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Polygamy and Sobriety

It has been my pleasure to teach the second year men at the Andrew Connally School of Preaching (ACSOP). We have been studying God's plan for the home and family. Coming from America we are accustomed to thinking of the Mormons if we hear the word *polygamy*. Here in Tanzania we think of the Massai tribe if we hear the word. Polygamy is a very common practice among these people.

A couple of years ago the boys and I were way out in the bush and came upon a primitive village. An aged man approached our vehicle and we began to converse. It turned out that this man was the village chief. He was able to assist us with directions, for which we were grateful. As a small token we offered him some bottled water. In these remote and arid places the Massai often are required to go to a dry riverbed, and dig a pit in the sand and allow a small amount of water to seep slowly into the hole. In times past such a gift was received enthusiastically. However, on this occasion the chief responded with disdain toward our offering. He said something like: "I don't want water, I can have any of my people bring water to me. I want Beer!" This may help you understand that both polygamy and drinking are common practices.

Repentance presents a huge challenge for those who have a life entrenched in these practices. A man may have three wives and a large number of children by each. His gospel obedience will require clinging only to his first wife. Many will choose to stay in sin rather than reform their lives. - *(continued on page 2)*



Furlough Plans

We are happy to report that we've been able to purchase our tickets! We will fly out of Tanzania on July 5 and arrive in Oklahoma City July 6. Due to Julia's wedding, we will need to devote some of our time to that event while in the States; therefore, we will not be able to travel to quite a many different places this trip. We know that you all understand the need to devote some of our time to this special event in our family. We will also be in California for one month, spending some much needed time with our family.

We do plan on attending **Polishing the Pulpit**, as well as **Roundhouse**, an annual camp for homeschooling families who are associated with the church. We look forward to seeing many of you at one or both of these events.

Polygamy and Sobriety, continued:

...Others may be tempted to keep the youngest wife or the prettiest. No wonder some missionaries are willing to “turn a blind eye” to such problems or offer some false doctrine that allows a person to “stay with the *ones* they’re with!” We refuse to alter the message of Christ. In the congregation of Corinth there were some who had been fornicators, adulterers, and drunkards, but they repented and then enjoyed sanctification (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). We need to lovingly teach the truth.

The country of Tanzania literally has small pubs everywhere. These little roadside establishments specialize in simple native food and Beer. On any day of the week, once the sun goes down they are busy with the nightlife. Families are suffering from low income, but even the meager amount they have is often being wasted on alcoholic drink. In Acts two we read about the chiding the apostles received. Peter declared that he and his companions were not drunken, since it was but “the third hour of the day” (2:15). It was not common during that day for a drinker to imbibe in the early morning. Here in Tanzania, we are on this same hourly time reckoning. We speak in Swahili of “saa tatu asubuhi” (hour three in the morning). This equals 9:00 a.m. Yet my family and I have smelled alcohol on the breath of some brethren in the church building on Sunday morning! They don’t use the “tools” some of our American brethren use – like taking breath mints or mouthwash in an effort to mask the smell of alcohol or cigarettes.

Our precious Lord suffered and died to make men free. The old habits of the world can be conquered (1 Peter 4:3-5). May we as saints diligently be “perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Corinthians 7:1). *GJ*

Trip To Nairobi - A Dental Adventure

From time to time the missionaries here in Tanzania have made trips to Nairobi seeking professional medical care. I had heard that this Kenyan city is (in some parts) as modern as anything found in America. We have been blessed over the last three years with relatively good health, so no trip for additional care was needed.

Our son Jacob was born with a one adult tooth missing. We have known that eventually he would need to have a tooth implant if his existing teeth were to remain in their proper positions. We learned that this procedure could be accomplished in Nairobi. Equipped with two full tanks of diesel fuel, a box of bottled waters, a few clothes, and a GPS, Jacob and I headed for the border. The Tanzanian/Kenyan road is under major construction. We were making our way along the dirt/rock road and it began to downpour. We stopped momentarily for Jacob to hop out and lock in the front wheel hubs so we could proceed in four-wheel drive. The torrents of rain soon turned some sections of road into literal streams. We are thankful to our many supporters who helped us with vehicle cost; this Landcruiser has an air intake snorkel that receives air for the engine way up at vehicle roof height. In some sections we were driving through water that was about to the top of the 16-inch all-terrain tires.

We reached the Kenyan border without a problem in a vehicle that looked like it had been in a mud bog rally. Border crossing entailed paperwork filing on both sides. First, there were needed documents prepared to take the vehicle out of the country. Then we made the short drive across the “no man’s land” section between the countries. On the Kenyan side our passports were stamped with a visa, and also documents were prepared to bring the vehicle into the country. We had to pay a \$90 fee to receive temporary insurance. I sat in a little shack as they prepared the insurance sticker for the windscreen and the paperwork.

Some sections of road on the Kenyan side were newly paved. How strange the feeling was to glide along at 90 kph! Once we reached the big city we were treated to the kind of traffic I had been accustomed to in San Francisco. Thankfully Jacob acted as co-pilot using his GPS. It would have been difficult to find our way around, but technology can be a wonderful blessing. We arrived exactly at our intended destination. We met with the surgeon and he confirmed that Jacob was in need of the procedure. The next day he had his rootless baby tooth extracted, the jaw drilled, the implant base inserted, and the gum stitched together. This was the first of a three-step process for the implant. He’ll finish up when we return home from furlough in October.

We left the office about 5:00 p.m. and headed for home. The trip described above was basically repeated in reverse. I felt for Jacob as we bumped along the bad roads, but he said the medication was helping him feel better; mainly just some bearable throbbing. We arrived home at 11:00 p.m. Needless to say, we have added to our mental log of memorable African adventures! *GJ*