

stories of belonging

Newsletter of the Ongo serving in Malawi

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FEBRUARY
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Celebrating Chinese New Year

Jesus is the Light

He [Jesus] said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

We recently made lanterns with the kids to celebrate Chinese New Year and printed the above verse on it. We know that Jesus is the light, but how often do we forget that? We forget that because we are followers of Jesus, we will *never walk in darkness*. Though life circumstances may seem dark at times, our ultimate security is with Christ - the source of the *light of life*.

Pete preaching at our church



Some of the kids with their bee craft at the Kids Bible Club



What's on?

March

- 2 Teaghan's birthday party
- 8 Kids Bible Club
- 10 Visiting Chirimba AEC
- 23 Pete's birthday
- Lucas' birthday party
- 24 Visiting Chilomoni AEC
- 25 Lucas' 4th birthday

Kids Bible Club

Thank you for praying for the first Kids Bible Club! We spent the week before the KBC preparing the content in Chichewa with the assistance of our language teacher. On the day, God brought more than 60 kids through our gate! Together we learnt that God created the world, sang a song, made a craft, played games, and enjoyed some snacks together. **Please pray for the kids who came that they will continue to come and learn about their Saviour God.**

Youth

"Right person for the right job" was a 'mantra' Pete learnt as a project manager. This is also true in ministry. One of the frustrations that the AEC faces is that often local Youth Coordinators are chosen by their churches not on the basis of their gifting or passion to serve youth but because of their status or connections, and so when they receive training little is implemented at the local level. There are many layers of hierarchy in the AEC youth ministry leadership which compounds this problem. **Pray for the AEC in their search of a new National Youth Coordinator that they may select the "right person for the right job" and that all the youth coordinators grow in their passion to serve their youth.**



Youth leaders from Naotcha AEC Church

SPOTLIGHT

We hope to regularly share with you how God is working through other SIM team members here in Malawi. We want you to see the bigger picture of what God is doing here and the other faithful servants He is using to fulfil his purposes.

This month, we'd like to introduce to you our dear friend Stacie. She is a 22-year-old who served with SIM as an STA (short term associate) and has just returned home to the USA after spending 7.5 months in Malawi. During her time here, Stacie taught English and shared Jesus with kids in schools. When she wasn't out blessing locals with her warm smile, she was encouraging the 'long termers' by baby-sitting their kids, having them over for meals, or lending a hand wherever it was needed. Her passion for Christ and obedience to his calling has been a real encouragement to all during her time here. See www.sim.org if you are interested in STA opportunities in Malawi and around the world.



It's a boy!

We praise God that, after much anticipation, our guard Dickson's wife finally gave birth to their third child in her 11th month of pregnancy. We were honoured to have been asked to name this special baby and chose the name Elijah which means 'the Lord is God'. We are so thankful for friends in Australia who God moved to generously bless Dickson's family enabling Margaret to give birth at a private hospital. God certainly knew their needs, as Elijah required assistance to start breathing, a minor complication which may have resulted in death had he been born in a local clinic with minimal resources.



2-hour-old Elijah was welcomed by sister Rachel and brother Frances

the Onglets



In Feb, **Teaghan** starred as one of the three little pigs in her class assembly. Year 1 has been learning about homes around the world. In 1B's version of the 'Three Little Pigs', piglet Teaghan built an igloo which the Big Bad Wolf destroyed by melting it with a candle! Teaghan also celebrated her 6th birthday in Feb. She had "the bestest birthday ever!" and will be celebrating some more with a party in March.

Lucas also got to star in his own class assembly this past month. Nursery has been learning about wild animals. Their assembly told the tale of a hungry Daddy lion. Lucas was a very cute hyena and even had a spot of singing into the microphone all by himself!

Caya has outgrown her morning sleep and has been joining us for our daily language lesson instead. She calls our teacher Fannie "Agogo" - a respectful term for 'grandmother'.

Praise & Prayer

- Praise God** that the Kids Bible Club went smoothly.
- Praise God** that Pete's sermon on Judges was well received.
- Praise God** for Teaghan and Lucas' growing confidence.
- Praise God** for birthdays - Teaghan's, Lucas', and Pete's!
- Praise God** for the generosity shown towards Dickson's family.
- Praise God** for the safe arrival of healthy baby Elijah.
- Please pray** for the Kids Bible Club on 8th March.
- Please pray** for unity as the various leaders (SIM and local) involved in youth ministries seek to work together to bring the youth of Malawi into a deeper understanding of Christ.
- Please pray** for Margaret as she travels with Elijah to Mangochi (4 hours away) to spend some time with her family.
- Please pray** for Stacie as she transitions back into life back home.