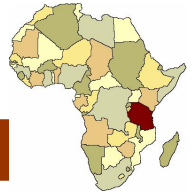


Tanzanian Testimony



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LORIEN KNAPP

FEBRUARY 2008

Dear Friends,

As February ends, I find myself in the beautiful city of Mwanza. It seems that I have been traveling forever and now I have arrived. I worried that in the years since my last visit to this land, my memories might have become exaggerated and unreal, but I see that it is even more beautiful than I remembered. I am seeing Mwanza through new eyes as it is now my home, and not a place through which I am passing. I praise God for bringing me here, because I know that His will is being done.

After my orientation in Kenya, I traveled to the island of Zanzibar for a language acquisition course. Because of its location as an East African hub, the language of Swahili was born there and then spread across the region. Since there are many dialects of the language, I was pleased to begin my learning process in a place with such "pure speech".

This island nation is technically a part of Tanzania, though it is quite different than the mainland. Originally it was a major post for trading of spices, textiles, and slaves. The rich history is visible as old slave forts remain as memorials.

Zanzibar is also a Muslim nation, with 99% of the population practicing Islam. Being on this island offered me many thought provoking moments. I was saddened to think of the role that slavery has played throughout the world, and even more moved to recognize how many people remain in slavery when they have not been liberated by the love of our Lord. Please keep this Island in your prayers.

It has been difficult to maintain communications. There are so many things I would like to share, but I assure you I have recorded many adventures, and will work on posting them to a blog as soon as I have the time to set it up.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- ✓ **Praise God that I have arrived safely in Mwanza.**
- ✓ **Please continue to pray for my home church as the healing and growing process continues since the death of our Pastor.**
- ✓ **Please pray for language learning and the formation of new relationships here in Mwanza.**

If you wish to offer financial support, mail check to:
AIM: Finance PO Box 178 Pearl River NY 10965
Checks should be made payable to AIM. Include a note stating my name, and the money will be credited to my account. Your support and encouragement is appreciated.

New Contact Information!!!!

Box 1414 Telephone: 255-78-332-7606
Mwanza,
Tanzania: East Africa

I can still be reached by email, note I have 3 email addresses, and they all work...the best to use is:

LKnapp@aimint.net
Lorien.Knapp@gmail.com and Lorienak@yahoo.com
are okay too...I know I am silly to have 3 J

Learning a new Language

One of my first tasks in Tanzania is to become a Swahili speaker. It is a beautiful language and sounds like poetry when spoken, but it is difficult to remember so many new words. Learning Latin based languages like Spanish is much easier because there are similarities to the English language...but with Swahili the closest language is Arabic. I have been told that once I become fluent in Swahili, I will know 20% of the Arabic language.

I attend classes each day here in Mwanza, and am blessed to have an enthusiastic and helpful teacher. I have made many friends at the school including an African woman who invited me to her Church. My fellow classmate is a Priest from Bosnia who is serving as a missionary at a local Parish. I have much sympathy for him because he is trying to learn English so that he can learn Swahili...what a challenge! I have also met a young Muslim man who has befriended me...he wants to learn Spanish and has asked if I would teach him. I am quite prayerful about this potential ministry to Tanzanian Muslims, though I am willing to allow God to use me here as He sees fit.

Settling into my new Home

It is a long process to get settled in a new place, but I am now living in my new home. I have been so greatly blessed. Before coming to Africa, I told people that I would be happy if I had electricity and running water. Many will be happy to know that I have both, and also I have some wonderful neighbors and a good location in walking distance to town. God has been so faithful, and I couldn't be happier. Thank you for your prayers concerning my housing!!!

1 Corinthians 2: 9

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"