

Jensen Missions

Iringa, Tanzania

East Africa

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Jacob, Luke and Lindsey

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Another New Convert



We are so thankful for the many people showing interest in learning God's word. I just returned from our morning Saturday class where we had 8 non-Christians in attendance.

During this session we are covering God's plan for man - following basically the evangelism booklet. Last Saturday we covered "the Lord's one body." When one man learned that sin is not passed from father to son and that baby baptism was not to be found in the Bible, he was floored. He said (rough translation): "My heart is burning!" He and another student stayed after class to ask more questions. Today we again had a few who stayed after class to ask questions.

For a number of weeks, Christopher has been "counting the cost." He has held some position in a local denomination and was pondering how to say his goodbyes. Thursday, he admitted that some things he was allowing to hinder him really should not. With great delight we witnessed his baptism in the river. That evening, our family walked down the road from our house, and visited he and his whole family. Joy presented his wife with a loaf of banana bread she had made.

How wonderful to introduce him to all his brothers and sisters on Sunday. We are prayerful that by his faithful example and other classes that his wife will also obey.

Continued on back page. . .

Bringing Others to Christ

Do you remember the account in John chapter 1, when Andrew went and found his brother, Simon Peter? Over the past few Sundays we have seen many new faces in worship, thanks to several Christians inviting family, friends and neighbors. Shadrack has brought his younger brother and sister, Zawadi has brought her neighbor, Salome has brought her mother and a sister, and Prisca has been bringing a neighbor. Let's all try to be more like Andrew. Let your love for the souls of others overpower your shyness and other hindrances. Set a goal to bring a soul!



Another New Convert...continued

On Wednesday afternoons we are conducting a 2 Timothy 2:2 class for the men of the congregation. We meet in town at a local outdoor cafe. The emphasis is on leadership and learning how to handle the Bible. Some of our time we use the Socratic method, whereby we use questions and answers. We want to answer questions, but at the same time, we want them to learn how to answer questions on their own.

A couple of weeks ago, a young man named Tito came around when he saw our men gathered. He sat down and listened in on our Bible discussion. Since this class is tailored for Christians, we offered to have a personal study with him. Our first class with him was on Tuesday morning. He seems to have little knowledge of the Scriptures, but has interest in learning. We are off to a good start in teaching him God's will.

On Tuesday afternoon, we pick up our sister Zawadi on our way to sister Salome's home. There we study with these two and also Salome's mother. Her mother is very confused with many denominational ideas, but is showing good receptivity once she is shown what the Bible teaches. We have had some concerns about the attitude of Salome's husband who is not a Christian. Since the classes are being held in her home we did not want to make things difficult for her. However, we have briefly seen her husband the last two times, and he has been warm and welcoming to us. His work schedule seems unpredictable, but we pray for future opportunities to influence and teach him.

One of our new converts, Olivia, has some struggles since she has no husband. The congregation has really pitched together and she settled into her new rental room this week. Brethren donated rice, oil, beans, bedding, etc. for her to get a good home start. Thank you for your support of our efforts here in Africa. George



SPECIAL UPDATE

Last month we sent out a special update, along with a request for your prayers. Our 5-year mark of work in Tanzania will be reached in April of next year.

We desire to see Jacob, Luke, and Lindsey have better opportunities for schooling and employment. We also desire to be in a place where English is the spoken language; where we can have more natural worship expression.

As our beloved supporters, we want to keep you apprised of our plans. For a missionary family, charting a course is a challenging undertaking. We are saturating our prayers with pleas for our Heavenly Father to open and/or close doors as He deems best. We are also doing our part to investigate where we think we can be of good service in the kingdom.

Many of you have been our supporters for many years. Others are more new with your support of the Jensens. So I will provide a brief history here. Upon graduating from the East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions on February 7, 1988, I began my full-time labors with the Airport congregation in South San Francisco. From that point until April of 2007 I labored with stateside missions. However, during those years, I made a number of short-term visits to various foreign points. Each time I would spend about a month preaching and teaching as the need of the time demanded.

I taught in the Ukraine, India, Sri Lanka, Jamaica, New Zealand, and Australia. Each of these places proved to have great needs for teaching to strengthen Christians and to evangelize the unsaved. Each culture is unique and each has its own challenges for a missionary.

My very first foreign trip was to the North Island of New Zealand. I remember being struck with two things. (1) The

work was hard - converts came only after much persistence, and (2) those converted seemed particularly serious about having found the truth. You can easily see how these two might be related.

I developed some good friendships in the land of the Kiwis. I would be drawn to return another three times. All of my children, one by one, accompanied me to New Zealand, except Jacob (he was with me when I taught the Book of Luke in the Ukraine).

Different missionaries seem to be "more at home" in one place than another. While I admire those who leave their homeland and preach in China, that is not for me. Why, I have a hard enough time with an easy language like Swahili! And while I have made two trips to India, I am far more at home in East Africa, than there.

So as we consider possibilities for a new work, these and others factors are part of the mix. It might be hard for many to imagine the multitude of "pros" and "cons" when choosing a work. Thankfully, and most importantly, we have a confidence that God can work in our lives providentially. So we pray fervently and frequently for Him to help us. Secondly, the various visits I have made through the years to various places, and my stateside work gives me some perspective from which to work. Joy and I wish to blend two important factors - We want to be where we can work effectively for God, and where our children will have good opportunities to learn and serve also.

We are presently giving serious and prayerful consideration to New Zealand. New Zealand laws have recently been changed, making it possible for religious workers to achieve resident status. There is a newly established congregation in Foxton that does not have a full-time worker. They have requested with enthusiasm that we come down under and help them.

Please keep us in your prayers.

George & Joy