



MIRACLES IN MWANZA

Historic Campaign in Tanzania Results in Over 300,000 People Responding to the Gospel

We entitled this report "Miracles in Mwanza", not because we saw the waters part in Lake Victoria, but because we witnessed something far more dramatic - human beings being translated out of darkness into light, and out of hell into heaven, by the power of God. Through 372 evangelistic events held over the course of 22 days, we saw 307,682 people pray to receive Christ! So far, that is the largest number to respond in a single project in the forty-two year history of the ministry. We praise God for this wonderful beginning to new year 2020 and a new decade. An obvious question is, how can that

happen? It comes from four converging factors. 1. A large number of people reached. There were 315 school assemblies held, plus open-air events and evening film shows. The average number of students in each school was over 900. But, there were 124 with populations ranging from one to three thousand. 2. High receptivity to the Gospel. For reasons known only to God, response to the Gospel is extremely high in that region of Africa. 3. Simplicity of the message. The message we preach is simple, direct, easy to understand, and calls for a decision. 4. The power of God. Size of audience, level of receptivity, and clarity of message would mean nothing without the empowering of the Holy Spirit. But, we praise God that He saw fit to anoint the preaching of HIS Word in every event. The result was an unprecedented harvest of souls, for which we are extremely grateful. It was a joy to get to participate.



Invitation at an open-air meeting

A campaign of this magnitude does not just happen. It requires months of planning, and weeks of on-the-ground preparation, before the team ever arrives. Over the course of three months, several surveys were made of Mwanza (pop. 1.1 million) and the surrounding area. Then came the task of locating schools and other venues. A team of ten people worked for two weeks visiting, in person, over 400 schools, meeting with administration, and setting dates for meetings. Many were located in places where the roads were so bad, it was almost impossible to reach them. There were cases in which some of the schools "in the middle of nowhere" had 2000-3000 students or more. They were mostly boarding schools, and some of them gave a whole new meaning to our slogan, "we go to them".



Shad and Sheila at a school meeting



A lot of rain means a lot of mud



Preaching the Gospel at a high school



Raised hands equal open hearts

On January 10 everything was in place. The team from Kenya made the long trek to Mwanza to join the Tanzania team located there. Then on Monday 13th, the work began with 34 team members dividing into six teams to go in six directions to do 21 school meetings, 3 open-air, and 3 evening film shows. On that first day they saw over 17,000 people pray to receive Jesus! It was obvious in that first 24 hours that it was going to be a big campaign. But, we did not know just HOW big. I went into it thinking that a final number of 150,000 would be a phenomenal record breaker, but I had no idea that God was going to double that number.



Sincere hearts in prayer

On Friday Jan 24, Sheila and I arrived Mwanza and joined the project already in progress. We were joined by our good friends, Evangelist Bob McLaughlin and his wife, Trudy. For the next ten days we bounced over rough roads, going to school after school where we shared with thousands of young people how to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. And time after time, we saw hundreds of them respond. In many of the schools there was a large Muslim population, but they listened to the message and many accepted Jesus. What a joy it is to see so many lives changed at an age where it makes so much difference. Not only is their eternal destiny altered but their future on earth as well. We also enjoyed preaching in the open-air events where we saw people of all ages, from all walks of life, come to Christ. It is such a thrill to see people bow their heads, pray the prayer, then raise their hands, and finally come forward to stand in front of the platform to receive instructions on how to follow Christ.

On the final day of ministry we conducted 6 school meetings in which 7445 students said yes to Jesus. That brought the total to 307,682. But, the project is not actually over. There were about 50 schools that we could not get to in those days. So, three team members who live in Mwanza are finishing them up now. But, evangelism is not the only thing that happens during a campaign. There is the training aspect as well.



Sheila shares in Evangelism Seminar



Seminar certificates are joyfully received

And, so it was this time. We conducted a three-day field evangelism seminar for over 300 pastors and evangelists. The goal was to equip pastors to lead their churches in reaching out beyond their walls - to reach the communities around them using the "we go to them" methodology. We are also trying to help evangelists improve their ministries by teaching them how to employ the "we go to them" field evangelism approach. We feel it is not only important to DO the work but to teach others how to do it as well. Thankfully, we were enabled to plant the idea of going to where the people are into the lives of 300+ people during this campaign. This first campaign of 2020 was an amazing experience, but it is now history. Now we move on and continue to believe God for more opportunities to make Jesus known. To all of you who help in that process, we say THANK YOU! Thank you for always being with us as WE GO TO THEM!

Vision 2020 Expansion Program Underway Full Report Coming in Next Newsletter

We are excited about the expansion taking place in the ministry, but there is simply not enough room in this newsletter to adequately talk about all God is doing! Therefore, in the next couple of weeks, we will be sending out a complete report on the amazing progress that has been made . Please stay tuned, and thank you for praying.