound like we are complaining. Another reason is because many of these things have become such a way of life that we almost forget what it's like NOT to have to deal with them; they are part of life, and we just try to cope from day to day, like everyone else. But I thought it would be informative to give you a sample of some of our daily challenges.

- **Tanzania needs rain.** The last few rainy seasons have provided much less rain than what is required for the growth and production of healthy crops. Conditions are beginning to become more serious in nature. Folks who rely more heavily on crops and livestock to supply their daily needs are suffering the consequences sooner than those who live in town and have city jobs. The ground is so dry that it is like thick powder. Every time we go somewhere our vehicles get covered with dust, and dust comes through the vent system, so that we get heavy doses of dust in our eyes, nose, etc. Several of us deal with constant sinus irritation/infections as a result. I am thankful, however, that we are blessed with a vehicle to drive, and are not having to rely on unsafe public transportation.
- **Power outages** have become much worse over the past month. We never know from one day to the next when it will go off, and how long. We do have a generator which we run at night sometimes, but with the price of fuel, it is not exactly cheap, and it is very noisy. Keeping laundry caught up has proved to be quite a challenge. I am very thankful, however, that I do have a washing machine, and am not washing all of our clothes by hand.
- **Water** comes a couple of times a week to fill up our reserve tanks. We have to be careful not to waste it, and on many occasions have not been able to do laundry, because we'd prefer to bathe instead. Washing our car or watering our lawn is a luxury; we rarely have enough water pressure from the garden hose. I am very appreciative of the fact that I still do not have to haul water from a nearby ditch.

I hope that mentioning these things will encourage all of us to count our blessings. Be thankful for the plentiful food you have to eat. The next time you turn on a light switch or plug in an appliance, be thankful that you can do it with such ease that you don't even think about whether or not your power is on. The next time you run a load of laundry, think about the fact that you have water and electricity, at the same time. The next time you turn on your faucet, think about where your water comes from, and what you would do if it didn't run freely into your house.

Contributions May Be Sent To:
Jensen Mission Fund
P.O. Box 41
Dyer, AR 72935

OUR MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 12519
Meru
Arusha, Tanzania
East Africa

WEBSITES AND BLOGS

www.jensenmissions.com
www.mytb.org/George-and-Joy
www.journey-with-joy.com
<http://juliaelaine.wordpress.com/>
<http://lifewithlinz.wordpress.com/>