

stories of belonging

Newsletter of the Ongo serving in Malawi

ISSUE 11 January 2013

JANUARY
sent



Family holiday at beautiful Lake Malawi

Prayer and thanksgiving

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Philippians 4:6 (NLT)

This is our family memory verse for January. What an appropriate reminder to start off the new year. It is in our human nature to worry when things are out of our control, but God's Word challenges us to channel our worries into prayer - asking him for our every need and thanking him for every blessing. Are you up for this new year's resolution?

Christmas Eve party

It was the weekend before 25th Dec and we were getting ready to celebrate our first Christmas in Malawi. But God had other ideas. He wanted us to plan a Christmas party to take place at our home for our workers' kids and kids on our street. So with lots of prayer, our Chichewa notes, our Chichewa children's Bible, and Dickson's help, God enabled us to write out the story of the birth of Jesus. The party would take place on Christmas Eve. We were nervous and excited to be hosting our first event in Chichewa. With around twenty kids seated at our feet, we told the story of our Saviour's birth while Teaghan and Lucas helped with the felt pictures. Dickson shared John 3:16 with the kids, and then everyone enjoyed some colouring-in (something they don't normally get to do), a treasure hunt, and party food. **We thank God for the tremendous blessing it was to be able to share this time with the local kids.**



What's on?

February

- 1 Kids Bible Club
- 8 Our 10th wedding anniversary!
- 10 Visiting Ndirande AEC
- 17 Pete preaching at AEC Bangwe
- 23 Teaghan's 6th bday
- 24 Visiting Mpemba AEC



Kids Bible Club

Our street is a thoroughfare for kids going to and from the local primary school. Our desire is to reach out to these kids with God's Word by running a Kids Bible Club at our place. We plan to run it monthly for now and fortnightly in the future. We have no idea how it'll go and who will come, but we plan to simply open our gate and see who God brings in! **Would you pray with us that God will use the KBC to further his Kingdom?**

Sunday School meeting

Thank God for the opportunity Jo recently had to attend an Area Council meeting for the Sunday School coordinators of the eight AEC churches in Blantyre. Even though she could only understand 5% of what was said (thanks to a fellow missionary who translated the other 95%), it was a good chance to meet the new AEC Sunday School Country Coordinator Grace Mvula, who has a real passion to see the children of Malawi come to know and love the Lord. It was also a great opportunity to meet some of the Sunday School coordinators with whom Jo will be working in the future.

Clockwise from top left: Kids walking thru our street on the way to school. Pete telling the story of Jesus at the Christmas party. More kids walking to school - our red gate is on the left and SIM's gate is on the right. Jo playing parachute with the kids at the Christmas party.

Learning a new language



Here's a quick Chichewa lesson for you:

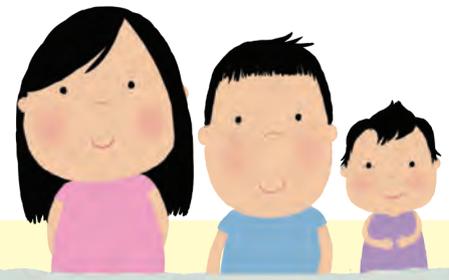
I is **ndi**, my is **__anga** (prefix changes according to noun), me is **ine** and also **__ndi__** (infix). **Ndi** also means is, and, by, and with. So let's make a sentence: 'I love my mum'

Ndi is 'I'. **konda** is 'love', love is habitual so **ma** is needed after **ndi**. In Chichewa, the noun comes before the possessive. **Mayi** means 'mother', and to say it with respect is **Amayi**. You need to emphasise 'her' by adding **wa** before **konda**. Finally, add on **anga** after **Amayi** to mean 'my mum'.

So there you have it! **"Ndimawakonda Amayi anga"!**

...this is just a small glimpse of what learning a new language has been like for us. It is hard to construct sentences on the spot when speaking to people. **We thank God for the progress we've come but there is still a long way to go.** In order to practise speaking Chichewa, we have been visiting the local markets every week and inviting the kids on our street to play at our place. **Please continue to pray for motivation and the ability to get a firm grasp of this complex language.**

JO celebrated a memorable first Malawian birthday by eating 'ngumbe' (fried termites) for the first time. The day began with her favourite breakfast (eggs benedict) and included a trip to the local markets which she loves going to. Another memorable part of the day was the cake that Pete had baked himself and decorated with help from the kids.



the Onglets



Teaghan, Lucas, and Caya have had an exciting month witnessing God's wonderful creation. Introducing....our new Malawian pets!

STUMPY the tortoise was sold to us by the guard next door who asked one day if we wanted to buy a tortoise for 1000MK (AUD\$2.70)...of course we said yes! Stumpy loves eating mangoes and enjoys walking the perimeter of our fence.

RAINBOW was found by Dickson while he was cutting our grass. He is a baby chameleon and loves catching fruit flies with his long tongue. Rainbow turns brown when it is warm and green when it is cold, some times he even shows us his stripes!

GUPPIES came to us in two mayo jars, sold to us by a man who came up to our car window. We enjoy watching them swim.

Besides our new pets, we also saw giant snails, a hissing frog, and a big chameleon.

Praise & Prayer

Praise God for the kids Christmas party.

Praise God a time of rest at Lake Malawi.

Praise God for the awesomeness of his creation seen through the many animals we encounter here.

Praise God for progress in language learning.

Please pray for the Kids Bible Club.

Please pray as the AEC searches for a new National Youth Coordinator with whom Pete will be working closely in the future.

Please pray as we begin our 'ministry tour' - visiting all eight Blantyre AEC churches to meet with the youth and children's coordinators.

Please pray as Pete prepares his sermon for 17th February.