

“Culture makes a difference”

April has been a fast-moving, month! Bible studies continue on the clinic's front porch as well as in patients' homes and we hope that several are close to making their decision to follow Jesus. Among the large Masaai (Oyiyah) family at Monduli Juu with which we have been studying, several have indicated that they want to be baptized into Jesus but are somewhat afraid of the process.

Most Masaai bathe infrequently in very small amounts of water, since all they have must daily be hauled long distances by themselves or their donkeys to their homes. Many have never heard of or seen a bathtub, much less a portable baptistry! One of the women in Oyiyah's family heard us discussing Romans 6 and the spiritual death and burial of our old selves and former way of life that baptism represents as we give ourselves to Jesus; she then heard us say that we are then raised to walk a new life in Him. Her next question was if during her baptism she "just would wash out to sea and die!" Teaching in English followed by a Swahili, and then a Masaai translation leaves something to be desired, but we hope even with the frequent misunderstandings that these precious folks are getting the message. On Easter Sunday we had a wonderful worship with them, talking about how Jesus voluntarily gave up His life as an offering to God for our sins, yet three days later emerged from the darkness of that tomb to give us light and life! As we sat in the cool breeze upon their remote East Africa mountainside surrounded by goats and children we realized that truly the knowledge of Him DOES cover the earth as waters cover the sea. (Nancy Smelser, Medical Missionary, Monduli, Tanzania, East Africa)

Is there anything better than having hands that are quick to help and a soul that relishes the opportunities to serve? I don't think so. God bless the Smelser's as they labor in a good medical/evangelistic mission in Tanzania-East Africa.

He's A Graduate!!!

It's hard to believe that another one of our children is graduating. This time it's Luke's turn. It's a bit challenging for us to make this occasion a special event, here in Africa, since we are far away from family and friends. However, we just happened to have some family friends here with us who came to work with the campaigns, so it was good timing to celebrate Luke's graduation while they are here with us.

Last night we had a party to celebrate Luke's graduation from high school. We had a dinner consisting of fajitas, with homemade salsa and guacamole, and watermelon. Then we gathered in the living room, and we took turns sharing various events in Luke's life, most of which included varying degrees of embarrassing moments for him. :) Then George gave a few more serious remarks, which included telling him how proud we are of him and the hard work he was done to reach this goal. George presented Luke with his diploma, and afterwards we enjoyed a treat of brownies and homemade ice cream.

It is hard not to be biased as parents, but we are very proud of all of our children – for their personal dedication to Christ and for the special abilities that each one of them has developed, and we pray that God will continue to bless them. In Christ,
George and Joy

Luke Jensen-High School Graduate

We are all thankful and grateful for you Luke.
Congratulations on a job well done-TZ 2000

Campaign Highlights (2) – Hoover, AL

For the second year in a row, Sid Aultman and Chuck Webster (evangelist) from the Hoover congregation has joined us for Safari for Souls. Last year they conducted a campaign at Mto wa Mbu and also worked some with Dominique in the Mbauda area of Arusha. This year they went back to Mto wa Mbu to re-establish some studies and contacts and then worked this week with the Arusha campaign, again in the Mbauda area.

I really want to commend this group for a job well done. Months ahead of their arrival, they sent four evangelism studies, had them translated, printed and laminated to give to each person they studied with. These will be used as Bible bookmarkers and for further study. They also planned and supplied the lessons and crafts for the Children's Bible seminar that was taught at Arusha during the campaign. With the help of the mission team, local brothers and sisters in Christ, they taught close to four hundred children.

Eleven souls were added to the Lord's Church as a direct result of their efforts. It was recognized and shared, that many of the studies were men and women who the local Church had already studied with. The Seed was planted, the Hoover group watered and the rest is history. This is but one of the many illustrations that show the good that can be done when we are united in Christ through our good deeds.

As is the case with any long term success, the follow-up is so important. Just to list a couple of examples: After the group from Northport left, I received a message from the local evangelist, one more was added to the Church and two others visited the worship service. Another example, as the Hoover group was headed to the airport to return home, I received a message from Dominique that they had followed up with one of the studies and she too wanted to put Christ on in baptism. They have come, they have done, and they have gone. But, the work they began, continues and with your prayers, the Lord's help and the continued efforts on this end, many others will come to know God as their God.

Thank you so very much; Chuck Webster, Bailey Webster, Grant Webster, Sid Aultman, Parker Aultman, Michel Clelland, Susanna Clelland, Leah Covington, Kendyll Covington, and Lauren Crosby for a job well done. A big thank you to all who made this trip possible! May the Lord bless you beyond measure. Please come again and bring your friends.
In His Service, Cy

Campaign Highlights – Northport, AL

Each year the Tanzania 2000 mission effort conducts what we call "Safari for Souls" campaigns. As the name indicates, we are about the work of the Lord in "Seeking and Saving the Lost" (Luke 19:10. As imitators of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1) being about the Father's business (Luke 2:49). As "Fishers of Men" (Matthew 4:9), we like the Lord, must put first things first (Matthew 6:33) if we are to please our Maker.

Much goes into making the campaigns a success. We begin with prayer to the Father for a safe and successful outreach. We invited and participate with our brothers and sisters from America, like the wonderful group lead by Gary Box (Deacon of Missions) and Allen Middleton (Elder) from AL. We have, over the past ten years, lead by example and taught our Tanzanian brothers and sisters how to work a successful campaign. Many requests are sent out and many reply in a favorable way, committing the needed funds to send and supply the needed elements to make the soul searching effort possible. So, with a joint effort, with all parties already mentioned, the Gospel is preached, souls are saved and the Lord Church is better today than it was yesterday.

This year is a unique year in our mission effort. We will, over a period of four weeks, conduct four campaigns, men's and ladies seminar, and three children's Bible seminars. When I say we, I mean with the Lord's help, the aid of twenty six campaigners from the States, but primarily with the help of the Tanzanian Christians. Two campaigns will be conducted without the aid of our American short term missionaries. The local Church's are beginning to take ownership in the work, what we have been working toward from day one.

We salute the Northport team; Gary Box, Hannah Box, Rachael Box, Alan Middleton, Caitlin Middleton, Bert Fuller, Morgan Fuller, Drew Taylor, Lydia Purdom Alisha Jaynes, and Joshua Heck for a job well done. They had the privilege of teaching in two denominational congregations (some individual members have approached Gasper (the local evangelist for the Lord's Church at Mto wa Mbu) and have requested privet studies in their homes. Four souls have already been added to the Kingdom this past week and the follow-up has begun.

To God be the glory (1 Peter 4:11), great things He is doing! Thank you all and may the Lord bless you richly in your continued service to Him and His world.
In His Service, Cy

Shoe Leather or Service Leather

Somewhere years ago, listening to a tape or a radio program I heard a man describe a salesman in these terms: "He is the best salesman that ever put on a pair of leather shoes."

Today, we may say that is hyperbolic, overblown or just plain flattery, but something made the fellow say that. It just might be that it was his genuine opinion. Perhaps the fellow worked for him, or they were both salesman, whatever the reason, I started thinking about that phrase and I wondered how that might apply to me as a Christian.

Perhaps you have heard with reference to some preachers, "That guy is a walking Bible." "She is the best Ladies Day speaker I have ever heard." He is so good with the youth there is no one quite like him." Do you know sister "Good Works" is the best visitor to the hospitals and nursing homes I have ever seen." "That family is the most hospitable family in the brotherhood." It is not a myth brethren. I hear about and see the Godliness, the goodness and loving kindness of people in the church all the time. I know people that have sacrificed for the church, for missionaries, for the homeless, the grief stricken, the down hearted, and the hopeless. Most of these people have no concept of the good they are doing, or aware of the cost to them. The only thing that matters, is that it needs to be done and they have taken it upon them selves to "be the one" to do it.

They have no special abilities, great wealth, or special talent. They are not great luminaries, great statesmen, nor are they touched with a certain aura of greatness and charismatic speech. They are simply willing to do what is right. As a matter of fact, they are always reading God's word, asking for God's wisdom, and praying that they might do "only the next right thing" in all areas of their lives.

These people are Christians. They are doing the labor for the Kingdom of God, serving, sacrificing, and willingly giving their very lives to accomplish the goals that the Lord has set before them. Now if we need someone to look up to, someone to admire, someone to cheer, someone to follow, these are the people that we should say with all love and thanksgiving, "There goes a Christian. I hope one day I can fit into their "Service Shoes" that are polished in love, kindness, brotherly

patience, compassion and the enthusiasm for the Kingdom." It is a true saying, "If we are willing, God will make us able." Let us be as able as we can, so we can be as useful to the Lord as possible. just ken :)

Brethren we have raised \$16,000 of the \$34,000 we need to cover our short fall in Tanzania 2000. It is a challenge raising funds right now and we would appreciate your help. The Lord doesn't expect us to do what we can't do but he surely expects us to do what we can. He will make us able if we are willing. Your thoughtfulness and prayers and help are appreciated, whether you are able to give or not. Perhaps you know of some contacts that would be interested in coming on board as partners in this great work. We would appreciate those names and addresses as well, so we might contact them personally. Thank you for what you are doing, what you have done and what can be done. God bless you. kup

Good Guys Need Letters

Jimmy Gee, P.O. Box 10622, Arusha, Tanzania
Sean Hochdorf, P.O. Box 12381, Arusha, Tanzania
George Jensen, P.O. Box 1923 Moshi, Tanzania
Christopher Mwakabanje, P.O. Box 7493, Moshi, Tanzania
Paul Ndwani, P.O. Box 1076 Arusha, Tanzania
Fariji Paul, P.O. Box 376, Usa River, Tanzania
Carey Samford, P. O. Box 12381, Arusha, Tanzania
Cy Stafford, P.O. Box 12381, Arusha, Tanzania

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MISSIONS COORDINATOR

C.W. (Cy) Stafford

MISSIONS

Ken Upchurch



Mission Team

Jimmy Gee Family
George Jensen Family
Christopher Mwakabanje
Carey Samford Family
Sean Hochdorf Family

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You Want Joy-Here's Some!!

One of the greatest joys that parents experience is the obedience of their children to the Gospel. Tuesday evening, our first official campaign day, we witnessed the new birth of Abigail Gee. It was a very touching moment to witness her father, Jimmy Gee, baptize her into Christ. Abigail is a very sweet young lady, and we pray that the Lord will continue to bless her, as she begins her new life in Christ.

Today, Wednesday, was another busy day. We accompanied the Northport group to the hotel where they were to catch a shuttle bus to Nairobi. We had lunch together, and then said our good-byes. We made a dash back to our house, gathered up materials, and headed to the Arusha church building. Julia, Lindsey, and Lydia Purdom, along with Anita Hochdorf, are teaching the children's Bible classes this week. I am also scheduled to teach later in the week. The theme for this year is "We Believe Because...", using some of the class material written by my mother, Betty Jackson. There is a great need to teach the children about the Great Designer, to combat the heavy doses of evolution that the children receive in school, and that is what we are doing this week. Today's lesson was "We Believe in God Because of the Bees." A group from Hoover, AL arrived Saturday night, and they were kind enough to bring us many of the supplies which we will be using for the children's classes.

The rest of the week will be just as interesting, I'm sure. Please pray for us as we continue our busy, busy days. We are weary, and are spending lots of time on these dangerous roads.

(Joy Jensen-Missionary, Tanzania, East Africa)



Abigail's Baptism

Abigail Gee. Baptized by her father Jimmy Gee.

Editor's notes

We are so grateful for Abigail's decision to choose the Lord and His way for her life. Congratulations to her and to all her family, mother, father, brothers and sisters and grand parents. This is indeed a wonderful and happy occasion.

If you have a computer and would like to receive the NL via e-mail we have the capability to do that now. It is cheaper and you will get it sooner. All we need is for you to give us your e-mail address. Please send e-mails to tzkup@aol.com and we will see that you are on the list.

Don't forget if you want to send a little "milk and honey" to the missionaries the container will be leaving Hoover, AL at the end of June. Those of you who have already contributed-Thank You so much.