

# TIDINGS FROM Tanzania

may 2011

## Introducing a few key people:

**[Tony and Holly Freitas](#)**. We are no longer alone! The Freitas family has joined our Equip team, arriving in February. Tony and Holly are focused in areas of community development, utilizing CHE training (Community Health Evangelism) to address holistic needs in communities (AIDS, water filtration, farming, etc.). Tony and Holly have two children, Devon (15) who attends HOPAC and Lauren (18) who will be starting college in the US in the fall. We have recently finished our **East Africa Equip Team Purpose Statement:** *"We exist to equip East African pastors and leaders in Biblical training, leadership skills, and holistic community development so they may equip others to build God's kingdom."*



**[Pastor Adam Journey](#)**. The day after completing my Bible Study Methods course, Adam contacted me and said he had a group of 15 pastors from his community ready to be taught the same material. With the heart of a church planter, Adam has started five churches in various parts of Tanzania, but his greatest passion is to train pastors. He says, *"I have been crying with tears to God for someone to train me in how to teach pastors."* Adam affirms that **training pastors is one of the biggest needs in Africa**, and shortly after we met, he said, *"I now know that God has answered my prayers by sending you to me."* What an incredible joy to equip the "Adams" of East Africa, so they may reach Africans with the Gospel of Christ. Beginning in June, Adam and I will be training pastors in his community together.



Adam is only one of dozens of pastor and leaders I could tell you about who are being trained in the fundamentals of ministry, Bible study, theology, discipleship, leadership development and church health and growth. By God's grace, our vision is becoming a reality!

## Highlighting a few recent trainings

- 10-day training of 15 equipping pastors on how to study and preach the Bible on Kenya coast north of Mombasa. The training was the first in a three-year process of training equippers of pastors in FGP churches. Visit [Kenya coast training](#) for more pictures and details.
- 8-day training of pastors and leaders from Malawi to Kenya who gathered at a seminary in Dar to learn about Inductive Bible study. From this course, every one of the 19 students requested I come and offer more training in their communities. Visit [Inductive Bible Study](#) for the full story.
- Monthly training of a cluster of Baptist pastors. This month the focus was on challenges facing the African urban church, which was an excellent springboard to discuss discipleship in areas of physical needs as well as spiritual development. Click [HERE](#) to read blog entry.
- It's truly an amazing experience to be the first white person to visit many of the churches where I offer trainings. Oftentimes the Sunday service lasts 5-9 hours filled with Spirit-led worship, multiple sermons and prayers for healing. For a glimpse into one of these services, visit our blog by clicking on this link: [First white person to visit churches](#)



Dedication prayer for pastors



Lively worship in Gongo la'Mboto

**Testimony time** – Imagine if the only preparation your pastor did before preaching on a Sunday morning was to read over a Bible passage **one time**, then stand and start preaching. This is NOT uncommon in Africa, according to my students, and explains many of the problems in the African church. Pastors have not been trained in how to study, understand, apply and preach God's Word.

- Pastor Julius said, *"This training has opened my eyes for the first time to how to study and teach the Bible."*
- Pastor Alex wrote, *"I now realize I've been making a mistake by making my sermons without making application. From now, I will never finish any of my sermons without making application."*
- Pastor Amos said that *"the impact (of Bible study training) will not only end up to me, but it will go even to the people I minister to."*
- After sharing openly with pastors about my own spiritual journey with Christ – mistakes I've made, lessons I've learned, and victories by God's grace that He has given me, many students approach me with comments like another Pastor Amos, *"I've been challenged by your example, Eric, to be real with the people in my church. I now recognize how important it is to live a life that is a good example for others, to influence them to follow Christ."*



Inductive Bible Study course at ICM seminary



### Please pray for...



Kids gather for prayer after a church service

Recent world events highlight the importance of prayer. Uganda is facing severe **food shortages**. Skyrocketing food and fuel costs throughout East Africa make **survival difficult** for the masses existing in poverty.

**Uganda Bible Conference in July** – Our family has been asked to lead a "family Bible conference" for the churches and communities where I work in northern Uganda. We will offer marriage training, Bible teaching, evangelism and children's programs. Holly will help

with set up of a new nursery school. Pray as we try to gather a few other folks to help us. Pray that our kids will be blessed as they work alongside Ugandan children.

Please pray for the **health of our kids**, particularly Adam's stomach issues. His recent amoeba seems to be gone, but there are other problems which have been difficult to isolate over the past several months.

Praise God for your **faithful and generous giving** that is allowing us to continue in the important work of training pastors and leaders throughout East Africa. Through your partnerships, our needs are met **AND** we are able to offer significant and much needed ministry investment for pastors, such as giving Bibles and teaching materials to pastors who have none. God's kingdom is growing in East Africa through your partnership!

With love and prayers,

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

*"God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation." - 2 Cor. 5:19*

