



Jensen Missions

Tanzania, East Africa

January 2009

GOD IS SO GOOD



Often in our worship together at the Kilimanjaro congregation, either Jacob or Luke is asked to lead a Kiingereza (English) song.

There are but a few which the brethren know, but one they like is "God is So Good." Recently, the truths of these lyrics have been impressed upon our family in a very dramatic way.

Dangers of Africa

During our furlough, one of the questions often raised was: "What are some dangers you face in your work in Africa?" Commonly, folks were thinking about things such as malaria, food poisoning, yellow fever, or typhoid. My answer was usually something like this: "Actually, traveling on the roads poses one of the greatest risks!"

Road Conditions

It is hard to convey adequately what travel is really like from day to day. However, let me try. First, only the main roads in town and between major towns are paved, the rest are dirt roads with ruts and potholes. Second, everyone desires to use the paved roads whenever possible. Most people choose to walk on the pavement and reluctantly step off if forced to do so. Bicycle riders usually opt for the smoother paved surface. Men pulling and pushing carts of all shapes and sizes use the roadway. Goats and donkeys often graze right up to the edge of the roadway where the grass is growing, and of course often cross to reach the grass that is greener on the other side. Massai herdsman move their large herds across the road at whatever place they choose.

Small 100cc motorcycles make their way along slowly, trying to keep their tires on the pavement while hoping not to be blown off the road by passing vehicles. The seemingly innumerable "dala dalas" (minivan buses) stop and start everywhere along the road, picking up and dropping off passengers. They weave in and out of traffic and often make a "third" lane on roads that barely fit two vehicles side by side. Then there are big trucks laden far past their intended capacity, laboring up the grades, belching their huge clouds of diesel smoke.



As if this were not enough chaos, there are the "Greyhound" sized busses, many of which are so old they look like something out of some historical documentary. These busses are usually driven at break-neck speeds and when faced with the inconvenience of some smaller slower vehicle in their path, rather than sacrifice their momentum, they will pass, even if there is a blind curve ahead or an oncoming vehicle. The actions of these drivers make it clear they follow the iron rule which states: "*Might makes right!*"

Accident

After leaving ACSOP, Todd Gee, Jacob and I were traveling down the road toward the Gee's home. Before I turned off the road, I glanced in my side mirror and

noticed a large bus, coming from behind at a very high speed. My reaction was one I have had many times before - move to the edge of the road and let him pass. In an instant we felt a most violent crash



as this giant bus hit us directly from behind. The impact sent us off the road and we rolled nearly one and one half times before coming to a rest, on the side of the vehicle. I immediately turned off the key and removed it from the steering column. The vehicle was filled with smoke and the engine was still revving wildly. My glasses were off, and Jacob led me by the hand out the back of the vehicle through an opening that had been a window.

The three of us moved away from the vehicle through the crowd that had already gathered. Jacob suggested we have a prayer of thankfulness, so the three of us knelt down in the grass and thanked God for sparing our lives. Todd's head had been hit, and both Jacob and I had cuts near our right eye which were bleeding down the side of our faces.

In times past, when I have viewed similarly wrecked vehicles, I have surmised that there must have been fatalities. Looking at the driver's side roof that was smashed near to the top of the steering wheel, I marvel how I was spared. It must be obvious now to the reader, why the words of the song are sweet in my ear - "God is so good!" **George Jensen**



A Note from Joy

This month has been a busy one from it's beginning. Here are a few things that we've been doing:

January 3: I taught an all-day class to girls, ages approximately 8-20. Prior to that day, I spent hours and hours preparing the lessons, as well as a bilingual workbook for the girls.

January 4: Our family, along with Christopher Mwakabanje and two of his children drove to a bush congregation about an hour away to check on the work there. George taught a class and delivered a sermon. The congregation is not doing too well. They did not make any preparation for the Lord's Supper. We knew this is a common problem with immature Christians, and we went prepared. Afterwards, we enjoyed a picnic lunch which I had prepared the night before.

January 6: George and I went to the weekly Bible study we've been having with a woman. Her husband, a retired Dr., has Parkinson's disease. He ends up sleeping through most of the class, but we do think he hears some of it.

January 7: Julia and I, along with three other ladies, went to visit one of the fallen-away sisters of the congregation. George dropped all of us off near her home, and after our visit, we walked part way, and then took a dala-dala back to the church building, in time for Wednesday Bible study.

January 11: I started teaching the children's Bible class on Sundays at Moshi. I am teaching a series on worship.

January 12: We all went to Arusha for the day. Jacob needed to return to school, and that evening there was a going away party for Anthony and Shasta Brown, who were returning to the states.

January 13: Our weekly Bible study with Nancy was cancelled.

January 19: I went with George to Arusha, to drop Jacob off at school. We bought a good supply of groceries, and had lunch with one of the other missionary families.

January 20: George and I went to our weekly Bible study with Nancy. She chose to have it outside, away from her husband. She shared with us that he is a strong Catholic, and we are concerned that he may not be happy with our studies.

January 21: Lindsey and I, along with four of the ladies from the congregation, went to the hospital to visit a young mother, whose five-month old baby was in the hospital with pneumonia. Again, we rode in a dala-dala there and back. On the way, there were at least 30 people piled in the mini-van. This is not our idea of fun, being so closely crowded that someone's armpit is in your face.

January 22: I picked up Julia Mwakabanje at 6:00 am, and we took some food to the hospital for the young mother. You may recall, food is not provided by the hospital. I also included some multi-vitamins for the mother, who likely does not get a balanced diet.

January 23: This is the day that George and Jacob, along with Todd Gee, were in the wreck.

January 27: Nancy called and cancelled class again. She did not give us a reason, so time will tell whether or not we will be able to continue studying with her.

A couple of weeks ago we received a package from a children's Bible class, of the North Charleston congregation, in North Charleston, SC. This truly was an outpouring of love from these children, and the teacher who helped make it happen. There were all sorts of visual aids, construction paper, colored pencils, etc., to aid in the teaching of children's Bible



Goodies from North Charleston

classes, and some goodies for our family.

Also included were many travel-sized tubes of toothpaste, as well as toothbrushes. We thought it would be good to give these to the students in my Sunday morning Bible class, and so last Sunday, after class, I gave each student a toothbrush and toothpaste. They were very happy to receive them, but I think some of the parents were happier!

That pretty much sums up my month, in addition to the many tasks involved in running our household.

We covet your prayers as we continue our work here in Tanzania.

In Him, *Joy*



Joy's Sunday Bible Class Proudly Showing Their Toothbrushes and Toothpaste

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