

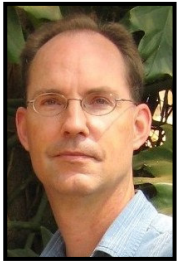


Jensen Missions

Tanzania, East Africa

February 2009

CATCH AND RELEASE PROGRAM?



Teaching at the Andrew Connally School of Preaching is one of my passions. The class I just concluded reaffirmed this feeling as I had a group of 12 men studying how to better teach the gospel to the lost. This class on Personal Evangelism is one of the most important in equipping these good men for the work which lies before them.

Our Lord also took 12 men, and said: "Come ye after me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). There are a number of lessons which might be drawn from the "fishing" motif. One huge problem we have been tackling here in East Africa is the lack of adequate teaching before a person is led to the waters of baptism.

Our son, Luke, has well characterized this problem as: "**The catch and release program.**" Many are familiar with the sport fishing practice of enjoying the experience of catching the fish, but then immediately releasing them back to the water. Sadly, many well intentioned teachers are persuading scores of people to "get baptized" and then they go on their way, right back to the world. In addition to that disturbing conduct, there is sometimes the "reporting" of vast numbers being added to the

Lord, without giving the true picture.

One crucial difference we would like to stress between "fishing for fish" versus "fishing for men." When fishing for fish, we will try to purposefully trick the fish into taking the bait. In contrast, when one showed interest in following Jesus, he did not try to give him an unrealistic view of discipleship. One man said: "Teacher, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest" (Matt. 8:19). Jesus responded: "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the heaven have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head" (Matt. 8:20). Jesus is seeking followers, but only those who understand the commitment He requires. We need to have a balance in sharing both the blessings for those in Christ, as well as the demands placed upon disciples by the Lord.

One chapter heading in a book I have on evangelism is: "The Reaping Mentality- Are we too anxious for the harvest?" Our motives may be good, but often our methods are not. Inadequate teaching is like trying to purposefully have a child born prematurely. Premature birth often results in death for the child. So also in evangelism, if we try to rush the birth (John 3:5), before there is time for hearing and learning to take place (John 6:45) there will be fatalities. The author of the book mentioned above, came to this conclusion. "I had expanded my understanding of evangelism to include planting, watering, and cultivating as well as

reaping. I learned that evangelism is a process" (EVANGELISM AS A LIFESTYLE, Jim Petersen, 25). The catch and release program follows the method of using one quick lesson, sometimes shockingly half an hour, then heading for the water.

In my class at ACSOP the students were encouraged to make personal evangelism *personal*. That is, each person must be taken from where they are in their knowledge and brought by teaching to a proper understanding. Each class must be personalized. Some prospective converts will require more teaching than others.

One aspect of training men, which inspires me to give it more attention, is the fact that I myself am limited, but the students have few of my limitations. They speak the native tongue fluently, they know the culture and the thought processes of their fellows. But perhaps more importantly, they are *many* and I am *one*! If I go house to house, I may reach a few. But if I prepare others, they may go on to reach a multitude!

Thank you for your support of the great work of preparing men to become effective fishers of men. GJ

*"And he said to them,
Follow me, and I will make
you fishers of men."*
Matthew 4:19 (ESV)



A Note from Joy

When our family lived in Iowa, we were privileged to enjoy some awesome thunderstorms. Not counting the increased possibility of tornadoes, which were plentiful in that part of the country, I loved the storms. We rarely had merely gray skies and endless drizzle, but our storms were exciting. We could stand on our porch and watch the clouds roll in with vigor, and then see the lightening and hear the claps of thunder, followed by terrific downpours of rain, sometimes accompanied by hail.

However, I don't think I fully appreciated rain until living through an African summer. Moshi has been quite hot this summer. Even the Tanzanians have been commenting that it is not usually this hot. The ground has been parched, the grass brittle, and the dirt that makes its way into our house has caused endless aggravation, both in the house cleaning department, as well as constant sinus problems.

What a wondrous relief it is to us all when the thunder rumbles in the distance, over Mt. Kilimanjaro, the wind picks up, and there is a drop in temperature, as the first few drops of rain hit the ground. This is usually followed by a torrent of rain, which usually lasts 30 minutes or so. When the torrent of rain begins, out comes the bucket to catch the water that leaks from the ceiling, and off goes the electricity. We don't mind those things too much, because the relief we feel far outweighs the inconvenience of leaky ceilings and lack of electricity.

After the rain passes over, the water quickly dissipates. It is amazing how quickly an area can flood, and then dry up again. Because we are still in the hot season, once the rain passes, the humidity hits with full force. Performing simple household chores causes us to drip with sweat. Not a

pretty picture, but it is reality. Do I bother wearing make-up? No, it will simply drip off my face.

With each rain, we enjoy a temporary cool breeze, the extra moisture for the flowers, grass, and trees, and the settling of the dust. So, when the thunder starts rolling in the distance, we look longingly towards the sky, hoping that rain is on its way, and when it does come, we stop what we are doing and enjoy every moment!

VEHICLE UPDATE

A couple of weeks ago we learned that the bus driver plead guilty. This was truly an answered prayer! The police had previously hinted to George that the bus driver was going to protest the charge, but that did not happen. Therefore, the police were able to close the case, and the remaining paperwork needed was passed on to the insurance company.

We are now waiting for the insurance company to finish processing the claim. We have been told that the local office in Arusha will receive the report from the main office in Dar es Salam by the end of this week.

In the mean time, we are relying on the goodness of the other missionaries, who have loaned us vehicles. Once we receive our insurance payment, it will still be anywhere from three to seven months before we finally have another vehicle of our own. George has been researching while waiting, and the cost for the same vehicle has increased by about \$12,000 in only two years.

Please continue to keep this situation in your prayers, so that we can get through this process as quickly as possible.

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/>

MEET THE MWAKABANJE'S



Christopher and Julia Mwakabanje are well known to the work in Tanzania. They both grew up in southern Tanzania. Christopher and Julia met when Christopher was a student at the school of preaching in Chimala. Christopher desired to further his Bible knowledge, and so he attended the Memphis School of Preaching.

Christopher and Julia have been working with the Moshi congregation approximately ten years. Christopher has also played an integral part in the day to day functions of Kilimanjaro Bible School in Moshi.

Until now, the Andrew Connally School of Preaching has been conducted only in English, but beginning in 2010, a Swahili branch will be added. Christopher has accepted the position of director for the Swahili stream.

Christopher and Julia have four children: Fabian, Anthony, Enita, and C.J.

Funds May Be Sent To:

Jensen Mission Fund
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 Dyer, AR 72935

**Mail and Care Packages
 May Be Sent To:**
 Jensen Family
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