

OWENS' NEWS

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Zac's visit for 3 months

This summer we loved having our son Zac home from college in New York son for a whole 3+ months. But what does that look like?

Mum forgets her low carb diet to cook up Aussie treats to make sure her son has at least SOME Australian heritage with that big broad American accent of his. Pumpkin scones, Anzac cookies, Lemon delicious, and many other dishes come flying out of the otherwise low carb kitchen. He continues to rebel against 'low key' Vineyard culture and dresses up for church, trusty bow-tie enhancing the ensemble.

We celebrated his 20th birthday. He played Bob Dylan with his dad at a couple of gigs. All in all he made Riggins (his trusted canine friend) and his parents very happy!



We also had the pleasure of dear friends Kath and Phil Henry from North Shore Vineyard in Sydney visit us. Their visit refreshed us completely and much laughter was had by all!!



Legal help for Widows

Inherit Your Rights is an NGO based in Arusha that seeks to educate and empower individuals in Tanzania concerning basic human rights, and to represent those who are facing inequality and injustice. It was originally founded to assist widows who faced incredibly desperate circumstances after the death of their husbands. Arusha Vineyard recently supported IYR in their legal aid clinic. Around 48 women and 2 men attended to hear about their rights. "I learnt today that I can choose who I marry, according to the law" said one participant. www.inherityourrights.org

'In and Out' Burden: While some are enjoying In & Out Burgers in sunny California, Arusha Vineyard is facing it's triennial (every 3 yrs) departure of about 30% of our people and almost 90% of our core leadership; all for very valid reasons like work, relocation, family issues etc. Does it help to know that this is a common theme amongst International churches Worldwide? Yes and No. Yes, God is simply re-allocating His assets and No that doesn't help if you have no one to hold the reins with you. We say farewell to some amazing leaders: Sverre and Berit, Lucy, Chris, with 4 more in the pipeline. On the other hand, we recently had a newcomers lunch with 35 guests and we realize that it's probably already time for another, because of the number of new faces that have arrived since then. Integrating all those wonderful new folk is our next challenge.

VSM: Vineyard School of Ministry (Contextualised Theology) continues to thrive with classes full of engagement, questions, wonder and laughter. Mindsets are being challenged, lives transformed and old ways of reading the Bible through a Western lens are being undone. This last module we held here was on "Character Formation, Authority and Governance" (Samuel, Kings and Chronicles). An excellent course - one of the best we've seen anywhere on the subject of leadership and character. So excited to have Doug Brown return from the States to both teach the course and stay with us. We miss him in these parts! www.vsmfric.org

Politics: protests banned and social media monitored

Tanzania recently had the president proclaim that all political protests are banned until after 2020 (includes campaigning), except within one's own constituency. The President is exempt because his constituency is the whole country. The Opposition parties are unhappy about this. Add this other measures introduced by the new government like no televising of the parliament, no news to be broadcast that might cause protests or violence, and any negative comments about the government on social media. The opposition are ready for a fight. They organized a nation wide protest on September 1st. The President has responded by saying that he would show them who was president. The day before the scheduled rally, tanks with water cannons, tear gas and trucks full of riot police drove into Arusha. Thankfully, religious leaders convinced the Opposition party to delay the protest to give them an opportunity to meet with the President to discuss issues of freedom of speech. The postponed protest is scheduled for this Saturday... the weekend of our prayer camp!

Prayer Needs:

- Judi loves her job but needs more days' work with her new NGO. Pray for funding for them to enable this.
- Leaders for the Harvest.... at Arusha Vineyard. Men and women with maturity, compassion and leadership gifts.
- Provision for Zac's continued college education.
- Keeping open and creative in a season of "no formula" "no menu" asking "what recipe are we making now?" simply trying to figure out what the Father is doing.
- Arusha Vineyard Church Camp is coming up this weekend and the theme is Prayer, with two great visiting speakers. A timely event given the political agenda for this same Saturday (see above)
- Continued divine health and complete healing for David.
- Thanking the Lord for Skype, FaceTime and Facebook which enables family and friends to stay connected.
- So grateful for the amazing safari and kind generosity of our friends Kath and Phil Henry.

Sunday School Moments:

I (Judi) was recently teaching our class of 10 to 12 year olds about the power of forgiveness. I asked the kids to close their eyes and ask the Holy Spirit to show them people that they needed to forgive and write down the names that came to mind on a small torn off piece of paper. They were to scrunch it up and put it into a big cooking pot I'd brought to class. After praying briefly the students began writing feverishly, scrunching the papers and coming up to the front of the class and putting them into the pot. They were bringing around 8 to 10 pieces each. I figured that they had misunderstood the assignment. So I explained again, slowly. After my explanation, one student put up their hand and asked if it could include family members. "Of course" I answered, which sparked even more writing, scrunching and throwing into the pot. After the exercise, we took the pot outside and I asked God to heal anyone who felt very hurt by those names in the pot, then I asked the students to forgive these people. We then took a match and burnt the names to represent letting go of our offenses. I looked up to find at least 2 students openly crying. When I asked the students to tell me how they felt different students mentioned how clean, light and free they felt. Afterwards, I asked if anyone wanted to stay behind to accept Jesus into their heart. Three young boys stayed behind and prayed to receive Jesus.

Sunday School classes that farm:

Farming God's way has started in our Sunday School Class. Children between 6 and 12 years (up to 18 students) are learning about farming techniques and how to break the cycle of poverty. They are learning biblical principals to help them understand the dynamics of sowing and reaping, as well as questioning traditions.



Water news....

We just received a generous donation to buy a water tank. This will be a back up for the underground tank that gets fissures whenever the soil moves. Slowly, slowly it seems that various solutions to this issue are coming together to provide a reliable supply: a new roof, a connection to the village water (hit & miss), a new tank to collect rain water.

David's Health....

David's health still keeps him dependent. He tries to manage his time and rest and stress although sometimes it seems circumstances plot to outsmart him.