

# TIDINGS FROM Tanzania

## NOVEMBER 2011

### God's Transforming Power – the testimony of "Paul"

I recently met with a pastor on a nearby island who asked me to share about the trainings I do in the hopes I would offer training for him and pastors he knows. I asked him to share his story, which reminded me much of the Apostle Paul, and so to protect his identity in the difficult areas where he ministers, I will call him "Paul." I'll just share the brief version here, and invite you to visit our website ([www.belzglobal.com](http://www.belzglobal.com)) to learn more amazing details of Paul's story.



Paul was born into a very devout Muslim family in north Africa. Paul's sister was near death from cancer that had eaten up most of her abdomen. At home just days from death, three Christian visitors came, shared with her and prayed, then left and **God miraculously healed her**. However, following her conversion to Christ, Paul said, *"Cancer did not kill you. Now that you've become a Christian, I will kill you!"* With their parents' approval, **Paul began hunting down his sister** for the next two years. When he finally caught her and prepared to kill her, she faced him and in strength of Christ she said, *"You have been hunting me, but Christ has been hunting you!"*

The **truth** of her words and the **power** of Christ **broke Paul**, and he repented, asked forgiveness and surrendered his life to Christ. This launched Paul on a life of courageous ministry in the most challenging of contexts. Despite frequent threats and imminent danger, today he continues to **share his faith** and **plant churches** in areas closed to the Gospel, a testimony of God's grace and power in transforming lives. Paul, and many other pastors with whom Paul works, are hungry for Bible training. Praise God for the opportunity to train these gifted, passionate leaders so they may reach many others with the power and truth of the Gospel.



Pastor "Paul" and his wife  
(intentionally blurred)

### Launching long-term trainings

I am learning that far more effective than a single training seminar, there is a need in Africa for a **cohesive long-term equipping strategy** to adequately train pastors. We have developed a partnership with Leadership Resources Int'l to accomplish this task. Using week-long workshops 2-3 times each year over four years, pastors receive in-depth training through **inductively studying books of the Bible**, learning tools of interpretation and biblical principles that guide them to grow a healthy, God-honoring ministry. The training is relevant, biblically-grounded, relational and strategically designed for multiplication. As they are trained, pastors concurrently teach this training to other pastors they know.



One of my greatest joys is **blazing new trails** into places where there is no training, and establishing relationships with pastors toward launching these workshops. I then try to connect other pastors from Africa, America or wherever to assist in leading these trainings as I launch new venues. So far, we have begun or soon will begin trainings in:

- Dar es Salaam (two groups)
- Kampala, Uganda
- Northwest Tanzania
- Coastal Kenya

- Morogoro, Tanzania
- Coastal Tanzania (Chalinze, Kibaha)
- Zanzibar

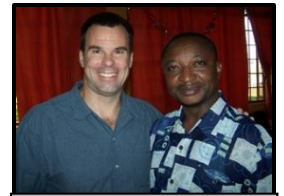
During a recent launching workshop in Morogoro for top-level leaders of the Tanzania Assembly of God movement, **Pastor Ezekiel shared this analogy**, *"In South Africa, miners excavated gold from*



Training in Morogoro

*the earth and left enormous piles of dirt thinking they had gotten all the gold. Now they are returning to these piles and with new methods they are finding much more gold in those piles of dirt. We have received some degree of Bible training in the past, but this training you offer is of a whole new level. You*

*are helping us find the gold we didn't know existed."* Pastor John said, *"I teach in a Bible college to Bible students and pastors. Now I know what I can teach them—not just my ideas but **God's Word!**"*



Ron Swai, leader of TAG



Preaching at open air crusade in Shinyanga. More souls entered the Kingdom, praise God!

The conference I led last September for a cluster of 30 Baptist churches in the Shinyanga region of Northwest Tanzania has certainly borne fruit. They have made a commitment to send three of their leaders to Dar twice each year and receive training with the local Baptist pastors, and then return to their home villages and teach it to the other pastors. **"Develop, Empower, Release!"**



Pastors Daudi and Enoch, two who will be trained to equip pastors in Shinyanga.

Praise God that the treasures of His Word are being taught and received, implemented and shared. As Job says in Job 23:12, *"I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread."* Africans are being equipped, and are reaching more Africans. Each member of my **Dar African team** is taking what I teach each month and pouring it into others as churches are being strengthened, God's truths are embraced and disciples are multiplied. **Holly** loves being a part of this group and is growing close to the pastors wives who attend.



## Our East Africa Equipping Team is Growing



Holly and Eric, Holly and Tony, Mark and Alyssa

A month ago, the latest members of our East Africa Equipping Team arrived in Dar es Salaam, excited to dive into **"Equipping Africans to Reach Africans."** Mark and Alyssa Dunker join Tony and Holly Freitas (who arrived last January) so now we have a team of three couples. Being part of a team adds depth and breadth to our ministry impact. There is MUCH work to be done, so praise God that while the harvest is plentiful, He is raising up workers to do His harvesting!



## Kid News

On the home front, we are beginning to figure out certain foods the boys are intolerant of, due to the Giardia they had while here in Africa. While adjusting diets is not easy in Africa, at least knowing what is causing their **stomach problems** brings us much relief. Adam and Andrew are both enjoying **playing "football"** (soccer) and both scored goals in their last game, and Alyssa seems very comfortable with her **role as "second mother"** in the family. ☺

## Please join us in prayer

1. Praise God for some degree of relief from the stomach pain the boys have been experiencing.
2. Pray for wisdom in launching new training workshops, and pray for Holly and the kids while Eric is away at trainings. Pray for pastors to pass this training on to a second generation of equippers.
3. Pray for Holly who is arranging our itinerary for a brief home assignment from May-August 2012.



Thank you again for continuing to walk with us through your faithful prayer and financial support. **We truly appreciate you!** God's kingdom is growing in East Africa through your partnership!

Pressing on by God's grace,

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

*"The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."*  
-2 Tim. 2:2