

//Update from the Grahams//

2010 in Review and the 2011 Outlook

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.' So we can say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?'

~Hebrews 13:5-6

As we reflect upon 2010 and look forward to what the Lord has for us in 2011, I rejoice in His promise that we highlighted in our Christmas Card/Email - to NEVER leave us, nor forsake us.

What comfort we can have in that, loved ones! If we are in Christ His word says that **NOTHING** can separate us from His love! One thing I can always say at the end of each year is God saw us through and the one thing I always know for certain about the future of the new year is that God will see us through. Praise be to our omnipotent, forever loving, compassionate Father!

It has been a year of learning and growing.



A Year of Transitions

For us 2010 was an exciting and full year with many transitions. The beginning of the year was filled with preparation for and the taking of our 3.5 month home assignment from Feb. to May. August was our annual AIM conference, in September we moved to Otjivarongo. Steve went for two weeks to the AIM leadership conference in November. In December, Irene and Mcshall went for two weeks to visit their Ouma (Grandma) in Windhoek. Mid-December, we traveled to Windhoek to get them and also Mcshall's brother, McDonald, who is now staying with us as well.

It was a year of preparations and adjustments as we relocated from Arandis to Otjivarongo in September. We have experienced culture shock all over again in moving to a town very different from Arandis. We miss the wide open desert where we could

We have been learning to live together and love each other as our family expands.

As some of you may know from experience, children who have been severely neglected and abused come with lots of baggage. The things that work with children who have grown up with love and security do not always work on traumatized children.

Children who go for days with literally no food except the little nuts you can knock off the trees in the city learn that food is not a guarantee. Trying to survive in a competitive atmosphere, fending for oneself in the midst of several other children doing the same has a way of turning into a [Lord of the Flies](#) experience. The outcome is often a dishonest personality, extreme competitiveness, hoarding, etc. I have been surprised (and even sometimes amused) by some of the items hoarded- like toilet paper!

Each day is a learning experience for all of us and I am ever grateful for God's abundant grace!

~Karrie

walk and explore endlessly. We miss the coolness of the coast and the beaches of Swakopmund. We miss the people who have been like family for the past two and a half years. We also miss our dear friend Claire, a volunteer teacher from the UK who left in November after being with us in Arandis for a year!

Some of the things we don't miss are the barrenness and heat of the desert, the inescapable noise (especially at night) and bars that were all around us! We are thankful that our new home is far quieter, greener and rainier- at least during the rainy season which is now!

Unlike Arandis, a significant Afrikaner and German population dwells here. Due to the divergent population and the history of apartheid considerable racial tension exists. Despite those issues, we are very encouraged by what we see God doing. It is very



We were just sitting and listening to the most recent Newsboys album— just one of the things that a faithful friend and supporter sent us in December— and one song really stood out to us. Especially a couple lines that I've highlighted below...



"Build Us Back"

by the Newsboys

*We've been crumbled
We've been crushed
City walls have turned to dust
Broken hands and blistered feet
We walk for miles to find relief*

When the thief takes

*When our hopes cave
You build us back
You build us back
When the earth shakes
When the world breaks
You build us back
You build us back*

*We are scared, we are poor
All our safety nets are torn
We've been humbled to our knees
From these ruins, we believe*

*Redeemer, redeem us
Restorer, restore us
Oh build us back
Though the mountains be shaken
the hills be removed
Your unfailing love remains
After all that's been taken
Your promise, still sacred
You build us back with precious stones*

*Written by Mark Stuart & Jason Walker
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Thank You Lord for awesome friends who have helped us restore the "things" that were lost recently. I know they didn't do it for the credit... just some truly wonderful people!

evident as we get to know individuals that God is doing a work of reconciliation. What an amazing and exciting thing to see and be a part of!

As we make friends and spend time listening to their unique hearts and perspectives we are learning to love and understand the different cultures in a brand new way. Though we see much evidence of the enemy's work in the deep rooted pain, fear, shame and bitterness prevalent on both sides, we also see Jesus busy setting captives free, reconciling people to himself and people with each other.

There is HOPE. There always is. Finding ways to get the message of hope out there proves a difficult task with all the competing messages of hatred, division, and competitiveness. Please pray for us as we step into spiritual and relational territory that has been "war-torn" for decades, and as we attempt to be restorers of broken walls (see Isaiah 58:12).



False messages of hope only make the situation worse (This sign can be found soon after entering the township area.)

Health Update for Karrie & Kailey

At the beginning of December Karrie and Kailey traveled to Windhoek for medical tests to find out what was causing their intestinal pain and digestion issues. They went under the cover of much prayer (thank you all who were praying with us!)

Just as in the past when Karrie was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease, we believe God intervened. She has experienced great relief, and when the tests were performed the doctors found no significant problems.

Though the tests for Kailey were inconclusive, she continues to experience discomfort, and is very limited in what she can eat. She has previously tested positive for gluten allergies, and there is some suspicions that she might have reached a more extreme stage of this allergy. We received a food supplement product through the mail from Karrie's aunt and mother which has provided some relief for Kailey.

Please continue to pray God's healing be made complete for Kailey!

Transition for Memory & Irene (called "Delindi")

These two nineteen year old girls who have been in the care of our ministry for the last 2 and half years reached the point where they couldn't go any further in their schooling. (You might recall that Memory was the oldest in the child-headed household that we discovered in Arandis. She is also a half-sister to our Irene.)

So, we began the transition into self-sufficiency for them. To start, we sponsored the cost of their training for beading/jewelry-making in Okahandja (along with Delindi's sister, Juliane, who is still in school) with some fellow missionaries who have a skills training program for ladies ([link](#)). Then, in late December they came to stay in our flat for a transitional period as they prepare for getting out on their own. We anticipate they will be with us for several weeks while they seek employment, save money and learn budgeting and other self-sufficiency skills.

Memory and Delindi will continue to create their masterpieces to provide some income while they take the step into young adult life.



Memory & Delindi show off their new creations!

[To find out about how to purchase their jewelry creations just email us]

Looking Ahead—2011

We are excited as we look forward to the remainder of 2011. In just a week several of the children from Arandis will be moving to Otjiwarongo for school.

Additionally we look forward to one of our foster moms and her 4 children relocating here soon. We will be very happy to be working more closely with some of the children of the ministry again.

This month Karrie will be attending a week long "Bible Storying" conference in Johannesburg where she will learn skills in teaching the Bible to people of all ages, particularly to those who are illiterate or in "oral" cultures.

Later in the year we are expecting a few new AIM missionaries to join us here in Otjiwarongo, for which we are busy preparing. As we have been making connections here, we are so excited about the many ministry opportunities we see - not

only for us but also for other missionaries and volunteers who may come through.

Irene, Mcshall and McDonald begin school on Jan. 17th. The other four will pick up with their homeschooling again soon and will be participating in sports and other extra-curricular activities at a private Christian school on Mondays.

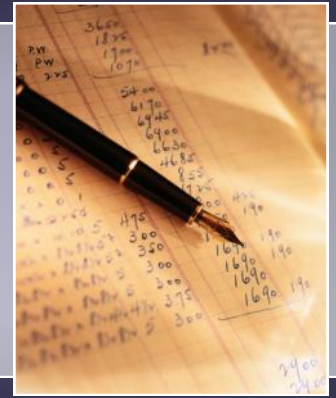
As far as our family goes we look forward to a visit from Steve's mom around May!

Financial Update

We are grateful to so many of you who have continued to give and sacrifice even when it's not easy. We were far **under** our required support amount again this past month, by **-\$1025.47**.

Please pray for:

- The financial support needed this month and future months.
- Each other! Just as concerning to us as our own financial position is that of many of our friends who have lost work and opportunities in recent months. May God have mercy on all of us in this continuing financial recession and the turmoil that surrounds so many.



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
- (2) by phone at **1-800-254-0010**
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- (4) or by mail.

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

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