

Tanzanian Testimony



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Dear Friends,

This month has been a sort of plateau for me. In many ways it has been a difficult month. My language level is in a bit of a rut, which is pretty normal at this stage of learning but nevertheless frustrating. Most of all I have been thinking about you a lot and missing you dearly. Some of the normal frustrations of ministry seem harder as I am thinking of loved ones far away and longing for our fellowship. I have heard that it is common to reach such a plateau at about 6-9 months away from home. So I realize this is part of the cycle of adjusting to such a new life in a different land. I have been here for 9 months, and the timing is right to be feeling in such a way. I have found myself with the first real round of homesickness, missing very strange things like waiting for my car windshield to defrost on a cold winter morning, or going to the movies with a big bucket of popcorn. Now as you are preparing for the fall season, I am missing the transformation of the land as the trees paint themselves into a beautiful rainbow of color. I have now been in 9 months of constant "summer" and that is indeed strange for a girl from the Midwest.

Even though I long for your company I am reminded of the great blessing you are in my life. I imagine if there were no people to miss, and how incredibly lonesome that would be. God has given us such a tremendous blessing to unite us through love as His family. No amount of time or distance can really separate us because we are together in His love.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- ✓ **Praise God for giving us one another to love and support through prayer and encouragement.**
- ✓ **Please pray for language learning to accelerate so that I can minister in the heart language of these children.**
- ✓ **Please pray for financial doors to be opened so that I can have transportation. Also pray for a reliable vehicle to be available for this ministry.**
- ✓ **Pray for continued wisdom and discernment in all of my relationships and interactions!!! Specifically pray for my discernment about the direction I am being called in this ministry to the children.**

**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 in order to be tax-deductible. Include a note stating my name, and the money will be credited to my account. Also note if this is for a project (vehicle project ID is 037850-010), or for general funding. Your support and encouragement is appreciated!

Mission Callout

In the months that I have been in Tanzania, I have had several emails from people who mentioned an interest in coming to Mwanza. I recognize that it can be difficult to arrange a trip to such a distant place, especially if you have never been here before. For this reason I want to let you all know about an upcoming Mission Trip to Tanzania.

My home Church, 1st Presbyterian Church of Anderson Indiana, is planning a trip for the summer of 2009. If you would be interested in joining that group, you are most welcome! Please send me an email letting me know of your interest and I will connect you with the Team Leader.

Please be prayerful about if God is calling you at this time!

Neighborly Love

Last month some fellow missionaries moved in next door. The Hildebrandts are living in Mwanza while they study language and then they will move to another town to teach at Nassa Theological College. It has been nice to get to know them especially since they are in the adjustment stages of life in Africa. We have much in common as we try to sort through all of our experiences.

I was overjoyed when they expressed an interest in coming to TCRC. They have a genuine desire to understand the situation of vulnerable children. They have accompanied the boys and I for several street ministry outings. It has been an encouragement to the boys at TCRC to have this couple come and spend time together.

Of course God knows that I have been homesick, and in His perfect timing he gave me some westerners to remind me a bit of home. I am grateful for the relationship developing with my dear neighbors and I am encouraged by their love for the Tanzanians.



GRADUATION !!!

This month had a very exciting celebration as 6 of our boys finished primary school! They have worked so hard to reach this point and now they will move on to Secondary school. Each of these young men has great aspirations for the future and they desire to be instruments of change here in Tanzania. I have enjoyed getting to know each of them, and it will be a joy to see how God continues to grow them and transform their lives. Please keep each of these boys specifically in your prayers as they prepare for the next stages of education.

Director Marc Brown with the Graduating Class



I enjoy going to church with the TCRC boys as often as I am able. It is a joy to worship with them. I especially like to round up the younger kids and take them with us so that they can begin having church experiences from a young age. The little ones enjoy going to church with the big kids, and the older ones do a pretty good job of keeping them in line when they start to get fidgety. The TCRC boys participate in worship services at three different neighborhood churches. Please pray they will all continue to grow as a part of the Church body.



Richard wants to be an Engineer

Wiston wants to minister to Street Children

Joshua wants to be a DJ



Haruna and Gabriel want to be Mechanics

Edson wants to be a Broadcaster

Each of these boys is awaiting test results for their Primary School National Exam. These results will indicate their placement for secondary school. Those with high scores will receive immediate placement in school, and those with lower scores will have to wait. It is a sort of draft system here for secondary schools. Pray for good results so they can start school soon and move forward in their studies.

Philippians 1: 3 - 11
"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer; that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God."

Paul speaks the words of my heart. I couldn't have said it better...