

2 0 1 3 F O U R T H Q U A R T E R

the OWENS family

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



Heri ya Krismasi

This time of year in Arusha is hot and rainy. Tanzanians celebrate by going to church, eating pilau and drinking warm sodas. The Police and Immigration officers use this opportunity to collect whatever funds they can by spot checks on organisations and individuals. This year we plan to bless our workers with Solar lights for their

Christmas bonus!!
🎄🎄🎄🎄

✧ Our Vision ✧

... we are called to work in partnership with the Father in seeing practical demonstrations of the Kingdom of God in every sector of Tanzanian society: pastoring missionaries in the church and marketplace; influencing existing national church leaders toward grace-filled wholistic mission; identifying/recruiting/equipping youth as the next generation of Change Agents and Influencers in each sector of society.

“LOOKING FORWARD ... LOOKING BACK”

This year has been full of challenges, frustrations and subsequent growth. We'd like to be able to say that we KNEW that growth would be the fruit of suffering but in the midst of the challenges we weren't the spiritual giants we



one day hope to be. BUT despite this, God has blessed us anyway, with growth and success as we continue to

follow Him. Please read on to see His faithfulness and our faltering obedience. xox

Zoo Report:

The Owens' household now has 5 baby ducklings, 1 baby guinea fowl and a small mongrel puppy who walked onto the property and was adopted by the other 2

dogs Sukari and Maziwa (Sugar and Milk). Of course the new puppy is called Chai (tea). This brings the total to 7 hens, 7 ducks, 3 dogs, 3 guinea fowl, numerous geckos, "and a partridge in a pear tree!"



Maziwa, Chai & Sukari



Nativity photos



Colobus Nightclub



Judi's crushed car



Building the underground water tank

Vineyard Growth; Water Update; Swiss Wedding; Staff issues

Vineyard Growth: Last quarter we reported around key 6 couples had left Arusha Vineyard due to life transitions. We were left feeling anxious, however, the resulting growth has been astounding. Children's Church, Worship, Finance team, Home groups and other affected areas have all risen to the challenge and are now thriving even more than before. Pruning before growth is not a pleasant experience but it works! In the midst of our trials, though, God sent our friend, Gabriele to encourage and pray for us.



Water Update: The water engineer from Europe turned out to be a Spiritist Diviner using demonic power!!! Further frustration!

HOWEVER, the good news is that just today we finished digging a large underground tank to collect water from the rains. Just as it was completed the rains began to team down. Now to install the pump.

Swiss Wedding: Every now and then we have the privilege of taking a wedding, a dedication or funeral for the ex-pat community in Arusha. Recently, David officiated a wedding for a couple from

Switzerland who came to Arusha to get married and took all of their relatives on Safari as part of the celebration. David got to meet some wonderful people and shared deeply with a number.

Worship Conference: We hosted Vineyard worship leaders from around East Africa who got together for the purpose of encouraging, resourcing, refreshing each other, exploring issues of grace, unity, "everyone gets to play" and other topics. The combined worship gave us a taste of Heaven here on Earth. This has continued on a weekly basis at Arusha Vineyard and brought a sense of intimacy with Jesus and transformation at a core level.

Staff problems: Just after our key leaders left, so did our 2 faithful workers. Unfortunately, a bush lawyer turned them against us, convincing them that we owed them a huge amount of money, with the intention of making much himself. Sadly, they were vulnerable to this suggestion, but thankfully we are careful to adhere to good payment and records so were legally safe. Some of you will remember Jamsi and Baba Hamida. Please pray for them.



Danny our new worker



Digging the Water tank



Vineyard worship



Zac as Maxwell Smart



Thanksgiving

New levels/New devils: Attacks and Vision

Car Crushed: We began to suspect we were under spiritual attack when around the same time as workers and leaders leaving, our phones were stolen and then Judi's work vehicle was completely crushed by a tree. Thankfully she was not in it but having a meeting with her boss who, although not at all religious, said "This is Mjanja!" (witchcraft in Swahili) ... It was time to pray and STAND.....

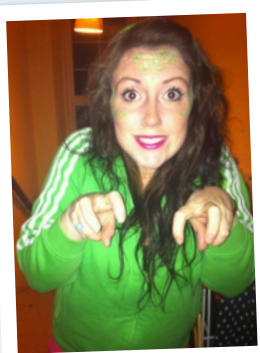
Nightclub for rent: We have driven past a local nightclub called "Colobus" here for over 3 years praying it might be turned into a venue for Jesus and His Kingdom. Imagine our delight when it recently became available for rent and discovered the landlady had been praying for it to be used by God. Over 50% of Tanzania's population is under 18 years old. Many are unemployed, under educated and powerless. They are ripe with frustration because of their life situations. They are a tinderbox waiting to explode. Many of them put their hope in a new government but we know God wants them to get a Kingdom mentality and change Tanzania that way. Change needs to come but without violence and through love. Please pray with us as we seek God to fund this new initiative "Leaders in the Making". see pics and our blog for more information.

NEWS

ABOUT

OUR

KIDS



Celeste:

Celeste is coming for Christmas!!! Yippee. She arrives 10am on Christmas morning. We are all fighting over who gets to pick her up and who gets to cook Christmas lunch. We can't wait to see her and spoil her.

Justine:

Is Co-Leading the Worship at Arusha Vineyard, teaching at an international school and enjoying life in Africa. We love having her close-by.



Zac:

has just finished directing and starring in the play "Get Smart". We had front row seats to see the brilliant performance. He has submitted most of his college applications for future study. Please join us in praying for the right school in the right geographical location with an awesome scholarship. :D

