

2 0 1 4 F I N A L Q U A R T E R

the OWENS family

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY; ENGAGEMENT; ZAC MOVES TO NY; EBOLA?



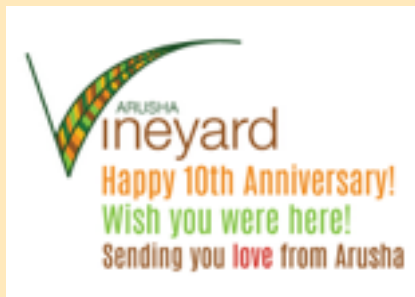
Engagement!

Justine's road trip and visit to Bethel Worship school bore more fruit than first thought. She came back an engaged woman. She and Skyleer will marry in August 2015 in Arusha Tanzania. The Engagement party is December 20th. Skyleer is currently in California working and Justine continues to teach Reception aged children at Braeburn international school.



* 10 Year Anniversary for Arusha Vineyard Church*

Arusha Vineyard Church initially began in 2004 with seven adults meeting in a lounge. By the time we arrived in Arusha, in December 2007, it was meeting in a local restaurant. David and I were asked to be part of the leadership in 2008 and began to pastor the church full-time in about July of that year. About a year later the church settled in our very own church building church family adults and kids!



Arusha Vineyard multicultural. We sorts of far flung well as plenty of home. The church percentage of

individuals attending but these people do not make up the entire congregation. This intercultural dynamic although one of our greatest strengths presents us with some challenges too. Our congregation is transient; many people are here for a set length of time. It is in June and July each year (the northern hemisphere summer) that we often have a lot of goodbyes as terms end and people move on to another country, assignment or home. We like to think of our church as a river, because towards the end of July and beginning of August our congregation swells again with new members. (cont. p 2...)

in late 2010. Today our would be around 200+ definitely plenty more

Church is so have friends from all places on the globe as those that call Tanzania does have a fair missionary families and

Thanksgiving:

Having lived in a few different places over the years means that we have collected some pretty wonderful traditions. One of these traditions we've collected is Thanksgiving. Celebrated at different times

in Canada and the US but both with the purpose of being thankful. Besides - it involves turkey, pumpkin pie and other scrumptious food items. What's not to love? Celebrating God's goodness next week.





Arusha Vineyard, Ebola and Snakes



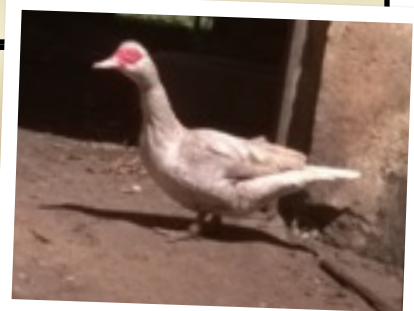
Celebrating 10 years together...

(cont.) Being one of only a few options in Arusha for an international church that conducts services in English, we end up with a lot of people with quite diverse church backgrounds., also making it different to other Vineyard churches around the world. Missionaries as family can be interesting in other ways too. Imagine standing up to share on a Sunday with a room full of people that have theological degrees and years of preaching experience!

On Sunday Oct 10th, we enjoyed a celebratory church service. The church planters that started meetings in their home in 2004 are still members of our congregation and they shared with us about the early days. David and I also shared how we transitioned to being the full-time pastor/team leaders and a little about how we got to be where we are today. It was good to reflect along the way about some of the lessons or truths we can gain through these experiences.

Snake Bites Duck!!

“Mama duck is crying a lot” is the message from our worker. Our aggressive male duck met his end recently after an encounter with a snake. He was a bully and had already killed some of his young male children when they annoyed him. He did however, keep the other predators like mongoose, eagles away from the chickens.



Ebola:

The distance from Arusha to Sierra Leone is 5693 kilometers. That is the same as the distance between Sydney, Australia and Indonesia. Jakarta is 5502 kms from Sydney. Or the same distance as Vancouver is from Costa Rica. Vancouver to San Jose is 5661 kilometers. So you can see that Africa is a vast continent and we don't feel geographically close to the Ebola outbreak, just like you don't.

On the other hand, we feel VERY close. There is no 'us and them' ... we're all in this together. Where one part of the Body hurts, the whole Body hurts. It's heartbreaking; more so as we start hearing familiar names and related ministries affected by this tragedy.



Celeste turns 30; Zac eats Cereal; Ringo's baby.



Travel: Celeste's 30th birthday in Ireland.

I began to realize when I had dreams about Zac traveling underground to New York without a coat or a phone that I was not feeling that we were ready for Zac to live in NYC by himself. When I questioned this theory in the cold light of day, I realized that I was the one not feeling ready. With that in mind we sent Zac off to NYC with his dad to settle him in for the first 2 days. A teary mum is not a good look on your first day of orientation. Besides this, I had another important event to celebrate: Celeste's 30th birthday!

We took a flight to Belfast and stayed with her long time friends Sarah, Simon and Elliot. What a beautiful country and people. We had a lovely time together and Celeste distracted me whenever I threatened to cry at any Instagram photos Zac posted of his new life.

Zac's lives in NYC:

David settle Zac into apartment life. You can see from his Instagram photos that he is happily eating homemade Spaghetti and New York bagels; Lucky Charms cereal is also a favorite standby. He does break out every now and then and cooks "kuku nazi" which is a Swahili Coconut Chicken dish he learnt to make. He is loving the proximity to Broadway. He has already seen and been in the audience of the Jimmy Fallon Show... see pic below.



Ringo returned from South Africa with plans for church planting put on hold with the sudden birth of his new baby. Apparently, it is not common practice here in Tanzania to reveal that your wife is pregnant and any such news is somewhat embarrassing. You can imagine our surprise when we were told of his wife's pregnancy approximately 10 days before she gave birth. Hekima was born on Monday November 3rd via Caesarian; the first boy of 6 children!

Leaders in the Making: Discussions are in place with a program/personnel manager to coordinate the team. We are looking for grant applications and different proposals regarding the coffee shop, sports park and music studio. www.limafira.org

Rain in Arusha: 4 seasons

Tanzania has four seasons too. They are:

Masika: The long rains that fall each year in about April (or sometime between March and May). They last about six weeks and often include tropical thunderstorms. There is cloud cover most of the day It can be humid especially just before it pours. It is the time for planting crops. (cont.)



Seasons in Tanzania (cont.)

Kipupwe: The cool dry season lasts from the end of the long rains until about Oct/ November. In July the cool dry season gets down to a 10 or 12 degrees in Arusha. It is cold for us. In September the temperatures rise and the winds pick up and the leaves start to fall off the trees and the dust starts to accumulate... everywhere!

Vuli: The short rains are supposedly due in October but can arrive anywhere as late as Christmas and sometimes never at all. The short rains are noisy and tropical in nature but are over in a shorter period of time. The short rains bring relief to the parched earth in the hot weather and increase humidity.

Kiangazi: The hot dry season is from January, February and March is really hot and the land completely dries out. Temperatures are often in the high 20's and early 30's. It is definitely "summer" with frequent trips to the pool required.

Prayer Points and Thanksgiving!

- **Zac arrived at The Kings College, New York. PRAISE**

Zachary's arrival at King's College was a shock to the system. Underground, classes, apartments, concrete, traffic and NY all had to be navigated. Zac has completed his first term and loves New York. Praise for God's provision for his tuition up until now. and Pray that he will excel so he can stay!

- **Praise for Justine and Skyler's engagement**

As parents we couldn't ask for a better match for our daughter. Skyler was raised in Africa amongst the Masai, went to college in California and loves worship, kids and Africa as much as Justine. The wedding is planned for August 2015.

- **Praise for God using Arusha Vineyard Church to model Grace!**

Praise that we can be a part of what God is doing in this church where grace and worship are central. Pray for continued ministry to the stream of people God sends our way to receive refreshing and freedom in the church where chickens are welcome, the sound/electricity is inconsistent and we realize we are NOT in control! :D

- **Praise for David's visit to family and friends in U.S. Canada and England**

David connected with his family: Ron and Pat in Arkansas (first time 17 years!); Jeff and Jessica, Ethan and Evan in Dallas; Paul and Margaret in Scotland; Celeste in England and a number of old friends and colleagues in Phoenix, London and Vancouver.