



JOEL & DEB'S JOURNAL

Medical Missionaries serving with YWAM in Dar, Tanzania

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New Clinic. New Home/Marriage. Changes!

Hi there, friends! Happy New Year to you! Have we thought about how we can serve Jesus better this next year?! Let's DO it! He is WORTHY!

We are slowly getting to know the other missionaries serving with YWAM Tanzania, in Mwandege (near Dar). The people in this area are almost all Swahili Muslims from the Wazaramo-tribe. The YWAM-team is a neat group, comprised of people from several nations (Tanzania, Kenya, Korea, USA, & Germany), who all love Jesus! So far, Deborah & I & Beate (a German midwife) are the only ones that are "medical". We are thinking about naming the YWAM Clinic, "Uzima Mission Clinic". Uzima means "wholeness" in Swahili.

We've had to do a lot of work on the clinic — to prepare it for opening. The wiring/electricity & pipes/plumbing & drop-ceiling are all now completed. A new coat of paint is on the ceiling & walls. We moved the equipment/supplies from the mission clinic that I worked at before (EFCA-IM's New Life Clinic, which is now closed) to our new one. Praise God for this great blessing! Now, we await the government's inspection & licensing. We hope to "open the doors" for helping patients in Feb or March. While we are waiting for the licensing approval, I am planning to do some village medical evangelistic outreaches, & to teach about HIV/STD's/purity in some local schools.

Our new home is nearing completion. It's a cute little 2-bedroom house that we are building on the YWAM property. Finishing everything is taking awhile — the painting, & putting in the ceiling & windows & cabinets & curtains, etc. I am mostly moved-in now — & Deb is here some of the time, when she doesn't have to be at the hospital. We are

hoping to become involved in a good local church near the clinic. In the mean-time, I am still playing piano on Sundays, at a local Baptist church here.

Married life is GREAT! Deborah & I continue to get to know each other better. She is truly a gift from God to me!! We are looking forward to a big marriage celebration for our Tanzanian friends on the evening of 29 Jan 2004. Deborah finishes her medical internship on 19 Jan 2004. Then she can join me "full-time" at our YWAM home. We celebrated Christmas '04 with her family. Deborah is hoping to learn to know God better & study about "Missions" at the YWAM course "Discipleship Training School (DTS)" from Feb thru July 2004.

Thanks for your faithful prayers & support & encouragement! God bless you BUNCHES! We serve a WONDERFUL God!!!

Love, **Drs. Joel & Deborah**

Picture: YWAM's new Uzima Mission Clinic!



Prayer Requests:

- Favorable government inspection & licensing for our new clinic
- Salvation for the MANY lost Muslims here
- Village medical/evangelistic outreaches. Boldness to share about Jesus.
- Sharing/teaching in local schools
- A great marriage, filled with joy!
- Wisdom. Faithfulness. Love. Patience. Joy. Self-control.
- Deeper love for people here
- Our missionary co-workers in Dar
- For God to grow His church here
- Our future clinic-work & HIV-patient ministry/outreach
- Deb's DTS missions course
- Computer/internet-connection problems

What has God been teaching me lately?

Is it true that my "thought-life" is important? Do I really BECOME what I think about the most? Does what I read & watch & put into my mind/brain & then think about a lot, does that later come out in my character & actions that reflect those thoughts? Does what I "input", later become "output" in my actions? Yep! I believe it does! So let's put GOOD things into our minds! Let's fill our thoughts with God's goodness & His Word, not with "junk". I want beautiful, kindly, loving, pure thoughts. The body serves the mind. Let's think Godly thoughts, & live for HIS glory!!

My selfishness needs to become "selflessness"! I need to adjust my thinking (& thus, my actions) to be first & foremost, to honor Christ; secondly, to help others; & only then, lastly, to forward my own interests & desires.

Is it true that **the purpose of suffering is to purify &**

"grow" us? If so, are we letting God use the suffering in our lives to burn out the useless & impure?

Your "inner-person", & the person that other people see when they look at you, are they one & the same? Are we wearing masks — to hide our inner "dirtiness"? Is **transparency** important? How do we become one person, intact, unified, whole, **in harmony with ourselves?** I am convinced that much of our stress & "mental illness" is due to inner-vs-outer conflict. Why do we pretend to have our lives "all-together"? Pride? Fear? No one is perfect. No not one! We ALL need Jesus' healing & forgiveness! I desire to be full of Godliness, excellence, integrity, & good character. You too? Let's let the Holy Spirit show us our areas that need Jesus' loving character-transformation...then let the changes begin!

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