

2 0 1 3 2 N D Q U A R T E R

the
OWENS *family*

QUARRY TRAGEDY IN CHEKERINI & 30 YRS OF MARRIAGE FOR OWENS

“30 years”



March 12th marked 30 years of marriage for David and Judi. It comes smack bang in the middle of 3 other birthday celebrations in the family so Judi was not ready for a big celebration. Instead, Justine made a wonderful meal at home for the evening and the table was set with pearls (for 30 yrs) and the food was sensational. These are the joys of having your adult kids at home with you!!



✘ Quarry Tragedy in our village ✘

(David) was on my way to meet up with a local pastor on Easter Monday, when I got a call from Judi saying, “Avoid the Moivaro road, there’s been an accident and a huge congestion as a result”. Too late, I was on my way down the road already.

A follow-up call from Judi revealed that it was our local quarry and there were reports of significant numbers of casualties. The pastor and I picked up some young locals and headed over. We

drove as close as we dared to the actual site; the growing stream of people heading in the same direction looked largely composed. This kind of thing is all too common on this continent. On this site alone, there have been three fatal collapses since '97.

We walked the last hundred yards, hearing folk praying under their breaths as they hustled by us.

I wasn't prepared for what I saw as we reached the brow of the hill. There were maybe two thousand people spread over the slope watching the rescue workers and Caterpillar digging around a bit of crushed, red metal that was protruding out of the gravel. It turned out to be an 18-wheeler Scania. To the left was another truck half buried under the rubble, whose driver was one of the first bodies dragged out.

Every now and then there'd be a wail that would sweep through the crowd as a body was found – hoping beyond hope that there'd be survivors. Beyond the two rescued right at the start, that was not to be. In all, 13 had lost their lives – one family losing 4... have mercy Lord!

Please pray as we look for ways to establish contact and provide support to those who need it. After-care is where it really counts, when all the condolences have been given, the visits ended and the loved ones left to make the most of their lives.





AVLN, SYIS & Other Acronyms

AVLN= African Vineyard Leaders' Network

We had the privilege of hosting the African Vineyard Leaders' Network (AVLN) meetings this year. Forty leaders from around the continent, along with overseas partners, flew into Arusha for four days. The nightmare of logistics, change of admin staff in the lead-up and long hours, ended up being so worthwhile.

The highlight was having the delegates all come to our church building for worship and a meal. As we prayed for them and they for us, the prophetic words that were shared for us were quite remarkable and accurate, encouraging us beyond measure!

Days afterwards, as the church team celebrated a 'job well done' around a Chinese meal (compliments of AVLN), someone asked, "Can we do this again?"

mmm ... let's recover first!

SYIS= Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills

A couple of weeks ago, David attended a "Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills" (SYIS) course written by a Wycliffe for mission leaders and workers. The participants were largely made up of a team of translators from Sth Sudan.

All-in-all a great time - excellent training, great fellowship in an awesome venue (lower slopes of Mt Kilimanjaro).

Downside ... poor phone signal and virtually no internet for 5 days (which was actually quite nice!)

Part of the fun was watching folk peruse the grounds for best reception; the occasional interesting pose of standing on one leg, arm extended to the sky, all for that extra bar of signal!

MARRIAGE SEMINAR: "Intimacy in Marriage"

We held an "Intimacy in Marriage" seminar last month with Costa and Lorraine Mitchell from Sth Africa. It was very successful and highlighted the need for more of the same, both in the area of nationals and ex-pats.

Anyone with marriage counseling or training skills, please consider if God is calling you to come over the Africa (short or long-term).

Our church is a growing resource to the WHOLE body and community, not just the Vineyard, and we'd love to help you connect in a way that would make most of your time and gifting. It's needed!

JUSTINE'S 25TH BIRTHDAY, ONE MORE YEAR TILL COLLEGE FOR ZAC, AND NEW HORIZONS FOR CELESTE.

We recently celebrated Justine's 25th birthday party on our porch. It was the four years since we'd celebrated and we'd missed her 21st birthday party in New Zealand so this was a "catch up". The high tea party was a great success. Zac is currently home on holidays but researching colleges for post school. He only has one more year of school left. Eek.... not ready for that. Celeste is also moving to another season of her life where she'll be enjoying her work and Christianity being separate. Yes, her job at St. Albans has come to an end! On to new hopes and dreams in God!! Please don't hesitate to let us know your news, we'd love to pray!

Thanks for your love, support and encouragement! We appreciate you!

Love from David and Judi

Prayer Points and Thanksgiving!

- **Judi's full-time job**

Judi's full time position at an NGO is going well but is taking more and more hours. She is feeling stretched. PRAY!

- **Family and Friends...**

Judi has taken one week off work to spend time with Zac and Justine while they are both on holidays. The plan is to go to a small guest house about an hour's drive away for 4 nights. PRAISE

- **Alpha attendees deepen their relationship with Jesus and start a new course!**

We have a new group of women who've begun Alpha and meet together every week to deepen their understanding and ask questions about Jesus. PRAISE!

- **Water is here! The new pipeline to bring water to our village is complete. PRAISE**

While we receive water every night from the local pipeline which brings water down from the mountain we are now conscious that much of our village doesn't have CLEAN water. We are starting a number of local water projects with or neighbours to introduce filters. We don't mean the BRITA ones you put into your jug. These need to filter out cholera, amoebas, typhoid and other nasties... PRAISE!

- **The rains have come!**

We've had the best rains in 15 years in this country. Every night there is a huge deluge and every day the sun comes out and the temperatures hit somewhere in the 30's (celcius). This means everything is growing wildly and that you fear every night that your roof won't hold and every morning you take the challenge of driving on the muddy, slippery, mostly washed away roads. PRAISE!

- **Pray health issues!**

Pray for God to be our physician. The Aga Khan have just opened a clinic in Arusha to service the city which seems closer to a level of best practice. Mostly, our visits to local clinics, are about us reminding the "doctor" to take our vitals and insisting that we don't take malaria meds until he has done some tests.... :D PRAY!

- **Pray for our local village- Chekerini. (check the train(i) is how it got its name.)**

This village is renowned for how many people have HIV/AIDS and many of the young men are involved in robberies. There is a general feeling of apathy and poverty is obvious. The village has a local mosque and is surrounded by many churches but the people need the Kingdom of God to impact their daily lives. We are wanting to do water filtering systems with them as a doorway in, however, we are being careful to involve local churches to make sure this is a permanent and culturally accepted change. PRAY!

For more stories of God's goodness check out our blog: <http://owensinafrica.blogspot.com>

