

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

the OWENS family

PASSOVER, GOOD FRIDAY, EASTER SUNDAY IN ARUSHA



Dog Barometer!

The dog next door yelps incessantly. In the rain, at night, in the morning. I don't believe I've ever seen it off its chain. EVER.

Every time that dog barks, and I notice, I pray for our neighbor.

This dog's misery is a picture of what its like to be in the kingdom of our neighbor. Harshness, misery and unkindness mark this kingdom.

All resources are over utilized. Nothing is kept for the future. Land is sold, trees cut down and animals flogged to produce more.

I'm praying for all our neighbors – that they would experience kindness, that they'd treat their land and their animals with respect and an eye to the future, and that they'd care for the environment. If you experience God's kindness you begin to treat everything differently. I believe that the dog would get treated better. The cow would stop bellowing and that our neighbor would have a future and a hope.

Join me, if you are prompted.

* Passover in Arusha *

We celebrated Passover on Maundy Thursday. Although the Jewish holiday celebrates the Exodus or departure of the Israelites from Ancient Egypt which was their land of slavery.

We took the opportunity to gather all our core and small team leaders to celebrate the Seder together, and followed it with a time of worship and extended ministry/prayer for each other.

We are seeing God move in our church in a powerful way in most areas of ministry, including our kids.

We feel it's just the beginning - the taste we're getting, just makes us long for more.



At the same time, local terrorist threats, while causing some anxiety, remind us that we wrestle NOT against flesh and blood rather ... these fanatics make up part of our purpose for being here. Some are destined for radical change. How exciting would it be to be an instrument of change for the likes of some of these! How cool would it have been for Mr. Ananias who, after some gentle prompting, got to pray for Saul/Paul?! (Acts



Arusha Vineyard leaders celebrate Passover together.



Good Friday: Jesus Film for kids; Death of a Friend;

Good Friday: we marked Good Friday with our first interactive service. Instead of viewing the whole of “The Passion of the Christ” as we had over the past years, we stopped at various points along the ‘journey’, to the best of our ability, identifying with various individuals and groups in the story. It was a deeply moving experience - leaving us with much greater appreciation for what He did. For example, at the point of Peter’s denial, we identified with times we have denied him - each writing on a card, “I DON’T KNOW HIM”.

Jesus Film for kids: During the Good Friday interactive service, Judi and 23 children told the story of Easter using plastic “Resurrection Eggs” , dyed boiled eggs and watched the Jesus film for kids. After

opening each of the plastic eggs that tell the story of Easter using symbols the children piled in front of the projected movie. 23 faces of eager children, some of whom couldn’t speak English avidly watched the film. Occasionally, one of the children whispered, “I know what happens next, Miss” All in all it was a great night. One little one fell asleep and there was such a sense of hushed awe over the group I felt sure the Holy Spirit was present.



Death of a Friend and Colleague: Recently, a colleague of Judi’s passed away. She was only 35years old. She had became quite thin and fragile over the last few months but when asked how she was doing would emphatically declare that she was fine. Looking back, all the symptoms of HIV were evident, Judi just didn’t see them as she worked alongside her every day for 4 yrs. The funeral was a cultural experience with many of the women relatives screaming and fainting. All attendees at the funeral are expected to walk around the open casket to pay their last respects. Later different representatives from her life shoveled dirt onto her coffin. We then laid flowers on the grave and listened to 2 sermons admonishing the listeners not to drink beer or you will go to hell. The day ended with lunch at around 4pm where a huge amount of food was served to over 200 people. At one point, the 90 yr old grandmother approached the open casket, grief-stricken that she had outlived her granddaughter.

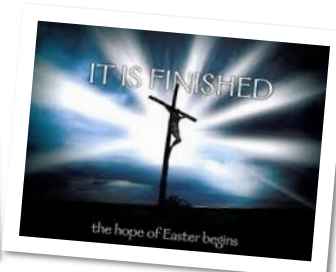




Alpha



Kids Art Class



Good Friday



Alpha

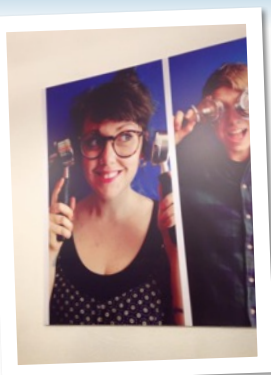
Alpha begins; Art classes for Kids @ Colobus Club

April 13th the Alpha course begins. Its a 10 week course exploring Christianity and the issues of life over a meal with a movie and relaxed discussions. We have 30 people signed up to attend. Please pray for the course to go ahead as the introductory night had to be postponed due to terror threats in Arusha.

Art Classes for kids: Roshni Lodhia a talented artist, recently held art classes for children at the Colobus Club. Kids learnt about a variety of painting styles and explored the color wheel and patterns. It feels great to have the club running events and providing safe entertainment in Arusha.

Colobus Nightclub renovations: We've slowly begun renovations so that we can hold upcoming art classes. The Alpha Course will also take place for 10 weeks. Stand with us in believing for more funds to build a skate park, coffee shop and music studio.

NEWS



ABOUT *Celeste:*

Is enjoying life in Belfast. She is looking forward to the wedding in August where she will be Maid of Honor and will celebrate in all 3 ceremonies. Her move to Ireland takes her back to her great grandparents roots. Both of them were born in Ireland.

Justine:

And Skyler get married August 1st in Moshi, near Mt Kilimanjaro. Before that, they celebrate with the Masai on July 24th and in Arusha, 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.

