



# THE OWENS'



## Owens family reunion, in Australia - after 4 years,

*We were blessed to have a trip back to Australia to visit family and friends:*

Celeste was also in Australia for her best friend's wedding and Justine joined us from New Zealand, but more of their news later. It's been 2 yrs since we were in Australia and

we were treated to such an amazing array of food and festivities. We feel totally spoiled after so many wonderful meals and "catch ups" with long term friends and family.

Judi enjoyed the shopping, food, beach visits and David enjoyed the theological debates around the Kingdom Story with many likeminded Christian thinkers.

There is something therapeutic about being together with family (spiritual as well) and seeing the rock from whence you're hewn.

After lots of fellowship we headed back to Africa via Mauritius where we spent the New Year (thanks to Air Mauritius for the lovely lay over). Zac is back to school and Judi & David are back to work while Justine begins the process of pursuing her prospects.



AMAZING FOOD!!



CHRISTMAS LUNCH TABLE 1 OF 3

# For the coming year and looking back!! Four-pronged focus continues ...

## *Further Training in Farming Techniques:*

We are about to host our fourth 'Farming God's Way' (FGW) seminar, whilst strategically focusing on engaging all pastors in each village. If this method gets adopted, no one goes hungry, even during low rainfall.

David is involved in a regional steering committee for the implementation of conservation agriculture (CA) throughout Tz. Those involved include government officers, large scale farmers, seed producers, marketing agencies and NGO's.

*Local pastors fellowship:* we get excited when people take initiative. So when our local pastors decided amongst themselves to run a conference in our absence, we were delighted. On our return, we were told that only a very small number turned up but ... for some reason, they sounded excited. Apparently it was one of the best times the conference team had had. So ... as we often tell ourselves but maybe don't believe, it's not how many but WHO that counts.

## *DNA conferences:*

These conferences are aimed at exploring the worldview together so that participants can understand why they do the things they do within their culture. Its very challenging and leaders from every sector of society are facing these issues with a view to replacing unbiblical practices with Kingdom practices.

## *Arusha Vineyard Church:*

Pastoring Arusha Vineyard is both a joy and a challenge. Our congregation is very transient so we view it as a stream rather than a pond. This means we take advantage of the time we do have with people and invest as much God time as possible with them. As a result we often have to build and rebuild teams over repeatedly as key people move on. On the flip side, we have about 19 different nationalities represented and we love the diversity and grace between us all. We get to model honoring those who differ from us.

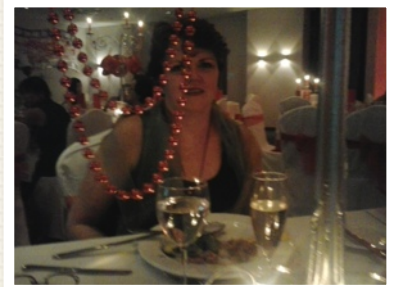
## *Prayer:*

Please continue to pray for our health- since arriving judi's back, flu for both have kept us down.



ZAC'S WITH HIS DORM PARENTS

## OUR NEWS



NEW YEAR IN MAURITIUS!



WATER SUPPLY ARRIVING!



PASTOR'S GROUP MEET



STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS



## CELESTE

2013 IS A YEAR OF CHANGE FOR ME. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO NEW WORK PROSPECTS OR STUDY. ....

2012 I TRAVELED TO AUSTRALIA, FOR MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING. I VISITED MY GRANDPARENTS & FAMILY WHOM I HAVEN'T SEEN IN 12 YEARS AND RECONNECTED WITH MY AUSTRALIAN ROOTS.

I'VE ALSO HAD IMMENSE FUN BLOGGING WITH MY 3 FRIENDS. CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: [HTTP://TRACKSOFFOXES.COM/2013/01/11/FRIDAY-FINDS-FOR-AN-ICY-WEEKEND/](http://TRACKSOFFOXES.COM/2013/01/11/FRIDAY-FINDS-FOR-AN-ICY-WEEKEND/)



## JUSTINE

2012 SAW ME PACK UP MY LIFE IN NEW ZEALAND AFTER AN AWESOME YEAR INTERNING AT CHANGEPOINT CHURCH, MENTORING CHILDREN IN WORSHIP.

I NOW BEGIN MY NEW ADVENTURE IN ARUSHA TANZANIA. I HAVE A COUPLE OF WORK PROSPECTS I'M LOOKING AT, WHICH INVOLVE TEACHING AND FEEL EXCITED ABOUT THIS NEXT SEASON.



## ZAC

HAVING RETURNED FROM A 4 WEEK VAC IN AUSTRALIA I'M PSYCHED FOR MY 2ND SEMESTER OF 11TH GRADE (JUNIOR YEAR). I HAVE BANQUET COMING UP (RVA'S EQUIVALENT OF PROM) IN FEB...

I'M SWAMPED WITH A/P FRENCH AND ENGLISH & BANQUET PREPARATIONS THIS NEXT TERM.

I HAVE GREAT NEW DORM PARENTS & AM ENJOYING MY TIME AT RVA (RIFT VALLEY ACADEMY).