

# TIDINGS FROM Tanzania

## FEBRUARY 2011

### A cultural eye-opener!

Can you imagine your wife and kids being abducted by your wife's older brothers while you're away on a business trip, and then being told they would not be released or allowed to communicate with you until you had paid the remainder of an exorbitant dowry (bride price)? Is this for real? It is happening to our good friend, John Sabuni, leader of Evangelical Free Church of Uganda.



John and Celine have been married for four years, have two small children. To get his family back, he must pay 8 more goats (in addition to the 8 cows he's already paid) as well as 2 million shillings (about \$850). This is nearly impossible for a Ugandan pastor.

Dowry is VERY common in Africa, and prevents many couples from getting married due to the extremely high prices demanded. My friend David is in his early 30's, and wants very much to get married, but is the son of a pastor and so has very little money to pay a dowry, and thus no chance for marriage.



Please join us in praying for a quick resolution to this difficulty John is facing. Read more by following this link to our blog: [African culture - Dowry](#)



### "Theology under a tree"

Term 1 is finishing and term 2 will begin shortly for Old Testament and New Testament theology courses at St. John's University in Dar. With lively discussions, these "pastors in training" enjoy pouring through God's Word and applying the treasures to ministry and life. Our "classroom" is under a huge Baobab tree!

### Refugee relief

Thousands of refugees living in camps scattered around northern Uganda are being forced by the government to evacuate and return to their home villages. The problem is, they have **nothing** – no home to return to, no food or supplies to start a new life, no schools or teachers for their children... nothing. Following 20 years of rebel warfare, these people are struggling just to survive. But we



are working with the Evangelical Free Church of Uganda to offer physical and spiritual assistance to these hurting people. To find out more about how you can help, and learn what we

are doing, follow this link to an article Eric wrote in EFCA Update:

[Hope for the hurting of northern Uganda](#)



## Family update

Please keep the three kids in your prayers as they frequently have stomach aches. We don't know what causes these, although Adam recently had an intestinal amoeba that we had to treat. But they are enjoying school very much, and the boys are playing basketball and rugby after school.

Please also pray as we make a decision about developing a team next summer to do a Bible conference in Uganda – we would go as a family, and also do women's and kids' programs, which EFC Uganda has requested. Pray for the kids to have a heart to serve African kids wherever they go.



Check out our website for more links and pictures: [www.belzglobal.com](http://www.belzglobal.com)

## POWER!

It's the hot, humid season in Tanzania – a nice time for fans, AC and a refrigerator to work. But there is a fraction of the power available in Tanzania as compared with what is needed, so each day our power is shut off for many hours. Read more by following this link: [POWER - Africa Style](#)

## Army ammunition depot explodes in Dar

Bombs and missiles were exploding for nearly two hours at a military facility here in Dar. For a highlight of this scary event that happened a week ago just 10 miles from our house, visit our latest blog entry at [www.belzglobal.com](http://www.belzglobal.com)

## Outpouring of opportunities

Through a connection with Peter Mitimangi, a local ministry leader, God opened many doors as Eric was invited to speak to nearly 1000 pastors and leaders, sharing about the equipping ministry. To read the full story, follow this link to our blog: [Mitimangi](#)



Praise God for a recent outpouring of opportunities! Every week, Eric is travelling to churches and schools around Dar to train pastors and leaders. God seems to be blessing these efforts, and we are VERY encouraged. Please pray for adequate preparation for all the trainings, for energy and wisdom in doing the trainings, and for effective follow-up with the pastors. In April, Eric will take a 12-hour bus ride to the Kenya coast, north of Mombasa, to conduct a 10-day training for leaders of a cluster of 30 churches.



Please pray for effective connections with these pastors, and for family safety while he's away.

## Thank you!

As always, we are truly thankful for your prayer and financial partnership with us as we serve God here in East Africa. Hopefully this new format for sending emails makes it easier for you to feel connected with us. We want to echo the word of Paul, that your generosity is resulting in thanksgiving to God. (2 Cor.9:11)

With love and prayers,

*The Belz Family*  
Eric, Holly, Adam, Andrew, Allie



The boys in mountains of Lushoto