

TIDINGS FROM TANZANIA

FEBRUARY 2012

Family and Life in Dar es Salaam



This symbol for medicine, which I would like to think predates the Greek Rod of Asclepius, reminds me of Numbers 21:4-9. Jesus refers to this in Jn.3:14-15, *"Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."* Through faith in Christ, we can be saved from our fatal bite of sin.

Friends, something very strange is happening here in Dar. All three of the families on our newly forming East Africa Equipping Team have been seriously attacked with **medical issues**, to the extent that all three of us are seeking medical treatment outside East Africa. You know and have been praying about the stomach issues with our Adam and Andrew, which continue to linger despite trying a gluten-free diet to combat possible Celiac disease. Most recently Holly has been hit with a variety of strange and troubling symptoms possibly tied with hypoglycemia, stress, or other endocrinological issues. We are realizing that East Africa has little to offer for diagnosis and treatment, so pray with us for wisdom and God's grace in healing our family.



Added to this is the **challenge of life** here in Dar. Someone once told us that Dar es Salaam seems like a major, updated city from 30,000 feet, but on the ground you realize it is really a bush city. Again and again this has been confirmed as water ceases to flow, electricity is erratically shut off, the city is filled with smoke from burning trash, traffic congestion makes it very challenging to travel by car, and the infrastructure crumbles as the government remains silent.

"Yeah, life in Africa is pretty hard. But if I'd stayed in America, I would have felt like I hadn't listened to God."

—Statement Andrew made yesterday.

Staying the Course – Ministry Continues

Yet we have hope, for as Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 4:16-18: *"We do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."*

In "fixing our eyes" on the eternal, we believe that Satan is trying to derail us from our important **work of training pastors**. But *"greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world."* (1 Jn.4:4) So by God's grace we will not stop or slow down in our work. This month Eric will be training a group of pastors in **Zanzibar**, a couple groups in **Dar**, and preparing to work with three different groups in **Uganda**. Nearly every week, Eric preaches at different African churches, encouraging the saints to "inwardly be renewed day by day."



Preaching recently in Gongo la Mboto

Home Assignment – Summer 2012

Within the next few weeks we will be finalizing our home assignment schedule, and are so eager to spend time with as many of you as possible, renewing treasured friendships, celebrating the Lord's activity in East Africa, and expressing our sincere appreciation for your continuing support.

"The prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. ...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." -James 5:15-16

Please join us in prayer: Praise God for the opportunity to shape lives and ministries of African leaders.

Pray for Holly, Adam & Andrew with medical issues and God's protection for the family while Eric is doing training.

Please tell us how we can pray for you!

We thank God for you!

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

