

# You Prayed . . .



## God Answered!!!

Mission Tanzania was an overwhelming success with 578 decisions for Christ and over 29,000 in attendance during the eight days of ministry . . .

What a joy it is for me to return and report the wonderful things that God did in Tanzania and Kenya during my recent mission. It wouldn't have been possible without the help of my companions, Franck Alexandre and Bill Thomas. Most of all, I thank God for the pastors in Tanga who have such a burden for reaching the people of the city with the message of the cross. Even though there is a mosque on every corner,

God is breaking through with the light of the glorious gospel of our Lord. Bwana Asifewe! (Praise the Lord in Swahili)

My journey began at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro where I joined Bill Thomas. He was leading Friendship Evangelism seminars for a group of people in Arusha. After a late arrival, I settled in to the Eland hotel for a night's rest only to be awakened by the sound of the Imam calling for prayers from the local mosque at 5:00 A.M. It was God's gentle reminder to me that I was here to rescue lost people from the darkness.

Islam dominates the northern and coastal regions of Tanzania. In fact, Al Qaeda began construction of an Islamization center just outside of Tanga before September 11, 2001. Their intention was to use Tanga as a starting point for spreading their version of Islam to the southern part of Africa. After President Bush put a freeze on Al Qaeda's assets, construction ground to a halt. Praise God!



We left Arusha for Moshi that Saturday afternoon where we were to meet Bishop Mwakimage, our crusade chairman from Tanga. We joined him at the Uhuru Lutheran Hostel where he was meeting with some pastors from his district. We all spent the night there and left early in the morning for Tanga which was well over 130 KM from Moshi.

With our Landcruiser packed to the gills, we sped off across country following the nearby Usambara mountain range. I was very surprised at the good condition of the road. It was an interstate compared to some of the roads I have traveled on in foreign countries. We were able to make good time and travel at 130 KM/H in most places.

Passing near the Maasai Steppes, we saw many little villages that had been untouched by the gospel. The people in these towns are living in squalid conditions and surviving as best as they know how. I hope you will join me in praying that the Gospel will be taken to these unreached people groups soon.

We drove by vast sisal fields and near a brick pit where workers are paid by piece for the bricks they produce. I read in a local newspaper that an average woman can shape up 200 bricks per day earning about \$2 USD for her labor. The conditions in the pit are very dangerous, difficult, and injuries are frequent.

When we arrived in Tanga, the Bishop took us to the crusade grounds. It was a large open area near the markets that is often used for crusades and ministry events. Looking at the platform didn't inspire much confidence, as it was cobbled together from a hodgepodge of boards and steps from previous construction projects. Still, there was an element of grandeur about this rickety platform; it would be used to proclaim the most important message in the world.

Sunday afternoon came quickly. Our transport arrived to collect us from the Panori hotel in typical Tanzanian fashion – late! We arrived on grounds to see an ocean of people – about 3-4000 – waiting to hear from the “man of God.” I was called to preach right away. Wasting no time, I took to the task of proclaiming Jesus. My message was entitled “Finding Forgiveness” based on the story of the woman caught in adultery found in John chapter 8.

Even though there were some serious problems with the sound system, God touched many hearts through the message. 164 people responded for salvation in that first service. It was a glorious sight indeed!

Over the next few nights, God continued to draw the lost to Him. On Monday, 44 people came to Christ, On Tuesday, about 60. And on Wednesday, 76. This left a total of 344 decisions during the four days of my ministry. Follow up efforts began right away in most cases.

In addition to the salvations, Bill Thomas prayed for the sick each night. Many people came from great distances expecting God to heal them. They did not go away disappointed. One man in particular came with a cane and left walking without it! As Bill said to the people during the prayer time, God is the only one who can heal and he told them to go to their doctor and get checked out.

On Thursday, Franck Alexandre took over the preaching responsibilities. Many of the Tanzanians were shocked and intrigued to see an evangelist from France preach the gospel! (Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?) But, God used Brother Franck in a mighty way to proclaim the good news! Many more were saved and healed.



It was sad to see the services come to an end, but God had other work for us to complete. We packed up and headed for the Kenyan border to meet with Bishop Paul Mwaura. Bill and I were scheduled to hold some revival meetings in some of his churches in Mombasa and Franck had to catch the plane back to France.

On the way to Mombasa, I developed a nasty rash that I thought to be prickly heat. I was itching like mad and could not sleep. I decided to attempt to change my plane ticket and return home early because of this affliction. After going to the airport and the KLM office, I discovered that all of the flights from Amsterdam to Detroit were booked solid. The airline even refused to put me on the waitlist.

Because of my condition, I stayed at the hotel on the first day in Mombasa and did not minister as scheduled. My condition did not improve in spite of the fact that I was taking frequent cold showers and staying in the A/C. It occurred to me that I began having the problem when I started using a bar of soap purchased in Tanga. After washing with a different soap and resting, the condition disappeared.

Fully recovered, I preached for the next three nights in a small church near a slum called Langola Sifa. There, I found a wonderful group of believers being led by a very humble pastor named James. Even though the church was very dark and dingy, the spirit of the worshipers was strong and joyous. They loved the Lord! During one of the services, I used the Go-Tell bracelets that had been prepared by the children at Galatia Baptist to train the believers on how to share the gospel. It was well received and many made commitments to share the good news with their neighbors and friends.

**Praise God for the victory! Please continue to pray for the follow-up and churches involved in this mission. God is still at work in the lives of many Tanzanians and Kenyans – Darrel**

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