

February 11, 2009 Arusha Report #2

Dear family and friends:

Life goes on here along with the many challenges. We appreciate your continued prayer. We have comfortable living quarters and get to clean up occasionally with a pouring of warm water (heated on the stove for the occasion). There is a shower but the water is cold in comparison. We use "wet ones" brought with us, to clean without water as necessary. We have a western style toilet but there is a water shortage, so we try to be conservative. We can buy drinking water in 10 liter jugs which saves money.

Our food is good, cooked by Willie's wife Napenda, but we are glad also for the food we brought to supplement and we share some of that with them. Just now Willie is away getting things ready for the group coming with Dr. Bendall Feb 20 to build the clinic at Chome. We will join them on Feb.20 taking the long trip by bus to the mountains. I am to preach Sanctuary (with the robes) up there to three churches combined for the Sabbath sermon. We will take some of my books to give out there also. We could have used many more than we had to bring.

The specific problems we face with the meetings are logistical. The sun does not go down enough for bright video and sermon slides until past 7. We did get them to change the meeting time from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. But we are trying to close before 8. The pastor gives a long sermon on family matters in the early part when it is light. We have had an abundance of good music from the local church choir and visiting choirs from nearby SDA churches. The people really like that. We have been telling a story for the children who come early and stay late. Mary Alice is giving health talks using color slides also and family talks hopefully different from what the pastor is doing. So our problem is how to get the visuals at their best in the limited time of the darkness.

There is a very strong sound system and they rev it up full bore to "broadcast" the meeting to those who do not attend. We have 350 attending and about 80 of them are not SDA. We have had a Massai

man coming, but he was not there last night. The Moslems do not come into the meeting, but see and hear it from outside the barb wire fence surrounding the compound where the church is. Our meetings are held in the courtyard of the church.

With those hearing and seeing from their homes, we have no accurate count of the full attendance.

Electricity consistency and rain are our major problems. It was muddy last night because of the rain during the day. The heavy rainy season does not come until March, but may be early this year. They really need the rain and we are glad for them to get it, but wish it could come when we are not

in meeting. They have a generator but the output is not consistent enough to run the video projector for our visuals. Today I'm trying to meet with the pastor and elders to see if we can buy a current stabilizer to give us consistent power. Last night we were on local electricity (they had not

brought the generator) so the last third of the sermon was lost when the power went out. The people exited in the dark.

In spite of it all, our courage is good. The people seem to be appreciating the meetings and relating well to them. Tonight we will explore with them the possibility of their coming later and staying until 8:30 for clearer pictures and the Jesus Video. My voice is holding up well and seems to be of much better quality than when at home, in spite of the terrible pollution here. The electricity in the town seems to be on most of the time during the day, with notable exceptions when we have none all day long. The flashlights we brought are a decided blessing.

We stretched a bit and bought 200 Swahili Bibles which have arrived now. So we can use them in a Baptismal class during the series. We have strong prayer support from the Prayer Warriors here who pray all during the service and did for some weeks prior to the series. God will honor that. The prayers at home are much appreciated also.

The cost of living in Arusha is very expensive. We wonder how the local people can afford to live here. Buying food at the market rather than the

big store saves a lot. We could hardly believe the cost of grapes here (9000 shillings per pound \$6.92). Other things are comparable. We don't buy those expensive things. Gasoline costs about \$ 1 per liter—the same as in USA when it was at the highest. Most of the cars don't seem to be fuel efficient. Our host, Willie Kisaka, drives an old diesel auto and when he starts the engine a huge cloud of black smoke comes out the exhaust. The ride in it over these roads is an experience in "auto aerobics", to coin a new word. You really get a workout. Just getting in and out is aerobic. It takes a shoehorn to get in and a can opener to get out. (Hyperbole). But we are managing and happy.

It looks like we will soon leave to get this to the internet cafe, so I'll close off for now. We can hardly believe we have been here for a week already. I'm sure there are still some adventures ahead.

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