

2 0 1 5 F I R S T Q U A R T E R

the OWENS family

PLANNING: ANOTHER MEETING? OR STRATEGIC PREPARATION?



Happy Birthday and Cervical Spondylosis!

A pinched nerve has caused numbness in Judi's left arm, periodically. Take a look at her lovely head gear to assist with stretching her neck. She also got to celebrate her 54th birthday in Nairobi, eating frozen yoghurt, ice cream and Italian food...

Birthday Treats!!



✧ Planning & More Planning ✧

After our 3rd planning retreat at the beginning of this year, we asked ourselves the question: Is this just another meeting? A team building exercise at Judi's work helped us realize the importance of strategic preparations. The object of the exercise was for the team, who had formed a human pretzel by linking arms, to untangle. Without planning, it took 9 minutes and was truly frustrating. With planning, less than 1 minute. Why? we all agreed a strategy, pooled our resources agreed priorities and got buy-in.

LIM RETREAT: Whose Who in the Zoo??

Introverts, Extroverts, Feelers, Thinkers... At our LIM Retreat this January we looked at who is on the team and what we bring to the table. We assessed our strengths and commitments. We have a vibrant team who are really committed. In seeking God about why finances have been so little, we think it has been part of His strategy to sift us and give us understanding of Africa's struggles with Poverty.

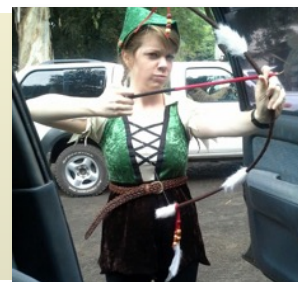


Please stand with us in faith for God's provision for this vision.

Justine is Robin Hood:

World Book Day at Justine's school means that teachers and children alike dress up as any character of their choosing.

Justine chose to dress up as Robin Hood. You can see the likeness. This is a day to encourage children to read and to stimulate their imagination. All in a days' work.





LIM strategies



VSM Board



Skyler comes to visit



Our curious neighbour

Vineyard Growth: Baptisms; Sunday School; Leaders Planning

Vineyard Growth: Baptisms. Arusha Vineyard has been baptizing folk on a regular basis. We have dug a hole in the back yard, filled it with a tarpaulin and then take a hose and fill it with water. We now need to build a proper baptismal pool that we can cover to keep out the kids and the snakes. Not enough chairs!!! For weeks now, Sunday school teachers have been plotting how they can accommodate the growth in their classes. Rugs under trees, bench seats instead of chairs, each child donating \$10 for a chair.... these are all various strategies being discussed because we face the wonderful problem of growth. The property team meet tomorrow to find some more permanent solutions.



Another baptism at Arusha Vineyard

Sunday School: Judi teaches the Cross Roads class who are 10 to 12 (actually 14yrs) old. Last week she was teaching on “Bouncing Back” from the story of Joseph, about how we all face difficult things but unless we find a strategy to come through it we will be bitter and/or depressed. Judi asked her kids to draw a difficult event in their life and then map their emotions afterward. One young girl drew a map with a smiley face and a series of sad faces, finishing with a smiley face. When she explained her map to the class she said: *“This smiley face is how happy I was to be born, the sad face is when my mother died, the next sad face is when my father married a witch, the next sad face is when they sent me away*

to an orphanage, the face is a smiley face because that’s when I met Jesus and He turned my life around.”

Leaders retreat at Arusha Vineyard: David has successfully made room for the gifts of many different people. As a result we are seeing a coordinated strategy from our preaching team, our core leadership, our small group leaders. There is a cohesion and buy-in that is very hard to achieve in such a transient group. It takes an inviting and encouraging personality type and inclusive leadership style. Although sometimes frustrated, David has pulled some great teams together to lead alongside him.



Vineyard School Ministry

Vineyard School of Min. (Africa): David is on the board of VSM, a culturally contextualized school



Human Pretzel



Kids worship



LIM retreat



Judi's Birthday!

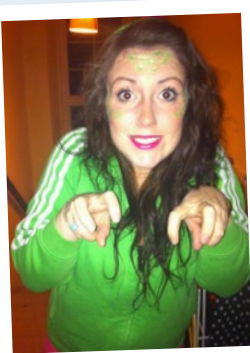
Vineyard School of Ministry, Africa, Kenya.

Africa has a long Christian history, claiming a number of the Early Church fathers to boot. "It doesn't make sense", says Doug Brown (Vineyard pastor and theologian) "that we should educate Africans through a Western lens, when their cultural worldview is much closer to bible culture than the West will ever be!"

Doug, who was brought up in DRC, finished his schooling and university in Jerusalem, leads Vineyard School of Ministry Africa, to our knowledge the only school of its kind. The whole curriculum is written from an African perspective, using cultural terminology and taught inductively, as opposed to lecture-style. The Diploma course is fully accredited through Daystar University, Nairobi.

Nightclub renovations: We recently began renting a local nightclub as a base for Leaders in the Making, a youth initiative where we plan to run TED talks, "Africa style", along with other capacity building programs for youth. We've slowly begun renovations so that we can hold upcoming art classes. Stand with us in believing for more funds to build a skate park, coffee shop and music studio.

NEWS



ABOUT

Celeste:

Celeste is living in Belfast and loves it. She is coming for the wedding and will be Maid of Honor and enjoying all of the celebrations in Masailand, Arusha and Moshi.

OUR

KIDS

Justine:

And Skyler get married August 1st in Moshi. Before that they celebrate with the Masai, July 24th and in Arusha with the Warush, July 19th. Preparations for this spectacular Destination Wedding are exciting and mind boggling to coordinate.



Zac:

loves New York and fits in with the fast paced lifestyle making us wonder how he ever fit into the slower pace of African life. He has been involved in 2 plays already, has found a great church and loves his life. He will finish college May 14th and is looking forward to being part of the wedding party.

