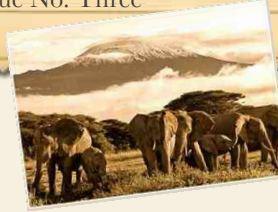


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KEITH AND ANNE THOMSON:
P.O. BOX 11775
MERU, ARUSHA
TANZANIA EAST AFRICA
TELEPHONE
+255 686779250
EMAIL
KMCOTHOIMSON@YAHOO.COM
.AU



“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit”
Matthew 28:19

Keith Report

Msuya

We have had a good month here in Arusha, Tanzania. There have been some very significant things that have happened this month. Unfortunately we also had a sad incident in that a motorbike a couple of weeks ago hit the preacher from Mukamira, Noah Msuya. Motorcycle riders are becoming a real menace here, with cheap Chinese bikes flooding the country and many riders not having licences and having a love for speed.

Msuya was stepping out of the gate to his father's house (where worship is held) and before he knew it a motorbike (or pikipiki in Swahili) roared around the corner, left the road and struck him in his right knee. They managed to wave down a car and took him to the local hospital where x-rays revealed a break on the knee. They put him in a hip to toe cast (called here P.O.P) and the next day I was able to pick him up from the hospital and take him home. He has to go back in a month for more x-rays.

Initially, Msuya was in a lot of pain, but now, two weeks later, he is doing better and is able to sleep. Msuya is a good man and a very good preacher. Even though he is not able to get around he still organises studies for me with local people on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He sends his sons out to gather the people to his house for studies. I guess you could say he is “down but not out”.

At this stage, Msuya receives no support for his work in preaching the gospel. He relies on his garden. With the rains due next month this is a big problem for him as he would normally now be preparing his fields for planting. I am at the moment able to give him some support, but we would like to find some regular support for this preacher (1 Tim 5:18).

Mererani

I am very happy to say that we have a new congregation in the town of Mererani, about a 2-hour drive from Arusha. Mererani is an interesting town as it is the only place where the gemstone, Tanzanite can be found. The town itself has a real frontier/mining town feel about it. It is very dry there and very dusty. The mine itself is in the hills overlooking the town and from there you can see the mountains of Meru and Kilimanjaro.

To get to Mererani we take the road to the international airport – a good 45 minute drive and bitumen. At the gates to the airport we take the road off to the right. To use the word road at this stage is generous to say the



Msuya, his wife, Kristina and his family



The road to Mererani



least. There are potholes so big and deep that you have to drive right into them and they are about half as deep as the car is high. Things get a bit better, but not much. There are many rocks sticking out of the road (this is the volcanic plain for both Meru and Kilimanjaro – volcanos) and the corrugations are very bad. We don't have a work vehicle yet and are using Anne's car – a RAV4. This does well around Arusha and the bad roads there, but on this road it is just about shaken to bits. 30 kms per hour (about 20 mph) was as fast as we could go. At one state there is a sign put up by Tanzanite One, the big mining company, that tells us that they proudly built, financed and maintained this road. There was not a lot to be proud of as far as I could tell.

This work started out as a result of the efforts of a member from Arusha, Fredson John. He comes from Mererani and all his family lives there and he wanted the gospel to be there as well. Allen and I travelled out there two weeks ago and spent a long time with Fred, talking about the future of the work. We then went out to study with his family and then met with some Christians there. They decided that they would start meeting and worshipping following the scriptural pattern. There is now a

small group of 4 or 5 Christians meeting there.

We went to Mererani again yesterday (Thursday) and we able to send some time with Fred, encouraging him, and also to meet others and hold a number of studies. This is a small work, but a good work. Here in Tanzania they have a saying, pole, pole (pronounced polé, polé). It means little by little, or slowly, slowly – this is how we are going. Sometime we want everything done in a huge rush, but perhaps we need to slow down a bit and do it in the Lord's time.

Church Building

The church in Arusha has been meeting in a little schoolroom now for some time. It has been adequate, but far from comfortable. The brethren have been sitting at desks made for 10 year olds, there is no windows or electricity – when preaching I had to turn around to let the light from the door, at the back of the building, to shine on my Bible.

Looking for another place to worship had been one of my goals when we arrived in Arusha, so we started looking. Allen found a house that was suitable for worship. It has a very big front room that is light and spacious. We are about to finish off organising

a 12 month lease, the owner has to still fix up a few things.

We met in this building for the first time last Sunday and the brethren were very happy. We did not have as good a turn out as we would have liked, some may have been confused about the move I guess.

The building is in a good location. It is in a busy area just off a major highway, with lots of people living locally. We are really looking forward to using the building to its fullest.

Swahili Lessons

We have just finished a short 2 week break from our lessons in between courses. The week that we finished out first course they had a graduation ceremony - unfortunately they had not printed our certificates. Our teacher took us away from the ceremony and we continued on with our class.

Our second course is conversation based, using the grammar we learnt (or we supposed to learn) on the last course. I have to admit feeling like the dunce of the class, but I will keep going.

Please continue to pray for us

Keith



Fred (in black jacket) and his family in Mererani



A chance for a Bible study - Mererani



The new church building - Arusha

