

OWENS' NEWS

FGW | CDM | VSM | and other acronyms!

Swahili Names:

Recent Swahili names I've come across:

Godnearme

Baltazari

Immaculate

Innocent

Gamaliel.

More common Swahili Names:

Godsave,

Godlove,

Godpray,

Old Testament names are commonly used:

Naphtali,

Obedi,

Samweli,



I was recently told that “white people” don’t fill their tea cups all the way to the top, because they need to accommodate their long noses. This is apparently what African children are told and African’s fill the tea cups to the brim.



FGW:

Farming God’s Way is a farming technique that uses no-till amongst other things and yielding far superior results over traditional farming methods. Arusha Vineyard has a comparison plot showing the differences.

We recently had an accredited FGW missionary agriculturalist join our church. He is teaching this farming method to both our adults and our Sunday School kids.

CDM:

or “Contagious Discipleship Movements”. Do beg, borrow or buy *Miraculous Movements* by Jerry Trousdale. Read (or Google) how hundreds of thousands of ‘closed country’ people are being radically transformed by God’s love. We are so excited to be involved in this initiative here in Tz too, and cherish your prayers to that end.

VSM:

Vineyard School of Ministry (Dip. in Contextualised Theology), continues to thrive with classes being full of engagement, questions, wonder and laughter. Lives are being transformed and old religious ways of treating the Bible like a magic book are being undone. While online courses are helpful in some contexts, some of our students don’t even own a computer, and some others who do, live with little or no internet coverage.

Next Arusha course: “Character Formation, Authority & Governance: 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles.” August 22-26th. Why not join us??!!

Ringo and police officers...

On our way back from the Manyara seminar, we were routinely stopped by the Police who typically check driving licenses and then ask for money. On this occasion, Ringo who was recovering from the flu, asked the policeman before he had a chance to say anything, "I'm feeling sick. Can you give me some money?" The officer was so taken aback, he burst out laughing and waved us on!

Guinea Fowl news

Mama Guinea fowl recently lost her husband, mysteriously. His body was found in the morning and snake bite is suspected. She was distraught for days and the neighbor's guinea fowl joined her to graze every day for a week or so. Sadly she is widowed again.

Riggins

We recently acquired a new pet, Riggins, a 4 year old Jack Russell. He has a ridiculous sense of his own importance and has not made friends with our other dogs. Despite being involved in 2 rather terrible fights, one ending in surgery, he continues to aggressively pick fights unless he is isolated from them. He has consequently, become a house dog... something we think he planned all along!!



Worship Team Growth

Our worship team are now holding auditions and developing other training protocols to ensure that we give God our best in worship. Exciting growth for our team! We are very grateful to Matt Turrigiano, worship leader at Nth Phoenix Vineyard who has kindly taken our wonderful worship team under his wing for a few months. His mentoring has been invaluable, resourcing and Skyping our guys.

Habakkuk series....

As a church, we have just completed a sermon series on Habakkuk... one of the minor prophets, which, along with so much of the rest of the Bible, reads like a newspaper! This truly is essential reading in an age where things don't seem to make sense and the Church is being called on to bring perspective.

We broke it down into three statements that reflect a familiar cycle in our walk with God:

- a) "It's not right!" .. how often do we complain that things aren't as they should be and why isn't God doing something about it?
- b) "YOU'RE not right!" When God does move, we so often don't like His M.O. and think we know better!
- c) "It's going to be alright!" .. peace and comfort comes with truly grasping that He's in control.

Manyara seminars....

I got to take Zac (with two other ministry colleagues) on a three day seminar down into the Manyara region, in full view of the Rift Wall. It was a rural church with supposedly 50 leaders from different churches planning to attend. Given Zac being here, I asked if we could run a youth track and they agreed. At the last minute a regional church leader called for a week of dedicated prayer, meaning no one turned up for our training. All we ended up with was youth! Being used to this kind of development, we adjusted accordingly and ran with the youth program attended by 40 or so teens. They loved it and are writing a song in order to remember what they learned!

David's Health....

David's health is being managed at the moment and although bouts seem sometimes worse they are further apart. He is also being wise about overextending his energy at at his wife's insistence is taking a daily nap. Judi recently contracted malaria after nine years in Africa... however a trip to the coast was probably where she was bitten.

Malawi trip to African Vineyard Leaders

The trip to Malawi was supposed to be 3 'fun' days by road, but in the lead up, my (David's) health took a bit of a hit and Judi insisted that I explore the 'flying option'. As it turned out, we managed to find a fare cheaper than driving and

MUCH easier. Ringo and I drove to DAR, spending a night with our dear friends, Yago and Angela, then flew on to Lilongwe from there. We met some wonderful people and experienced some of the scariest driving, but safely made it to 'Fat Monkeys Resort' on Monkey Bay, southern Lake Malawi.

What a treat! I overheard one of the international guys muttering to another, "You either have to be a millionaire or a missionary to get to do this!"

Wimber put it this way, "We may not get to own any of it, but we get to enjoy it!" So true!

Youth Compass and Cru

With a growing youth demographic in the church, we are excited to be joining with Youth Compass (Youth for Christ) and CRU in targeting Third Culture Kids (TCKs). Our vision is to both reach and equip this significant people group as strategic Kingdom 'agents'. Interestingly, Arusha hosts six international schools - a big catchment!

Dianne Leman (Vineyard USA)

What a blessing to meet with Dianne Leman here in Arusha, along with her group from Illinois. She and her husband, Happy, pastor the Champaign Vineyard. Last time we met was at John Wimber's funeral back in 1997. These were happier times. :)

Here are some prayer needs we are currently facing:

More leaders: Every 2 years AVC faces an exodus of leaders and key people for very legitimate reasons. This year we have 5 key leaders returning to their countries of origin as well as ??

Youth ministry - prayer as we identify and train leaders and spiritual activists to reach their peers (see above).

Workers for the Harvest: David had a 'vision' of two types of people in the West. One group was looking longingly at Africa but were held back by a string. The string represented responsibilities, expectations of family or peers, fear of discomfort and/or lack of provision etc... The other group represented people being held back by lanyards, straining to leave to serve overseas when God's mission for them was to fully engage in serving on home front while strategically resourcing overseas mission.

Do you fit into one of these groups? Are you part of God's answer to our prayers for the Lord of the Harvest to send workers into His harvest (Matthew 9:38)? What does that *look* like for you?

Police challenges/opportunities. We recently instigated an investigation into police fines that were being handed out every Sunday to our church members. Police were blatantly manipulating the speed gun. We've since received an apologetic response from the regional senior traffic officer, with whom we also got to pray!

More Owens family news.....

Justine and Skyler were looking at a \$500 bill to fix their car a/c, a luxury in most parts of the world but not so in a city that has posted temperatures of 46 degrees Celsius (115 F) in the last few weeks.

However, before they got to throw any money at repairs, they were involved in a serious accident, which, while leaving them sore and bruised, got them a generous payout and new car! A couple of weeks later, Justine got her Green Card .. what a month it's been!

Celeste continues to enjoy her life in Belfast with the occasional jaunt across to England. She recently changed jobs and is excited about this new season in her life.

Zac is home in Tanzania for the summer. To celebrate his 20th birthday, God *miraculously* provided for us to go to Turtle Bay, Kenya and Tsavo National Park... such a treat! (Photos below are our own, in case you were wondering!)

