

//Email Update// 22 Oct 2010

“Look, I make ALL things new.”

Revelation 21:5 (NETBible, emphasis added)

Not sure about you, but when I read this statement I envision things like:

- > A long, refreshing shower after a long nasty day of doing my best impression of that guy on the show “Dirty Jobs”
- > A brand new baby that comes out in perfect health
- > That feeling of relief you get when you are expecting bad news and you get GREAT news.

I do not envision things like:

- > Running out of credit on the pre-paid electricity (you buy units of electricity here, almost like you would on a pre-paid mobile phone), and then having to scale the fence/wall because the electric-powered gate won't open or come off its chain; so I can walk a mile to go buy more credit. (oops, lesson learned)
- > Playing “hot potato” with the family with some sort of cold or flu bug.

[Alright, I admit that I probably need to re-read my last newsletter in which talked about being thankful in ALL things!]

And yet – the Lord has led us into a new season of ministry. Even though it is still in the context of the same ministry organization as before, I can sense an enormous change in our near future that goes beyond just a change in mailing address. We are revisiting some old dreams in this stage – they are coming back to life in a new way.

For example:

- I used to be a youth pastor, and now we foresee my primary responsibilities being with the teenagers of our organization, and working alongside the high school. I also hope for in-roads to minister to youth living in the orphanage just up the road from us.
- This area has lots of potential for starting the unwed mothers' shelter/home that has been on Karrie's heart since arriving here in Namibia.
- Opportunities for outreach to the poorest of the poor exist, as there is a very large slum area on the outskirts of Otjiwarongo.

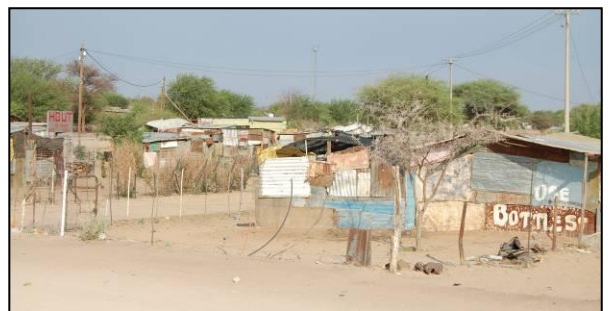
We see God's purposeful hand designing our future in a way that fits well with our past experience.

//McDonald//

For the better part of 3 years now we have been in the life of Mcshall's biological brother McDonald (12 years old). When we took in Mcshall we also felt the need to keep up with him. With our move to Otjiwarongo, this has become suddenly difficult and near impossible. We strongly believe that because of their connection as siblings, and the life history that they share that it is not ideal that they be so far apart (he is under the care of the ministry in Arandis).



Parts of Otjiwarongo are very modern...



... and there is a very large slum area where thousands of Namibians struggle daily to survive.



Outside the town are vast rural farm areas.

McDonald spent the past weekend with us here. The visit went very well, and the positive effect it had on McDonald was very encouraging. After praying about it, speaking with others in the ministry, as well as with his paternal grandmother who lives in Windhoek, we have come to believe that it is best for the children that McDonald relocate here to Otjiwarongo in the New Year to start school. If that happens, we will take him in with us at our house.



McDonald

Please pray for:

- Wisdom as we plan for bringing McDonald here with us.
- McDonald, as he finishes the current school year.

Praises:

- That the Lord has supplied a large enough house that we can consider this move.

//Update On the School Situation in Otjiwarongo//



Donatus Primary School

So far we have received acceptance letters for 8 of our children, and still are praying for spaces for up to 8 more placements. We have had some changes in our plan recently because one foster father received word that he was hired on a “permanent” basis at one of the mines around Arandis. This is good news for him, because it has been quite a long time since he has held a job, but it also means that the family must stay put there in Arandis. The high school aged children will still come and stay with one of our other foster families so they can receive a good high-school education.

We still need a place for Irene, Mcshall, McDonald, and others. That said, I feel a real sense of hope that they will get placement into a nearby school that is fairly new.

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.) The better schools do not seem to want to take him at his age. We have considered sending him to the private Christian school in town, but it would cost almost \$150 USD per month to do that.

Praises:

- For the school placement of 8 of the children. 3 of them were accepted at the best government high school in the whole of Namibia!

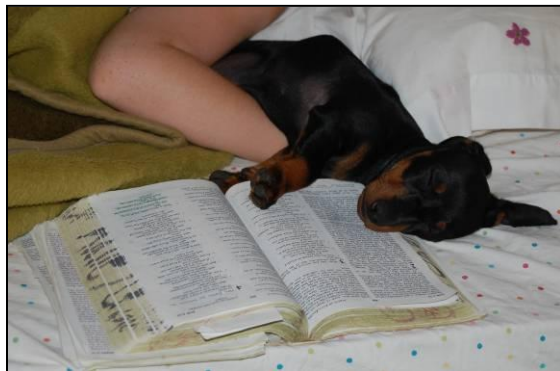
//Our Kids & Family//

Kailey and Ashlan have begun attending Otjiwarongo Christian School on Mondays each week – which is the day when they do most of their extra-curricular activities such as sports, art, devotional time, etc. The principal decided to allow them to attend AT NO CHARGE! If all goes well, then Jessa and Josiah will also join them on Mondays starting in January. They will continue to do their home-schooling for the basic subjects on their computers, just as before. They have already made a few friends there.

We continue to look for opportunities locally for our children to “get involved”. There is a horse farm nearby, and we are trying to set up the opportunity for them to go there occasionally and ride. I keep hearing rumors of a gymnastics and/or ballet class around here (frequented mostly by the German and Dutch-descended residents of this area) – but haven’t been able to track that down yet. There is a library here, but it’s closed because of repairs. Patience... a fruit of the Spirit best learned in Africa.

We have already hosted a small bible study, two families for dinner, and had several visits here from familiar faces... so we are certainly getting some positive social interaction.

Our children continue to adjust to being here. For Kailey, Ashlan, Jessa, and Josiah – the new environment brings a sense of hope as they never really felt at-home in Arandis. For Irene and Mcshall it has brought out some difficult behaviors as they are acting out the feelings they have about the change. Mcshall seems to be on the right path, is progressing well, and is certainly excited about the possibility of her brother joining us here at the end of this year. Irene, had a fairly rough start, but seems to be responding to our attention as we reach out to her. We also think that as some of her extended family relocates here to Otjiwarongo (including her cousin Fransiska) and she gets involved in activities she will continue to do better.



The new junior watch dog [Billie] fell asleep – apparently while studying the Word with Kailey.

Please pray for:

- All of the children as they find their place and social life here in Otjiwarongo.
- Our family, as we seek to keep Christ at the center of who we are, even as we adjust to including others (even on a temporary basis) in our household.

Praises:

- For greater potential for settling in here in Otjiwarongo, and more positive activities for the family and especially the children!

//Financial Update//

Thank you all for your faithful giving. As far as our personal financial support, we were over this month by almost exactly \$100.

As far as the financial situation with the ministry for orphans and vulnerable children, we continue to limp along. Though the Lord has been good, and He has provided the daily bread... we still have several children who are not sponsored (\$100 USD per month) and so their needs are frequently being paid for out of the pockets of staff and leadership – which is not sustainable and therefore not ideal.

Please let me know if you have any questions about sponsorships and the needs of our children.

Love you guys!

Steve (on behalf of all of us)

In order to support us directly, please send donations through Africa Inland Mission to missionary account number **031680001**:

- (1) online at 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:
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online at <http://www.hispromiseministries.org/>