

Tanzania
by Doug Smith

John Mundy and I traveled with Russ Reid and Dale Carrick to Kenya on the 28th of April, 2005. John and I then traveled together to Tanzania, and we were blessed with the opportunity to once again share with the people there. We were so blessed throughout our trip, and I want to share with you some of the experiences we had.

On Saturday we left Nairobi in Eric's* car and drove for eight hours to Kisumu, Kenya, where we met Elder Tom* and Teacher Joseph*. We then headed for Mwanza, Tanzania on Sunday. Eric's car had lost both rear struts, so we had three punctures on the way to Kisumu. Eric had to get repairs before he was able to drive back to Nairobi. The Lord made us turn around once to get some paperwork we would need to get across the border; after that it was smooth sailing (well, driving) to Mwanza.

If you remember our experience with "Betsy," last trip, you will be interested to learn that that was indeed her last trip. Eric has been blessed with a "new" car, and that was the one we took to Tanzania. Eric had assured everyone that I would know where to go, once we got to Mwanza; but we arrived after dark and I could not find the place. I thought there was a big sign beside the turn-off to the hill where they live, and had almost given up hope of finding the right one so I prayed for a sign from the Lord. The next turn had a sign so I said, "That looks like a sign to me," and we took it. I still did not recognize the place but knew it must be the right neighborhood. So, after prayer, Joseph and I started up the hill. There was a house at the base of the steep hill, and we asked a lady there if she knew Paul*, and she said that she did not. So we started up through the steep maze of houses, steps, rocks and rubble that was before us. We finally reached a doorway with a lady outside cooking. Joseph went up to ask if she knew Paul. What an amazing blessing! When she looked up, she started saying "Karibuni," or welcome! It was Devian, Paul's wife! The amazing thing was that Paul and Devian had moved from their old house about two months before. The Lord had led us directly to the new house! If I had been able to find my way to the old house, we would not have found them, at all!

A wonderful week of ministry then started, with Paul organizing the meetings at several different places, and the Lord bringing those who needed to hear the gospel. On Monday we met with a group of women in the morning. One of them, a lady named Susie, testified that she had been led there that day. She was the one with the most questions, so we will see what happens to the seed that was planted. We had to end the meeting to travel to the bus stop to get Tom* on his way back to work in Kisii in Kenya. Then we went back to Paul and Devian's home where some of the ladies from the morning session returned to hear more of the gospel.

We spent the nights during the week at the home of a pastor who is a neighbor of Paul's. We were graciously received every night, no matter what time of night we came. The accommodations were wonderful. On Tuesday, we had an extraordinary experience. We had been praying about whether Paul was to be called to the

priesthood at this time. John had been made to know that he had a call the last time that he had been in Mwanza, and the Lord had let me know that he had a call when Eric was sharing a testimony with me while we were in the United States. But, neither of us was going to confirm the call or ordain him without distinct confirmation of the Spirit. As we shared together on Tuesday morning, I was flooded with the Spirit and was told to share with Paul his call to be a priest in the church. John and Joseph confirmed the call in the spirit of that moment. Paul shared with us his testimony of his calling to share the restored gospel in Tanzania.

Paul had been asking the Lord if he was called to this work, and if it was the work of the Lord. He fasted and prayed and asked the Lord to tell him through a visiting “evangelist” from Ethiopia, who was coming to do a three-day seminar in the 5,000 member church where he used to attend, if this was the Lord’s work for him. On the third day, the evangelist said he had the spirit of prophecy and that he was seeing a man who the Lord was calling to do His work in Tanzania. He said that he saw hands being laid upon the man’s head. The evangelist did not understand the reason for the hands being laid on, but he knew that the man was being called and sent forth to do the work of the Lord. Paul said he knew instantly that he was the one because of the sign of the hands being laid on him for ordination, something the evangelist knew nothing about! Since that time he had been working on getting a group of about fifteen together.

A brother of Eli*, a man who had been baptized last October, whose name was Jorim*, came over to the house and we shared with him for some time. He ended up traveling with us to Musoma and then to Kisumu before getting to Nakuru, where he is a student at Egerton University.

All during the week the Lord sent people to us who needed to hear the gospel. We were at Angel’s home, a young lady who was baptized in October, 2004, when Florida* came to the house. She said that she had no idea that something great was going to happen that day but that God had sent her to the place that day. She was one of those baptized on Sunday.

On Saturday, the Lord sent Nickson* to the house. Paul had expected that we would go to Nickson’s home at about 10:00 A.M. but at 9:45 A.M., Nickson showed up. He had heard from Paul that some missionaries were coming sometime but he had no idea of when that might be. On Friday night, the Lord made known to him in a dream that the missionaries had come and that they were at Paul’s house! He awoke early and told his wife he was going to walk the four miles to Paul’s home to see if his dream was true. It was. We did go back with him to his house and met his wife, Happiness Nickson, and their four children. Nickson and Happiness were both baptized on Sunday.

The Lord also confirmed the word by signs. Angel, her son Alan, Paul, Devian, Florida and Anne* were all administered to, and all bore testimony of the healing they received.

The Lord was with us in our sharing, too. The Spirit would lead either John or I to share, and then would give the other one the scriptures or the testimony that was to come

next. On Tuesday we went to Eli*'s home, and I was hitting a jet-lag time. John asked me if I had anything planned to share, and I told him, "No." He said he had felt led to share some things. As he did, not only were the people ministered to, but I was revived also, and our sharing continued for four hours as we answered questions.

We were also blessed by the presence of Joseph*. As a translator, he was able to share with the people in their Kiswahili language, and to explain the things that we were talking about in ways that we just were not able to share.

On Thursday, we were taken to the home of Salome* in a place called Nyakato, outside of Mwanza. There we shared and answered questions and had a couple of administrations, and the Lord poured out his Spirit upon us. A young man there, whose name was Faustine*, was also baptized on Sunday!

In fact, every day that we were in Tanzania, the Lord took us to a different person who was either baptized, or was going to start attending a group if possible! The man we visited on Friday was Immanuel*. We also had some time to share with Paul in some priesthood training, and on Sunday he was ordained during the first service. He then served the communion in the second service. We had a class and then we had a session of administrations. We started about 9:30 A.M. with singing and the services started at 10:00, when we finally arrived from picking up the people from Nyakato. We broke around 2:00 P.M. and had a wonderful lunch at Angel's home (where everyone had brought food). We then went back for a pre-baptismal class. Paul instructed me that I should tell them everything that they should know before they were baptized, and then told me we only had half an hour because it looked like rain! But the Lord did bless us, and his Spirit was there in our sharing, and in the baptisms that followed. We went to a flat on Lake Victoria, and Paul performed his first six baptisms. He had to go so far out from the shore to reach water deep enough, that everyone decided to join him. So the whole congregation joined the six candidates in the water for the baptisms. And just to confirm the covenant, the Lord blessed us with a beautiful rainbow as we walked back to the shore.

The Lord is indeed continuing his work in Tanzania, and in all of Eastern and Western Africa. Please pray for the people and the priesthood there, and be willing to offer any support you can. The gospel is going into other towns in Tanzania, as well as into Uganda. We have all that we can do to try to keep up with the requests for ministry that keep coming from all corners of Africa. It takes funds for the local priesthood to be able to travel to offer the ministry that is needed, so please be praying about what your response to the needs may be.

* Last names removed for privacy.