

# //Update from the Grahams//

## 27 November 2010

For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in. -Matthew 25:35

I read a book recently by Max Lucado called "Outlive Your Life" (yeah, I know, "What, Steve is READING now?! WOW!" There, I said it first).

It is a brilliant explanation of why we do what we do, though I didn't know that before I bought the book. I was just looking for something to read on my taxi ride from Windhoek to Otjiwarongo after returning from Kenya. Let me share a short section with you:

*"A few years back, three questions rocked my world. They came from different people in the span of a month.*

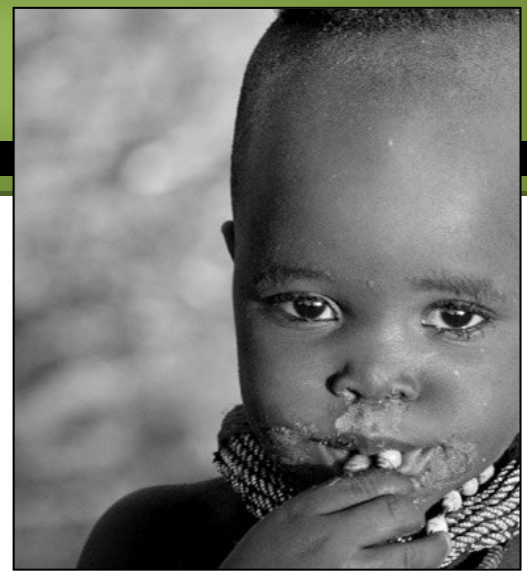
*Question 1: Had you been a German Christian during World War II, would you have taken a stand against Hitler?*

*Question 2: Had you lived in the South*

*during the civil rights conflict, would you have taken a stand against racism?*

*Question 3: When your grandchildren discover you lived during a day in which 1.75 billion people were poor and 1 billion were hungry, how will they judge your response?*

*I didn't mind the first two questions. They were hypothetical. I'd like to think I would have taken a stand against Hitler and fought against racism. But those days are gone, and those choices were not mine. But the third question has kept me awake at night. I do live today; so do you. We are given a choice . . . an opportunity to make a big difference during a difficult time. What if we did? What if we rocked the world with hope? Infiltrated all corners with God's love and life? What if we followed the exam-*



*ple of the Jerusalem church? This tiny sect expanded into a world-changing force. We still drink from their wells and eat from their trees of faith. How did they do it? What can we learn from their priorities and passion?"*

I hope you find the remainder of the newsletter beneficial.

~ Steve

### Fostering alternatives for orphaned or neglected children in Namibia

By Shantha Bloemen

WINDHOEK, Namibia, 22 November 2010 - "I made a promise, when I could not have more children myself, that I would look after children who don't have mothers or fathers," says Verity Van Wyk, sitting on the sofa in a house provided by a small charity called Ministries of Hope, where she is raising four foster-care children.



## UNICEF Visits Children of Promise Ministries

Not long ago some of our foster families in the town of Rehoboth, Namibia were visited by UNICEF, and the outcome was an article and video that can now be found online at: [http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/namibia\\_56973.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/namibia_56973.html)

[Note: The article refers to the organization as "Ministries of Hope", but that was a mistake and we were later told that it was too late to edit that... so we left it alone.] [Also note: The boy they refer to as "Jonathan" first lived with us in 2008, as he was found to not have a home when his father abandoned him in Arandis. Now, he is doing VERY well in Rehoboth with his permanent foster family. We are so proud of him!]

## AIM Leadership Workshop -Kenya

Steve's time in Kenya was valuable and revealing. He had the opportunity to meet and spend quality time with 80+ leaders within Africa Inland Mission from fields all over the continent and including our International Director - Lanny Arensen. Some who work in hospitals or schools, live in crowded cities or the bush in mud huts, and most of whom had incredible stories to tell about their experiences as missionaries bringing the Love of God and message of redemption

through Jesus to the unreached people of Africa.

The Leadership Workshop was a mix of updates from the different regions; teaching on topics such as servant leadership, leadership in crisis situations, and having difficult conversations; as well as "business" times where we hashed out a Vision and Strategy Paper for the Unit in Namibia that can be used at our offices worldwide to help recruit and mobilize future



The AIM Leadership Workshop  
(main meeting room)

missionaries for Namibia (longest sentence ever typed??).

During this time we also had initial discussions about having a team of missionaries prepared to send out to the Himba of north-western Namibia – a people group still mostly isolated from the gospel message.

Another highlight of Steve’s time in Kenya was getting to see Moses and Emanuel Dombo – a father and son from our church in Virginia that are now Living in Nairobi. They took him to their church there and then out to lunch. He found out while there that Moses now serves as the Director of the East Africa office for World Vision. *(Steve’s note: silly me – I forgot my camera when I was with them – so no photos.)*



**Himba village near Opuwo, Namibia**

Thanks Hannah (AIM Namibia) for this photo!

## IMPORTANT Health Update

Please pray for Karrie and Kailey, who have both been struggling recently with abdominal issues that have been quite painful. You may know that in 1999 Karrie was diagnosed with Crohn’s Disease, an auto-immune disorder which frequently causes ulcers, but has been

in remission for a decade now. Apparently, Crohn’s can be passed genetically – so there is some concern that Kailey may also have it. Because of their issues, Karrie and Kailey both will travel to Windhoek next week for 2 days for medical tests to see what the problem is.

## Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Gotta give some serious thanks to God and His people! Just a week ago someone noticed that we didn’t have a dinner table (haven’t had one big enough for the whole family since we moved to Namibia). So, they insisted on buying us a nice 2<sup>nd</sup>-hand set that was for sale by someone nearby our house. Just in time for Thanksgiving, we finally have the room to sit together!!!

We had a wonderful time together as a family on Wednesday (we celebrated 1 day early because of a planned trip to Windhoek).



**Thanksgiving Devotional Time – before dinner**

*Someone bought this table and chair set for us!*

## Otjiwarongo School Placement– Update

I received word last week that there is some shifting going on at the Donatus Primary and Secondary School that may open up some additional classes, thereby making room for more of the children in Children of Promise Ministries – including our own foster children. This may be the answer to prayer for Lucas (the 17 year old – see last newsletter – prayer request repeated below) – but we haven’t been able to confirm that yet. PLEASE KEEP PRAYING!!!

Please pray for:

- School placements for the primary school children, including our foster children.
- School placement for Lucas, who is 17 years old and going into grade 8. (He started school late since he came to the orphanage around the age of 10. He came under the care of our ministry at age 16.)

## Our Kids & Family

The school holiday time is coming up soon – it lasts for about 5.5 weeks – and we have a few things planned. The holiday time tends to be very busy in ministry work (e.g., VBS and kids’ camps, transporting and transplanting children and families when necessary). Still, we always try to schedule some family getaway.

We are going to be taking Irene, Mcshall, and McDonald to stay with Auntie Sululu for 1 week so they can visit her and their extended families. This is the only time of year that they can go there, and the only time when she is available to watch them. Please pray for their safety and security during this time.

Also, when their visit is finished we will pick up all of them – including McDonald, who is moving in with us around the 13<sup>th</sup> of December.

## Financial Update

Thank you all for your faithful giving. We were **under** our financial support need by **-\$1050.47** this past month.

Please pray for:

- The financial support needed this month and future months.
- An application for a grant that we are submitting to a foundation in the UK. The money would be used to directly support the children, and perhaps to establish a "Safe House" for emergency situations.



# Thank you for loving us!

## Love, Us



### In order to support the Graham family in ministry

Please send donations through Africa Inland Mission to missionary account number **031680001**:

- (1) online at [https://www.aimint.org/usa/online\\_giving.html](https://www.aimint.org/usa/online_giving.html)
- (2) by phone at **1-800-254-0010**
- (3) through Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) (automatic monthly contributions can be set up)
- (4) or by mail.

Africa Inland Mission Int. P.O. Box 178 Pearl River, NY 10965

### To individually sponsor a child

Please send your donation payable to:

His Promise Ministries, Inc 1106 Old Mill Run DeLand, FL 32720

online at <http://www.hispromiseministries.org/>

