

May 2026

Dear praying friends,

Thankyou for your continued backing. I have had amazingly safe travel and plenty of “customers”. I am still in the far west of Tanzania, at **Biharamulo**, on my way to Ushirombo, then to **Geita** and **Mwanza**, where I’ll have seminars with all the pastors and evangelists of this vast Lutheran diocese. Then I head east to **Musoma** to be with Presbyterians and finally with the Anglican **Tarime** Diocese on the edge of the Serengeti Game Park. I would value your prayers for clear and faithful communication of the gospel of grace in all these places. My car is starting to burn oil, and I may have to leave it near an airport of train for a friendly pastor from Iringa to collect (He has offered) and deliver to my special mechanic in Iringa.

After working with Lutheran pastors and evangelists and others in **Kigoma**, **Kasulu** and **Kibondo** in April, I met with Anglican Bible students in **Kasulu** (I think in the last letter I left you around that point—it was quite tough going, but we got there with most of them). Then I was with the Anglicans in **Kibondo**. The pastors and evangelists were teachable and most seemed to respond positively, but the bishop himself was then concerned that I might be leading them into sin! His idea of “grace” somehow resembled merit. After that I returned to **Kigoma** at the request of some dear friends working with the small remnant of a disastrous take-over of Baptists by some not-so-Baptist “Baptists”. That was a marvellous time—in two places, in the bush and in town; they were largely untaught but so so open to God’s word—it was refreshing—though a very bone-rattling ride to get to the bush mob. Then west to **Manyovu** (bordering Burundi) to another warmly responsive Lutheran group, before getting back to **Kibondo** where the Lutherans of that district who’d missed out the first time wanted me back. They too were surprized, but very gladly received the grace message.

Next stop **Ngara**, near the border with Rwanda, where I was with Lutherans of a huge diocese based in **Karagwe**, a long, lonely drive to the north, through a game park. Their bishop is a stately gentleman, BP Bagonza, just visiting himself in the midst of a sabbatical; he was already a passionate believer in “by faith alone”. However, it was the same story; somehow the message had not been communicated at ground level. All the same, in **Karagwe**, and to the west at Nkwenda, the pastors and evangelists gave the gospel a great reception again, but a shocked one. I have just had a precious time at the Lutheran Bible School in **Nkwenda**. The staff were very kind. The students, though, were initially quite suspicious, even rude, 6 or 7 just wandering out when they felt like it. But later they turned decisively and welcomed the gospel, though it stunned them. It was too much for one sad young man, a “fellowship” member, thoroughly under the law.

The day before yesterday I travelled north near the Ugandan border and east to **Bukoba** and then down the road west of Lake Victoria, to **Muleba**. I’d taught there back in 2016. The bishop let me teach a small group of eleven Bible school students. That was thrilling. They were almost totally in the dark—they AND two of their teachers—but they accepted the gospel with loud shouting.

I must confess the apparent coolness of some of the Anglican bishops has been quite a disappointment, with three dioceses now suggesting I come “another time”. The latest is here in **Biharamulo**, where the bishop got a report on the bishops’ grape vine that my teaching on free justification leaves people free to sin. Another missionary here has quietly tried to reassure this bishop for me, so we’ll see what the Lord does. And thank the Lord for Pastor Jeremiah from Iringa who has intervened with the other two bishops. He is from this area but he got the message himself in Iringa and is desperately keen that they give me an open door. So do pray for all these dear purple gentlemen and give thanks for the exciting opportunities now coming up. Oh, and please pray for Jeremiah’s wife who has been in Murgwanza hospital in Ngara.

Thankyou again!

John—with love from Kay in Geelong.

