

2 0 1 3 T H I R D Q U A R T E R

# the OWENS family

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE & INTERNATIONAL CHURCH MINISTRY

## ✘ Conference in Kuwait ✘

*Pastoring an international church is an honor but also has unique challenges (we counted 17 different nationalities one weekend)*

### “TO TRANSFORM A CITY”

David attended a Missional International Church Network conference in Kuwait hosting 40 delegates from all over the world, with David as the only African rep. The hosting church (Lighthouse) is an inspiration - with a campus backing right onto the wall of the government, it holds 30+

services every Friday and ministers to thousands in other ways throughout the week. The conference offered teaching, counseling and ministry to us pastors in the field. The amazing plenary sessions were led by Eric Swanson and Sam Williams authors of “Transform a City” ([www.micn.org](http://www.micn.org))



### Kim McManus

*A total of 41 women came together to hear Kim McManus (Erwin's wife) speak at the women's retreat. The beautiful Lodge setting, great food, excellent teaching and amazing worship made for a very refreshing time. This combination soothed the soul, enabled connection amongst women and made room for God to touch our lives.*

### Church Planting:

*Vineyard School of Ministry (Kenya) has developed a radically different approach to teaching. Drawing from African history and cultural roots, the courses are taught using an inductive/narrative style of*

*teaching. This Diploma Certificate is accredited by the respected Dayspring University. Sponsors enable even rural leaders to attend. We are planning to start a Tz branch in the coming year or so. ([www.vsmAfrica.com](http://www.vsmAfrica.com))*





## *Vineyard Festival; Water Update; Arusha Unrest*

**Vineyard Festival:** Every year we have a day where para-church ministries and NGO's represented by members of our congregation, get an opportunity to share about their work. This day has always proven to be very effective in breaking down walls, fostering unity through encouraging dialogue, sharing of resources and joint ventures. It is a fun, inspiring day with lots of food, drinks and family games.

**Water** continues to be a contentious issue. You may remember the well we dug in the hope of finding water. After 120 feet we hit rock which we blasted with dynamite but have so far failed to break through.

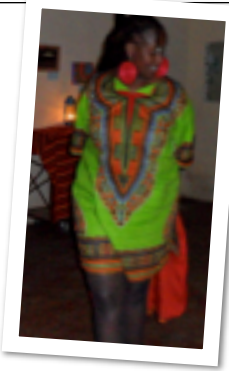


Early this year, the local village asked us to help them run a pipe from the mountain, through the local community into our property. We put our own project on hold to help out with this, but unfortunately, despite every effort on our part, the water has not arrived due to low pressure. Further frustration and more prayer needed.... but on the bright side, one of our missionaries knows a European engineer who has 100% success at locating water and depth of access. Lord willing, he will be with us in August and give us advice on how to proceed.

**Arusha Unrest:** recent political unrest in Arusha over elections have resulted in numerous people being injured and some killed in bomb blasts and consequent riots. Tanzania is rife with poverty, corruption, massive unemployment, poor education and over-paid politicians. Protest is necessary for change but we need to pray for a bloodless change led by leaders with a heart for the nation.

Further to this, many people are leaving Arusha. This is not necessarily because of the unrest but because this city has a huge transient population. We've had six key leaders permanently relocate for travel or work. We've decided to work *with* this dynamic and not against it, seeing Arusha Vineyard church as a stream rather than a pool. This reduces the sense of frustration when key leaders move on and we need to rebuild a ministry area all over again.





## Art Auction and Baptism

**Art Auction:** Roshni and Niki are 2 young artists in our congregation who recently organised an

event to raise money toward our yearly land repayment of \$20,000. Not only were many diverse artists

represented but a delicious meal was served accompanied by talented musicians and dance. The silent auction

became hilariously competitive (mostly because of Judi) ending up by raising \$3,500 profit.

**Baptism:** Recently, a young woman from a former Hindu family, in our church took the decisive step to follow Jesus. Although she had struggled with pain and depression in her journey which she expressed beautifully in poetry, her acceptance of God and Jesus brought a peace and happiness into her life. She marked her decision by asking friends and family to her baptism. It was a powerful moment when just prior to immersion David asked her if she chose to willingly follow Jesus to the exclusion of all other gods. She shouted “YES” at the top of her lungs, catching us all by surprise..... delightful surprise!!

### NEWS

### ABOUT

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### KIDS



#### *Celeste:*

*Recently Celeste has had a career change. She is currently enjoying a break from church ministry. She has joined a band and is singing in various venues around the city. For real money, :D she is working in an exquisite little London coffee shop.*

#### *Justine:*

*is now settling back into Africa and recently signed a 2 year contract with Braeburn School in Arusha. She has been working at this school since February and has loved her first year as a teacher.*



#### *Zac:*

*has excelled academically during his time at Rift Valley Academy (ranked #2 school in Africa). He has one more year before college and has been looking at different possible future colleges. We'd appreciate your prayers for a full scholarship for him. His passions are drama, directing, English, French and education.*

