

Week One: "Home"

I wrote in a journal a while back, "Home is wherever God calls you." For the next two months, Tanzania, Africa is HOME. From the moment I stepped foot on African soil, I knew I was HOME. I was in the Dar es Salaam airport waiting to get my visa & I couldn't help but tear up. I knew this is where God wanted me. In that moment, it was like all those fears of the unknown went away as I began to have such a faith & expectancy rise up within me that God was going to do INCREDIBLE things within these next 8 weeks!

On Sunday morning, we went to the church on the hill. They welcomed us with open arms and had us testify on the spot. I have already fallen in love with the children here. One little boy sat on my lap & fell asleep. He just needed some LOVE.

We've had INCREDIBLE classes! The very first day, God spoke to us & used two individuals to give tongues of interpretation. God has been pruning us & preparing us for what is to come!

On my first Saturday in Tanzania, we had a prayer walk. It was the first prayer walk I've ever been a part of. I believe it is a powerful thing & I believe God is going to do great things in Tanzania because of it!

The next Sunday, we all broke up into groups and went to three different churches. My group went to a church where the rock behind it is bigger than the church! I gained a new appreciation for Sheaves for Christ as we rode in Bro. & Sis. Smoak's SUV. There were dirt paths as you would call them here in Africa that would normally be hard to drive but Bro. Smoak's conquered them. As we pulled up to the church, there were kids flocking from everywhere! They were SO excited about Sunday School. We had Sunday School outside. We sang Making Melodies & my heart was full of joy as I heard some of them that didn't know much English start repeating what we were singing in English. We taught the children about healing and shared the story about the woman who received her healing by touching the garment of Jesus. After Sunday School, we went inside to the church where six people claimed healing & three were refilled with the gift of the Holy Ghost. The Pastor of that church wasn't there due to a death in his family. His daughter was there & she got up to testify after the service. She told us that she had been struggling spirituality & that when she got refilled with the Holy Ghost, it felt like when she had got it for the first time.



Week 2: "Another week of classes & Ladies Conference"

During the week, the Smoaks spoke about their burden for East Africa. We broke out into prayer and interceded for Africa. On Friday, I did the morning devotional for class and spoke about the "The Power of one thought." During that day, I also received confirmation and clarity in my life that I had been seeking God about. It is truly amazing how God speaks to us.

This week, we were BLESSED to have Missionary Bro. Sisco from Ghana with us! He impacted our lives greatly. There was one thing he said that greatly impacted me and it was this, "God will let you know where you need to be! He will direct your steps & He does not waste time! You don't need understanding. You simply need obedience. Where there is obedience, there is understanding."

On Saturday, we attended the National Ladies Conference here in Tanzania! I was so honored to be a part of it and get the opportunity to speak to these amazing ladies! God moved in a such a special way! On that Sunday, I know that at least four ladies received the wonderful gift of the Holy Ghost. To God be the glory!



Week 3: Last week of classes!!

This week felt like it was the last week in a way even though we knew it wasn't. We had to say goodbye to the Adam's, Durand's & Poitras' who have poured into our life SO much these past three weeks!

The thing that stuck out with me the most from the teaching of Bro. Adam's this past week and half was something we have heard before, but is one that is SO important and that we all need reminded of. He said, "The most important thing is to be a servant in the kingdom." That's why I am here is to serve in any way that I can for His glory!

Something else that I have heard over and over that has been taught throughout my life, but stuck more than ever is that when God gives you a promise it's not just a destination it's a journey. It's not a straight and narrow path.

I appreciate ALL the time & sacrifice that the Smoak's have invested in us to be here for two months. They have taught us some Swahili that we can use at both the market and the church! Bwana Aswafie means Praise the Lord. I was able to greet the ladies at Ladies Conference in their native language.

I am so thankful for ALL of the time & prayer that goes into this INCREDIBLE mission's training! It has been life changing! I feel prepared and equipped for what God wants to do through me, all for His glory in the next five weeks!!

After the NEXT STEPS Graduation, I got the opportunity to go to the Bible School and teach English with Jennifer & the Aimer's Brandi and Raya! It was SO much FUN & SO rewarding! They did INCREDIBLE! I was surprised how quickly they picked up on it! I was blessed to be a small part of it! I felt like I was in my natural habitat.

On Saturday, we had a cookout at the Smoak's house! We played games & had AMERICAN food! I don't think I've ever been SO thankful for a good burger and veggies! We spent time planning for the next five weeks and look forward to all that God has in store.

On Sunday, my team went back to the church that we had gone to when we had first arrived in Tanzania. Alberta and I spoke. It flowed together well. They responded and got blessed. After the service, one of the elders of the church said, "There were seeds planted today that will grow."

In the afternoon, we got to visit the Orphanage and play with the kids and love on them. It broke my heart when I read some of the stories that they had to go through at such a young age. The majority of them are ages 5 & under. I loved cuddling with the babies and playing with the 5-year olds in the pool. They were using their imaginations! This one boy I played with- he was holding on to my hands jumping in the pool as I would say "1-2-3 jump!" We must have done this 100 times & I never once got tired of it. He told me he was an elephant & a dolphin multiple times, so then I would say "1-2-3 jump elephant or 1-2-3 jump dolphin!" This one little girl said, "Jessica come!" She was playing with a water toy and using her imagination. She said, "it's raining, feel it- it's cold, now it's hot like lava." They completely enraptured my heart.

These past three weeks have already been life changing & this is only the beginning of what MORE God has in store! It is a blessing to be a part of what God is doing here in Tanzania! TZ

Jessica Braga – Next Steps Tanzania

