



JOEL'S JOURNAL

Medical Missionary serving with EFCA-IM in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Jan/Feb 2004

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Moving/Serving in a New Year, in Tz...

Hi there, friends! Thanks for your faithful prayers & support & encouragement! Happy New Year to you! How can we serve our Lord better this next year?!

I just moved into a nice rental-duplex-apt.; the clinic too. Another missionary family, the Halstroms, live upstairs. I live downstairs with Tomas, my medical student. The new clinic is right next to my apt. The previous place got sold to a developer. We eventually hope to purchase a place for our Asian ministry center, but for now, may Jesus be glorified here!!

Who are YOU praying for – that they will come to know Jesus as THEIR Savior & Lord? Please pray with me for the following friends & families here, in Dar: the Katakia & Dalvi & Vadgama & Vyas & Shariff & Fonseca & Dawda families. Also Mr. Khan & Mrs. Patel.



Our new duplex home & clinic in Dar!



Our safari van in the Serengeti!

Why do people come to see me – a foreigner, Christian, missionary doctor when they get sick? Many think that the “white-doctor” knows more & is better than the local docs. Others like that I truly CARE about them. Others like it when I pray for them; for God’s healing. This week, a little MK girl fell out of a tree. X-rays showed a very badly dislocated elbow. I prayed for her. God used my hands to guide her elbow bones back into perfect position. No surgery needed; just a cast! God is GOOD!

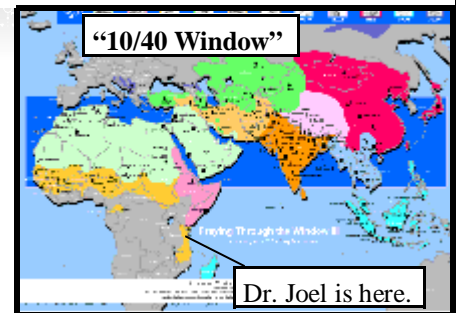
I went to the Serengeti & saw the wild animals over the holidays. God sure created some NEAT animals!! I especially liked watching a whole pride of lions – including more than 10 cubs!

God bless you BUNCHES!

Love, Dr. Joel



Dr. Joel with Indian patient.



Prayer Requests:

- My daily doctoring in clinics; praying with patients; Healing for patients; more opportunities to share Jesus & witness to them
- My playing piano & leading worship music in church services
- Salvation for the lost Muslims & Hindus in Dar, Tanzania
- My trip to Kenya in Feb. for a missionary-doctor’s conference
- Wisdom. Purity.
- Boldness to share about Jesus
- Deeper love for people here
- My missionary co-workers in Dar
- For God to grow His church here
- HIV-patient ministry/outreach
- Leaders for our young church-plants in Dar
- Dr. Ivan (local Christian doctor)

What has God been teaching me lately?

Col. 1:10 Let’s get to know God better & better!

Be careful how you think! I am committed to becoming more like Jesus! To do that, I need to change my thoughts & attitudes. To do that, I need the Holy Spirit’s work in my heart. I need to change/repent from my old way of thinking (selfishly), & start thinking like God thinks (focusing on others). I need more of God’s Word (the TRUTH!) in my mind, & less of the “world’s” input (via movies, TV, radio, books, internet, etc.). Phil. 4: 8.

I recently heard this neat example...There is a constant battle going on in my mind & heart. Will I submit to my old nature (like a black dog) or to the Holy Spirit (white dog) living in me? Whichever one I “feed”, will dominate.

Will I feed the black dog (old-self) by putting bad things into my mind, or will I feed the white dog by reading God’s Word & daily spending time with God in prayer? Let’s feed the white dog! LOTS!!!

Do you tend to be critical? I need to work with God to remove the “logs from my own eyes”, & not be always looking for the faults in others. Matt. 7.

Is God teaching you something? I’d sure like to hear about it! Send me an e-mail sometime & tell me about it, okay? Thanks! God bless! Joel



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