

# Jensen Missions

Iringa, Tanzania  
East Africa

George and Joy  
Jacob, Luke and Lindsey

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## Our Mailing

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## LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Reaching the maturity to appoint elders is a hurdle facing so many African congregations. The very reason Paul left Titus in Crete was for this evangelist to facilitate growth toward eldership appointment (Titus 1:5). In a recent meeting of the men, it became obvious that much teaching was needed on the subject of congregational leadership.

Many congregations “tread water” for years, never moving closer to God’s divine ideal for congregational organization. In my experience, two factors particularly trap a church into leadership stagnation. Often, one man has the “upper hand” in men’s meetings. Some are of the Diotrophes variety (2 John 9, 10), while others may simply “take charge” in the absence of any others showing initiative. These men often seem reluctant to influence toward eldership appointment. Some want to keep their leadership and others simply see none qualified for the office of a bishop. So the subject receives no attention at all.

A second contributing factor is the breakdown of the family. The erosion of the domestic structure is at the heart of many congregational woes. One elder recently wrote to me deploring the shocking number of divorces within the local body of believers. The number of men with strong, stable marriages seems to be shrinking and children of the saints are leaving the church in disturbing numbers. The men who have proved their ability to lead their own

## MEMORIZATION

It is wonderful to see progress in people’s Bible knowledge. Such is the case with the Iringa congregation. Many are continuing to memorize the 66 books of the Bible. Certificates have been printed to acknowledge those who recite them perfectly, and the last Sunday of December certificates were presented to Olivia and Aidini. Are you able to recite the books of the Bible? If not, how about making that your goal for 2012?



## Leadership Seminar...continued

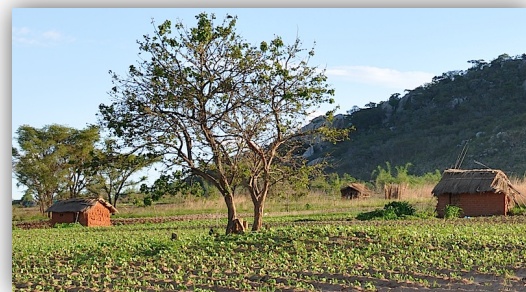
families (1 Timothy 3:5) are becoming an endangered tribe. So the pool of men to be considered for the high church office is small.

In response to the need, Carey and I spoke for our leadership seminar in Iringa. Following Sunday morning worship, the men joined for a lunch in one member's home. We enjoyed rice, beans, goat meat, bananas and sodas. With satisfied stomachs we returned to the building. I delivered a lesson on congregational leadership in the absence of elders. Carey followed by speaking about the need to strive toward an eldership and the qualifications that each man must be working to attain. After all, but for a few exceptions (i.e. married, believing children), all Christian men should meet the qualifications of an elder.

As a follow-up to our Leadership Seminar, I delivered a lesson the next Sunday, challenging us to develop goals for spiritual growth, both as individuals and congregationally. That is a challenge for all of us, not only the church in Tanzania. We need to plan for growth if we expect it to become a reality.

What are your goals for spiritual growth in 2012?

George



## A Letter to Our Supporters

Dear Supporters,

As we near the end of 2011, we must take time for reflection. Our labors have been

blessed with many new converts and signs of healthy congregational development. We are mindful of each of you who have faithfully held us up in prayer, as well as supported us through financial means. Your contributions in 2011 have not been in vain. We thank you for all you have given.

As we look forward to the coming new year, we humbly ask that you **please keep us in your budget**. We still have work to do here in Iringa in the coming year, so we still need your prayers and support.

**2012 will also be a time of transition for our family.** For a time, signs seemed favorable for us to work with a fledgling congregation in

New Zealand. However, as we learned more about immigration regulations, it now seems unlikely that we all would qualify for entrance visas as we had hoped.

We are presently open to new possibilities. We are in an "investigation mode" and would welcome your suggestions. We know God works providentially, but His ways are "past tracing out!" (Romans 11:33). Mordecai of old said of Esther: "who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14). Paul said: "the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the progress of the gospel" (Philippians 1:12). Even today, we don't know what opportunities God might set before us to serve in His kingdom.

Should you wish to communicate with us, please send an email to **[gjjensen6@yahoo.com](mailto:gjjensen6@yahoo.com)**.

In Christian love,  
George & Joy