

February 9, 2009 (Arusha, Tanzania, one week from when we left USA)

Dear family and friends: We were delighted to learn that there is an Internet Cafe not far from where we are staying here in Arusha. The problem is finding the time and transportation to get there on a regular basis. Also, there is some work going on with the electric grid and so power outages are frequent and common.

The first night of our evangelistic meetings we had two downpours of rain during the meeting. The people ran for cover beyond the plastic ceilings over most of the seats. But they returned when the rain stopped. And there was a power outage. We had a generator but its output was inconsistent and so the Video Projector would cut out after just a few seconds. We restarted it several times before abandoning it and just preached the Word without the visuals. We could not show the Jesus Video which many were looking forward to seeing. The meeting went well in spite of the negatives. One great blessing was the choir music provided by a nearby SDA church group. It was rich and beautiful in harmony and melody. You could feel the energy and "electricity" as they sang. The director was dynamic with a rich bass voice.

Last night in our second meeting of the series, the electricity came on shortly after we began the sermon and the people cheered. So we could cover Daniel 2 in a more powerful way. We had good music again by the host church choir and with generator electricity had sound for a family talk by the local pastor, Kimbuto, who is our translator. Also Mary Alice gave a family talk again and I told a story to the children. It is so rewarding to see them listening breathlessly to the stories even through translation. We hope to have electricity early enough tonight to screen the Jesus Video segments also.

Yesterday was a day to catch up on a little sleep and study. Power was out all day but we had sunlight to read. M.A. did a hand laundry with her little plastic washboard we carry and I helped hang them on a line outside in the hot sun where they dried well in just a couple of hours. Our hosts, Willie and Napenda Kisaka, were gone all day getting their hotel ready for an influx of guests. We were glad for the food we had brought.

usually, they serve us breakfast and a hot meal at noon. We share the peanut butter we brought and good bread is available here along with good fruit and vegetables. They also insist that we eat supper after the meeting because he would be considered very poor by friends if he did not provide a meal before we went to bed. Not good healthwise and weightwise for us, but is an homage we pay to strong local custom. The exercise from going up and down the irregular stairs to our room will help a little with weight control.

Last night we had a Massai attend our meeting in his regular garb and he seemed to listen attentively. Also we had Dr. John Kisaka, father of Willie, who teaches at the SDA Seminary nearby. He is the first missionary to the Massai and has a most interesting story to tell. We hope to get it on video before we leave. We used him as our model High Priest wearing the garments we brought to illustrate "The Gospel in Priestly Garments" in two churches last Sabbath before our Evangelistic series began that evening. He is very excited about the Sanctuary message. He said he has taught in our Seminary for many years but has never heard the Sanctuary presented so clearly and forcefully before. He wants to arrange for it to be shared also at the university even though many of the students are away now on Home Leave. It is summer here right now.

On Friday we went with Kisakas on a long bus trip from Arusha to the mountains where we visited the little church being built on the top of a mountain. We gave money to put on the metal roof and preached to more than a score of the workmen who were building so energetically. Their profuse appreciation was touching. The gift of a roof for their church is the fulfillment of a dream of many years. We met the 95 year old Patriarch (grandfather of Napenda Kisaka) who apparently started the SDA work in Tanzania after he learned it from two Germans that he worked for here. He visited all the homes in the area and studied with them. Now they have about 50 members. They are meeting in the open in front of their new church building in progress. When it rains they have nowhere to go except under some trees scattered here and there. The old Patriarch told us through translation how he looked at the church being built just down the mountain from his home. Like David of the Bible, he compared his own

metal roof (though it leaks) to the lack of one at the church and felt ashamed that God was being worshipped in less than what he had. He prayed for a roof for the church that his eyes could see before he died. Now it is being fulfilled. We will share the video when we get home as opportunities afford.

On the way back to Arusha by bus and car, we had to take a long detour because of road repairs that may have become necessary following a serious bus or truck accident. Last week a bus had broken through the guardrail and gone down into the ravine about 30 feet below. Thirty passengers were killed. The large busses and trucks had to negotiate the very narrow and poor roads of the detour through small villages. They kicked up clouds of dust that must have made life miserable for the villagers (and us on the bus). So we got back too late for the initial organization meeting at the Evangelistic site. But here we learn to just go with the flow and do what we can when we can, trusting the Lord to work out the details and accomplish His work.

The Sanctuary presentations were greatly appreciated and everyone wants a copy of the book. We try to give out our limited supply (we brought 100 of my books plus 200 Sanctuary magazines from Wildwood) where they will do the most good. Our translator at the second church on Sabbath (a very tall man with a strong voice) did an excellent job of translating. He works for the SDA Union here and would like to translate the book into Swahili. So we will see if it is to be published and serve many here who do not know much about the Sanctuary. We enjoyed the special meal following that service. They are aware of our special needs with food and we ate safely and enjoyably. That church was the Riverside Church and it was founded last year by the Romanian Share Him group. The congregation now includes several from the Union church at Njiro.

We were pleasantly surprised when we entered Tanzania this time and stood in line to get our visas at the airport, to learn that our visas from the last visit here were still in effect. So we saved \$200 there. Someone had also given us \$100 to use for any special needs for ourselves. So we were able to give an additional \$300 to help with the extra costs of roofing the little Mwerera church in the mountains. It is always interesting to us to

see how the Lord provides for special things we did not know about. There is much more to share but we don't want to wear you out with the whole load all at once. We love you and appreciate the prayers especially that things will go as the Lord would have them here.

With love,
Dad and Mom (Glenn and Mary Alice)