

February 17, 2009—Arusha update #5

Dear family and friends:

Yesterday on the way to Arusha University we stopped at the Internet Café to send you update #4. We received an email from Dennis Shafter at the Arkla Conference asking for a couple of photos he might use in a story for the Conference Newsletter. We were not able to do it then or throughout the day because of the very tight schedule. But today we have arranged to get to the Café again to send the photos and thought we might as well give you another update while we are there.

The experience at Arusha University run by SDA was very interesting to us. They have 500 acres for the campus and it is away from town so the students are isolated from a lot of confusion and temptation. They have a very able faculty and nearly 1000 students. Dr. John Kisaka, Willie's father, was an early president there and had a lot to do with the founding of the institution. It began as a college in 1979 but is now a full university since 2003. He was with us and especially eager that we present the Sanctuary to the 40 plus Ministerial Students.

We took the High Priest Garments and dressed up one of the students much to the delight of all. The Lord gave great freedom in presenting the topic and blessed my voice. It sounded better than in the past several years. I think the Lord especially wanted a strong impression to be made on those students because they will be pastors all over Tanzania and in other parts of Africa in years to come, should the Lord delay His coming that long. You could feel the electricity in the room as the subject unfolded. I have never presented it to a more appreciative audience.

The head of the theology department, brother Joseph did an excellent job of translating. He wants to translate the book into Swahili as soon as possible and possibly publish it at least for the students. The ten copies we left for their library will not meet the needs. While there we also met the Chaplain who pastors the university church. He is the younger brother of Pastor Katymanza who first invited us to come back and present

Sanctuary there. The Chaplain is Katymanza's younger brother. He was also excited about the subject being presented there. We gave him the suitcase of Sanctuary materials we brought for Mwanza and he will see they get there. He may talk his brother out of some of the books because of the special need at the university. We trust the Lord will get them to where they can do the most good.

The presentation made a strong impact on the faculty and students who heard it. They are very sure they want us to come again and continue presenting it there but also to conduct an evangelistic series for the university. They have 500 students who are not SDA and feel this would be an excellent evangelistic outreach with a rich harvest. All we could tell them is that we will pray about it and see if the Lord opens the way. We depend on that.

On the way back from the university we stopped at the ADRA office and in the rain met the directors. One of them is Max Church. We knew his father and his grandparents and other relatives were part of the Urbandale Church we pastored in the Battle Creek area of Michigan back in the 70s. We recalled many pleasant memories. What a small world it is! Also he knew

the Witzels who worked long in Africa and are now retired in Gentry. There were other connections as well. Adventists are never "strangers" even in foreign lands where there are other Adventists. The Churches have started an orphanage and have 35 babies now. They have organized everything very well and are doing a great work. The babies and small children were precious, looking out through those dark eyes and appreciating the attention given them by everyone. That will make an impact on the future. We got back to our room just long enough to wash up a bit

and head for the meeting. The rain had stopped but the power was out until (through prayer) the power came again in time for Mary Alice's health talk and my sermon on "What happens when we die?" It is a very important subject for them in view of their history of animism and ancestor worship. The people are attending faithfully in spite of all the logistics problems.

This afternoon Dr. Richard Bendall arrived. He had a rough time getting through Kenya. The airlines had failed to check his baggage clear through etc. So he got very little sleep last night and he and Willie leave early tomorrow for Chome to do the advanced work before we and the group from USA arrive on the 20th.

The dust here is very prevalent and even one day without a personal pouring shower leaves you feeling very uncomfortable. But times does not always allow for heating the water and enjoying the luxury. We learn to adjust as needed to "whatsoever state we are in" like Paul.

I think the lunch is nearly ready and Dr. Bendall has not had good food on the whole trip, so we had better stop this now and get ready to leave for the Internet Café right after eating so we can get back in time for meeting tonight. Dr. Kisaka came to join us and meet his old friend, Dick Bendall.

We are glad to hear a little of what is happening at home when we get contact by phone or email.

With our love,
Glenn and Mary Alice (Dad and Mom)