

9/13/2006

Hello to all of you:

We are asking for your /\*prayer support\*/ as we go through a tough time in Tanzania. As you know we have 8 Maasai church planting families living and sharing the gospel with the Maasai in Matale, Tanzania. They are there for a two year commitment. Seven of the families are from Kenya. They have a paper that they get at the border giving them the legal right to cross over from Kenya to Tanzania. They have been coming back and forth for the last two years.

On Sunday, two of our church planters were coming into Arusha for our literacy course, so that they could teach the pre-literate people in their area to read. On the way they were stopped by immigration. One of them had his border paper, but it had expired, the other one didn't have his with him. They were detained. Robert, a Tanzanian who works for CMF, went and got them released. Robert has been talking with immigration this week, and they have decided that our Kenyan church planters are in the country illegally. So, we have a meeting with a government official on Monday morning. The outcome of this meeting is crucial. The enemy does not want us in Matale.

Please pray for the outcome of this meeting. We need them to understand that the Kenyan church planters are volunteers, and here for a limited time until a church is planted.

Also, please pray for us that we would have wisdom and cool heads in the meeting.

/\*Now, let me share with you some more pleasant news.\*/ In our last training course, you may remember that we had three tribes. Two families were from Maasai, two families from the unreached Hadzabe ( who are bushmen), and two from the Barbaig. The Hadzabe and Barbaig were returning to their home areas to share the gospel and plant a church. They are not being supported by CMF other than the training, and other small helps. The Maasai are being supported as they are living far from home.

The Hadzabe ( do you remember that they are the ones that the man, Peter, had been riding his bike to share with them for 7 years?!) returned back to their villages at the end of February. Our team mates Scott Price, Robert Mollé and Lorivii Muro recently went to visit them and see how they were doing. They were blessed to find that two churches had been planted, and there were 65 people between the two churches!! The Hadzabe have been difficult to reach. They had enthusiastically implemented the CHE ( community health evangelism) projects that they were taught in our church planter course. They were being well received by their neighbors. This is a first! They now have a church building that they organized themselves. Attached is a picture of the church planters, and their church building. We praise God from whom all blessings flow.

We believe that God is leading us to move forward with enabling nationals to reach their own people. We continue to pray that God would bring others to us. We look forward to reaching out in other directions

in the coming months. There are 21 unreached people groups in Tanzania.

The meeting with the adoption agency and the lawyer was postponed. The case worker got malaria, and was unable to travel to Kisii to visit the grandmother. As we understand it, she has gone there on Monday and we are waiting for her report. Pray that this meeting will be rescheduled quickly. We wait.

Another prayer request!! In order to adopt Jack, I have to keep my work permit in Kenya. It has expired, and has not yet been renewed. It has been in the process since July 11.

Not many problems here, because God is on the throne!!! Please stand with us in these concerns.

Blessing, Gary and Judy Woods and Jack