THE NEWSLETTER OF SHAUEN & KRISTA TRUMP

FIELD NOTES

writing to you from Kampala, Uganda

December 2009

PHOTOS IN FOCUS

Josiah

Final TEE Class of Year One

On December 5th & 6th, Theological Education by Extension (TEE) met for the final time for the 2009 year. Many Ugandans go home to their villages for an extended Christmas break. December and January are even "summer vacation" for some schools. Accordingly, TEE will break to resume with the second of its two year program in mid-January.

The TEE students enjoyed a final comprehensive exam—open book (that would be The Bible) and open notes. The topic for the weekend was *The African Roots of Christianity*.

Handing out Certificates to the TEE Students

Decorating Christmas Cookies to Take Home

Shauen lectured first on Africa in Scripture, exploring how Egypt in particular was a place of refuge and protection when God's chosen people were in desperate need and also the instrument of God's wrath when Israel stood in want of correction. They looked at Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, Apollos of Alexandria (companion to the Apostle Paul), the Libyans at Pentecost, Simon of Cyrene (who carried Jesus' cross), and the Ethiopian Eunuch (you know the Good News about Christ came to Africa *before* it came to Europe).

To wrap up Friday, Shauen took the men down the road to an ice cream shop for a special treat. For some men this was the very first time they had ever had ice cream! One student insisted on seeing the ice cream before ordering because as he put it, "I'm from the village! How can I make a choice if I can't see it!?!" His chosen flavor? Vanilla of course!

Saturday began with a lecture about Africa's influence on culture and learning in the centuries after Christ. We also examined what should be termed "African." The camel, for example, only came to Africa in the 9th century. Islam, of course, came no earlier than the 7th century. But Christianity came to Africa in the 1st century!

Shauen's final lecture examined some of the great African theologians of the centuries after Christ—starting with the Apostle Mark and moving through to Augustine. Did you know the word "trinity" was coined in Africa? Or that St. Augustine is called one of the Fathers of the Reformation?

After the lectures, Shauen awarded certificates of completion for the first year of TEE. Certificates were also awarded to those voted to be Most Kind, Most Intelligent, Most Humorous, Most Lutheran (!), Most Pastoral, etc.

At the end of class on Saturday Krista arrived with sugar cookies and frosting and we shared a little of our American tradition of decorating cookies for Christmas. While the results were not always "normal" by American standards (some men piled as much frosting as they could on their cookies and others made cookie sandwiches), much fun was had by all! Praise the Lord for an amazing first year of TEE!

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Prayer Requests

- For the continued health of Josiah
- For Shauen & Krista as they learn how to take care of Josiah (and endure sleepless nights)
- For a safe journey and visit for Shauen's mother as she comes to Uganda for 3 weeks in January

In Praise

- For the safe delivery of Josiah and a healthy Mom and baby
- For Josiah's baptism on Christmas Day
- For a joy-filled Christmas celebrated with family (via Skype) and friends

Ablaze
Igniting the World with Christ's Love

Josiah Michael Trump

Josiah Michael Trump was born exactly at noon December 19th, 2009 at Nakasero Hospital in Kampala, Uganda. He weighed 7lbs 0.1oz and was 19.6 inches long. Labor lasted 20 hours, with over 3 hours of pushing. Due to the prolonged pushing, Josiah needed just a bit of oxygen after arriving, but soon was doing just fine on his own. Both baby and mom were given the okay to go home just 24 hours after birth. A few days later we took him in for his newborn immunizations and stayed overnight with him at the hospital so he could receive some light therapy for jaundice. He was doing better by the next afternoon, so thankfully we were able to bring him back home on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day was the most important day in Josiah's life as he was baptized into the Christian faith. Shauen baptized him, and right there, before our very eyes, God put His mark on Josiah, that indelible tattoo that says, "This child is mine." With that water and God's amazing words of promise, God placed into Josiah a saving faith. How amazing that this child, who cannot even express himself, who thinks without even language, who was born sinful, can receive already God's most amazing gift!

Christmas Day Celebrations

Frank and Josiah

Rather by accident, we found ourselves hosting Christmas dinner a mere six days after Josiah's arrival. Our friend Angela works about five hours outside of Kampala and was facing a Christmas away from her family. Our friend Frank is a Seminary student who wasn't able to travel home to his village (and his birthday is Christmas Day), so we invited him to come celebrate with us. Finally, our friends Jeff and Jennie are a wonderful couple who live close by and also decided not to go to the village for Christmas. We started the day off with Christmas worship. Not only was Josiah baptized, but he also behaved himself all through church! The rain and cool weather lent a Christmas feel to the air. We enjoyed roast chicken and vegetables, mashed potatoes and gravy, Stovetop Stuffing, corn casserole, dinner rolls, homemade eggless eggnog, and apple pie and ice cream, with apple juice and cinnamon simmering on the stove to make the house smell like Christmas! It was a great meal with wonderful fellowship. We were even able to visit with both of our families via Skype. Finally, we ended Christmas day with the opening of presents. What a wonderful day to celebrate the birth of our Lord!

Shauen, Josiah, Krista, Jeff, Jennie & Angela