

OWENS' NEWS

Growth Under Pressure | Prayer=Rain=Water | Vineyard Tanzania Reboot!

Prayer = Rain = Water

We recently faced a very serious famine in many parts of Tanzania when crops that were planted did not receive enough rain and died on the stalk. We sent out a plea for prayer to our networks with our home church (Emmanuel Christian Community) calling members to prayer. Within a day, the rain started and has continued to do so without the usual devastating flooding. We are so thankful. We've rarely seen crops so lush and healthy in our area. Farmers are overjoyed.. our tank is FULL. We are extremely thankful. Thank you for your prayers and support!



Beautiful maize plants.



Our tank with 300,000 litres of water and our "sophisticated" measuring tool.



Growth Under Pressure

"Diamonds and coal are both, at their base, different forms of the element carbon. And yes, pressure is a key part of what turns decaying carbon-based life forms such as plants into coal, as well as what turns carbon into diamonds. ... Coal is also mostly carbon, but it is hardly pure" Mother Nature Network.

Just like diamonds are produced when you apply inordinate pressure to coal.... we've experienced inordinate spiritual warfare in the last 6 months. What have we learnt in all this, you ask? 1. Don't look at the Enemy or listen to his intimidation. 2. The best forms of warfare are rest, worship, standing back and letting God, "wasting" time in His presence, crazy humor, prayer and the Word. 3. Why does God put us through times like this? It isn't always our privilege to know, in fact in this last season we were basically "in the dark" about all the Enemy's activities against us and that was the safest place for us. Although this was one of the toughest times we've faced in ministry, it was also one of the sweetest times we've had with the Lord.

Hopefully, we have come out of this changed and transformed - more submitted and in awe of God. Are we diamonds yet?? Who can say?

Vineyard Tanzania 'reboot'...

In March this year, The Vineyard Tanzania, with over 9 churches represented, made some changes and decisions to renew their Board, all in a record breaking meeting that managed to accept nominations, vote, make key decisions. Resolutions were made, minutes signed and official roles designated, all in a 24 hour period. This is unheard of efficiency and speed in most places in the world; even more so in Tanzania where we face challenges with infrastructure and technology. However, God was clearly at work and something new is afoot! The new Board has already made significant changes to update the Vineyard to comply with all government requirements. A draft Finance Policy and other exciting plans are in the works. All of this brings such joy to Judi's heart, who gets life from seeing policies and procedures put in place to protect organisations. David on the other hand....

Parasites and Spirochetes...

April 8th, we flew to South Africa where we have been resting and recuperating and attending to David's health concerns.

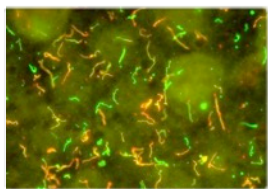
For 9 years he has struggled with Tick Fever and has steadily thrown strong antibiotics at the symptoms which have gradually lost their power to keep the symptoms at bay. Almost every three weeks by the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017 David would suffer from debilitating headaches, body aches, fatigue and swollen eyes.

Through God's amazing grace we have been able to make contact with a Rickettsia specialist who agreed to treat David. In the battery of tests that she took Tick Fever showed up at least 4 times and in 2 different forms. He has since been taking natural supplements and vitamins to help to kill off the bacteria and also to restore his gut health and immune system.

We feel such hope that this terrible disease is being dealt with finally. Copious amounts of Vitamin C and other supplements are involved and we are already seeing some turn around although he is still feeling the affects of the toxins coming out of his body.

We appreciate your prayers and will give you more of an update when we have more news of his recovery. Meanwhile we are enjoying the beauty of Paarl, South Africa and its beautiful mountains and vineyards. God has so richly blessed us with amazing accommodation and the use of a car while we are here. So blessed!

See below Rickettsia Borrelia Spirochetes and below that, our stunning view here in Paarl, Western Cape.



Owens Family Newsletter

VSM: Vineyard School of Ministry (Contextualised Theology)

We recently had 2 fantastic theology teachers come to Arusha to teach our VSM classes.

John Fischer and Noah Gitau facilitated classes on "Church and Spirit Brewed in an African Pot" (ecclesiology) and "Understanding Mission: Christianity and Islam in Africa". You can tell from John's t-shirt below what a character he is and while he is an accomplished scholar, he still manages to bring his own unique brand of humor to classes, keeping everyone laughing and challenge.

Noah, heads up Vineyard Kenya and his unique experiences teaching in Africa and appreciation of scripture and theology make him an insightful and interesting teacher.

www.vsm africa.org



John Fischer



Noah Gitau

Vineyard East Africa - Family Gathering in Mwanza.

Vineyards from Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi gathered together in Mwanza to worship, listen to awesome teaching, fellowship, share stories and pray for each other.

It was such a blessing to see our "tribe" together. Hear our sounds and experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit together.

There was a real sense of connecting with like minded people.

We were totally blessed by meeting radical Christians who are spending themselves for the poor and giving away their gifts and love on the world around them. How refreshing!



Vineyard pastors letting their hair down... :D

Inherit Your Rights widows project:

Inherit Your Rights continues to provide free trainings to widows and practical support for anyone who wants to go to court, procure a title deed, write a will or protect themselves against violence, robbery or loss of property. Our latest training had over 50 widows attend. We provided lunch and teaching and the women asked lots of questions and posed solutions in small group discussions that discussed real issues women face here in Tanzania.

We would appreciate your financial support if you'd like to partner with us in seeing women empowered, educated and represented. To give please go to our Facebook page and click on donate or go to our website and click on "get involved". <https://sites.google.com/site/inherityourrightsngo/make-donations> . Additionally, we welcome any lawyers or volunteers interested in human rights to come to Arusha and be involved short term with our programs. Please contact judi@inherityourrights.org for further details.



Kids Church Easter celebration

Arusha Vineyard Church Kids Sprouts class wanted to wish everyone a Happy Easter! This is their Resurrection Sunday craft.



Marriage Course....

9 couples spent 6 weeks together looking at DNA of Relationships a DVD series by Michael and Gary Smalley. We examined our Core Fears, Ways to make others feel Safe, and Ways to Control Your Own Emotions amongst other challenging subjects. we had couples ranging for 3 years married to 34 years married. It was such a fun sharing our experiences with each other and learning new skills.

African Enterprise Update....

We are so very indebted to African Enterprise (specifically David Richardson and Joseph Lopez) who have prayed for us and faithfully facilitated our North American support and donations over the past ten years. With changes and developments on both the AE and Vineyard fronts, I (David) will no longer be acting in the capacity of Assoc. Team Member for the Arusha region, though though will remain fully supportive of, and involved in, any future regional AE initiatives. As of June, Emmanuel Christian Community (our home church) will be handling the administration of our Canadian support (to be confirmed), with Dothan Vineyard (Alabama) covering US donations, both providing tax receipts on request. Contact us for further details. Alternatively, you can give via PayPal at paypal.me/DHOwens.

Dr. Elly Macha- A Tribute.

Dr. Elly Macha who joined our church a couple of years ago, hiring one of our young people as her personal assistant, sadly passed away during medical treatment in the UK on the 31st March.

A Christian politician and passionate advocate for women with disabilities, she became blind at the age of two. With a brilliant mind and strong commitment, she overcame a lifelong disability to become the first woman with visual disability to acquire a doctorate degree in Gender, Disability and Development in East Africa from University of Leeds.

As elections approached in 2015, we prayed with her as she campaigned, then laid hands on her, commissioning her to her new 'ministry' when successfully elected. Her work has been tragically cut short and we pray for an other, or better, others, to rise to take her place. Both we as a church and Tanzania as a nation will miss this champion of women and the physically challenged.



We are SO grateful for...

Church: an unprecedented season of breakthrough in people's lives (marriages; physical and emotional healing; people getting saved), and our amazing leadership team.

Family: Celeste's success in the coffee sector in Belfast; Justine and Skyler thriving in Phoenix; Zac completing his third year in college and the ongoing miracle of being able to cover his fees.

Health: truly supernatural connections and provision for David's treatment in Sth Africa - specifically, free treatment from a world leading toxicologist specializing in Tick Fever; beautiful free accommodation near specialist and the loan of a car for the duration. God's special treats!!!

New Board and renewed vision for **Vineyard Tanzania**.

Support: Your support through finances and/or prayer in our most challenging season. Also, the amazing help we have received from in our home church, sorting out David's complicated Canadian tax returns.

Vision: We're excited about a team coming from Cleveland Vineyard to explore the way forward for local street ministries, First Responder training (emergency services) and primary school English teaching initiatives in the Arusha region.

Water: the rains coming in earnest... the nation's blessed and, for the very first time, a FULL underground water tank.

Praise the Lord!!!

Prayer Points...

- We're praying for Zac's accommodation next year in NYC. Specifically for safe and 'reasonable' digs close-ish to the Financial District.
- God to move powerfully in the city of Arusha (unity in government and church sectors in particular)
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- financial provision for this next season ... for us personally, our church and widow's project (Inherit Your Rights).
- wisdom and protection as we move towards becoming a "safe community of the broken"

Donations...

If you feel led to support us financially, you may do this directly:

Internationally: [paypal.me/DHOwens](https://www.paypal.me/DHOwens)

Australia: [paypal.me/Owens61](https://www.paypal.me/Owens61)

or for tax deductibility:

USA - Dothan Vineyard Church, Alabama (details on request)

CANADA - Emmanuel Christian Community, Richmond, BC. (details on request)

NB Please advise us as to specific designation of funds (e.g. personal, church initiatives, widows etc.)