

# Jensen Missions

Iringa, Tanzania

East Africa

George and Joy  
Jacob, Luke and Lindsey

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## Drop us a line!

### Our new mailing address:

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### Our website:

[jensenmissions.com](http://jensenmissions.com)

### Our travel blog:

[www.mytb.org/George-and-Joy](http://www.mytb.org/George-and-Joy)

## Food for Thought for the Mission-Minded

How thankful we are for the many congregations and individuals who sacrifice each week to support preachers and missionaries. Also, many elderships are comprised of true shepherds who challenge their flocks to invest in missionary endeavors. This brief article is aimed at stimulating deeper consideration about how spiritual people ought to ascertain the worthiness of a mission effort.

The first consideration must be to determine if the work or worker under consideration is Biblically aligned. Only those evangelists and missionaries who speak solely “the things which befit the sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1) are worthy of support. Timothy was charged by the Holy Spirit (through Paul) to hold “the pattern of sound words” (2 Timothy 1:13). The only teaching that is healthy is that which is pure and unaltered (Galatians 1:6-10). How deplorable it is when some are supported, sometimes for years, without the supporters even knowing the foundation upon which the worker stands. For example, some of our readers may have heard of the mission effort called Namikango Mission in the African country of Malawi. The stateside congregation associated with this work is the New Beginnings church in Houston, Texas. Would you be comfortable worshipping where the “worship arts” include “dance ministry, drama team, and praise band”? But the real question is not whether you or I would be *comfortable*, but whether such items are authorized by the One we serve (Colossians 3:17). Even if the “dance ministry” is “open to everyone, exists to honor God through movement and dance” it cannot genuinely honor God when such is not by the authority of Jesus Christ. (continued on back)

## Member of the Month

We would like to introduce you to Isaac and Eva. They have two boys, Imu and France. Isaac works as a carpenter. Isaac became a Christian in 1996 and Eva in 2001. Isaac attends worship faithfully, but his wife is weak in the Faith. Although they have been Christians for a number of years, they need encouragement. Will you pray for them today?



## Life is Never Dull....

February certainly provided us with a variety of activities as well as challenges. George and I made arrangements to meet with a Swahili tutor twice a week. Although we haven't had too many classes yet, we can already tell that this is really going to help us focus on increasing our Swahili proficiency.

After many weeks of pushing ourselves to physical exhaustion, we were desperate to have at least a break for a day, and so we took a day to visit a nearby game park. We really enjoyed viewing God's creation and the creatures; however, one kind of creature we did not appreciate was the tsetse fly. They were horrendous and made the day a bit difficult. Luke got a bite that turned pretty nasty, but with some diligent care we were able to take care of the infection.

On February 7 we celebrated Jacob's 22nd birthday. George's and my heart swells with happiness when we see our children-turned-adults serving God and taking their personal spiritual growth seriously.

On February 14 George and I, along with Carey and Bonnie Samford, decided to have a special night out for Valentine's Day. Lindsey, Jacob and Luke babysat the Samford kids so that we could enjoy a rare evening together with just the four of us. We had a wonderful time together...and then two nights later, our pleasant memory came to a halt, when all four of us became sick. After considering all the facts, we determined that it was food poisoning. No one else in our families got sick. It's been quite a while since George and I have been sick like that, especially at the same time. It was a week before we really felt well again but we are thankful that we have fully recovered.

Charles, our translator, was gone for two weeks making arrangements for his marriage. (See our travelblog online for more details about that.) He returned on Feb. 26 with a smile on his face and his bride by his side. Since his return we have resumed our weekly class with Zawadi and her neighbors.

There are many other things that space will not allow me to include this time, but needless to say, there is never a dull moment in Tanzania! Until next time....Joy



## Food for Thought...continued

(See [www.nbchurch.com/ministries/worship-arts](http://www.nbchurch.com/ministries/worship-arts)).

One unfortunate reality is the existence of the practice of painting one picture via newsletters and reports, while quite another is visible on the field. In 2001 I made my first trip to India. I had rendezvoused in Bangkok with a missionary of 30+ years of experience and we proceeded together to India. While in India, we were seated in a little eating establishment and he directed my attention to a nearby table. He said something to this effect: "See that man over there, he is brother \_\_\_\_\_. His supporters don't know it, but when he is over here, he works in cooperation with denominational groups." I wish it were the case

that these are extremely rare cases that I just happened to learn about.

May no one overreact and think we view the missionary community as wholly tainted. Oh no! God has soldiers on the front lines wielding the sword of the spirit with valor and faithfulness. But neither should we assume the posture of the proverbial ostrich. "Take heed to thyself, and to thy teaching. Continue in these things; for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself and them that hear thee" (1 Timothy 4:16). May we support as many as we can who are willing to live by this rule!

*George*