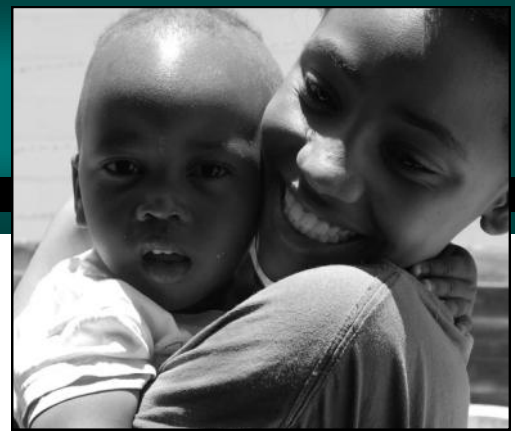


# //Update from the Grahams//

Feb 2011



“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.

~Isaiah 55:8

I almost couldn't hold in my laughter.

It was last week on Thursday when I sat in Mcshall's classroom with several other parents who came to meet the teacher and see what our children have been doing so far in school. We squeezed about 30 parents into the small room and we all sat down in the little chairs meant for children. So many parents, from different tribes and tongues gathered closely together.

And then there was me. The token Caucasian-American in the room. Sitting next to me was a middle-aged Damara woman— someone from the same tribe as Mcshall. Her head looked like it was on a swivel. She kept looking back and forth between the school papers with Mcshall's last name (which is definitely a Damara name) and my face. This went on for about 10 minutes (no exaggeration), and it became more obvious as time went on. She looked shocked and confused. I bit my tongue to keep myself from laugh-

ing. I am sure she was thinking, “How did this happen?!?!?”

I guess I could have made things easier for her and explained the relationship, but I couldn't bring myself to do that. I let her wonder. I let her continue in her surprise and curiosity.

Folks, the words “love” and “family” transcend racial and tribal lines. It crosses the borders of family lineage, inherited names, and mother-tongues.

It's a good thing, too. Because even though we're made in the Image of God, most of us don't look, act, or speak like Him. Honestly, with the way we live in opposition to God most of the time we might as well build the Berlin Wall between us, Him, and everyone else. *You live in your world, I will live in mine, and God can just keep to Himself up there in Heaven. You stay in Your tribe, and I will keep to mine.*

God isn't like us. I mean, He REALLY isn't like us. I realized this as I stood to

lead the classroom of parents in prayer. I am not from around here. I don't sound or look like these people. And yet, God chooses to use me here in this foreign land as a missionary and father to many who don't look anything like me.

Makes no sense.

God's love is not a one that usually makes sense to our “common” senses. It's a love that is surprising, odd, and completely unexpected. I think it takes a little shock to wake us up out of our sin—a little explosion to destroy the Berlin Wall.

Next time God asks you to do something that doesn't make sense, do it knowing that at that time you might look more like Jesus than usual.

~Steve

## Meet the Crew

After a long day of packing and traveling from Arandis to Otjiwarongo, I (Steve) - being the cruel type - told everyone that we had to pose together for an Otji-crew photo. Notice how a couple of them tried to hide, and other look a bit like they just woke up—mainly because they did...At least they were still dressed up nicely!

We are all standing outside one of the two houses that we rented in Otjiwarongo (11 people in each right now). We are thankful for this house, but it is only a short-term solution because of the high costs involved— it's the only thing big enough for everyone and the ministry activities we have



Fransiska, Salome, Erwina, Kailey, Irene, Mcshall, Memory, Ashlan, Karrie, Mcdonald Dennis, Zuelery, Anna, Chandre, Yvonne, Jessa, Josiah, Delindi, Asser, Lucas, Likkie  
[Not Pictured: Steve (but, probably for the better)]

With the start of the new school year, most of us have been focused on things like school uniform and supply shopping, school meetings, tryouts for sports teams, music and dance practices, etc. Wow—sure sounds like we're back in Northern Virginia!

Seriously though, in most ways it's not a thing like the USA, but the way we have been able to piggy-back on the modernized portions of the town and community have been refreshing. Still, this town serves as the best reminder in the whole country of Namibia's ranking as the nation with the world's highest income disparity ([LINK](#)). While opportunities abound for our own chil-

planned. We are praying for a donation of land outside of the town so we can build our own houses and ministry center.

dren (and to some degree, the children in the ministry's care), we are finding ways to reach out to the majority of the population who are struggling.

## Family Update

**Karrie** attended the Bible-Storying training in Johannesburg—in spite of having had all of her luggage and laptop stolen in Windhoek before she took off. Still, she came back very excited and energized. Almost immediately upon returning she was presented with an opportunity to do some volunteer teaching for first graders at the Christian school (using the [ACE Curriculum](#)). This is a great opportunity for her to help some Namibian chil-

dren to get a good start to their English learning, as well as prepare for future ministry opportunities involving teaching and outreach to children. We will see what the Lord will do!

**Steve** has been balancing between working with the high school learners in the ministry, new youth ministry outreach opportunities, and even preparing for training Namibian young people in music so that they can lead in worship in their churches and school outreach ministries.

**Kailey, Ashlan, Jessa, and Josiah** have started again participating in the athletics and extra-curricular programs with the Christian School, even as they continue with their normal home-school instruction (using [Switched-On-Schoolhouse](#)). Kailey has been praying and hoping for an opportunity through the school or church to start a dance ministry since we arrived in Otjiwarongo.

**Mcdonald, Mcshall, and Irene** have started their school year at Donatus Primary School and are doing well. At the parent meeting that Steve attended for Mcshall's class, he got a good peak at Mcshall's schoolwork and her grades so far and she is off to a near perfect start to the year! We have also been getting to know many of the teachers at the school and they have been very supportive and encouraging to us and our children.

**Memory and Delindi** started working in January at a day care nearby our house. They are working from 7:30am until 6pm on Monday through Friday and are making the equivalent of \$70-75 US dollars per month, which is about the going rate in Namibia. It is not much to live off of, but we are all thankful for their employment. It also means that they will have to work extra hard on their jewelry-making in order to make ends meet.

[Look at the attached page at the end of the newsletter to see some of their recent creations](#)

As a family, we are also helping them to get some much-needed rest on the weekends, and they really have blended in well with our leisure time.

As a side note—the day care is run by a Damara lady who is a born again Christian and who takes food grown at her husband's farmland nearby to feed children in the slum areas on occasion. We recently donated a much-needed extra-large cooking pot to use in her soup-kitchen, and will be going with her soon to lend a helping hand.

**Delindi recently made a decision to give her life to the Lord!** We can see her developing quickly in her faith, and frequently find her reading through the Bible in her free time. She has come a long way since we first met her as a 16 year old mom living in a shack in Windhoek. The next challenge in store for her is taking back her 2 year old son, "Given", who we will pick up in a couple weeks from his grandma's house. Given is the little guy in the picture on the top of the first page, being held by Fransiska.



*First Friday Movie Night at the Graham's House in 2011!  
We watched the newest Karate Kid movie.*



*Lucas helps us load the trailer in Arandis on moving day*



*First Day of School for 2011 at TKCA*

## Children of Promise

### The Big Move

The big move finally happened on 12 January when Auntie Likkie, her 4 foster children, and the 6 additional high school children made the trip from Arandis to Otjiwarongo.

### School Placements

We are happy to report that ALL of the children have received good placements for their schooling. This includes Lucas (age 18, grade 8) and Erwina (age 15, grade 9) who had previously been denied. Your prayers were mighty and strong and the Lord provided the perfect placement for each of them! Now, we have a total of 15 ministry children here in Otjiwarongo.

### Talitha Kumi Christian Academy

The preschool and elementary school children in Arandis began school this year on Monday 17 January. There are several new teachers and volunteers helping out at the school this year, so it was certainly an adjustment for everybody.

### Please Pray:

- For the children in our ministry (80+) in their new school year.
- For Lucas, Yvonne, and other young people in the ministry who are trying to start Bible studies and outreaches in their schools.
- For land to build our own houses and facilities for operating the ministry in Otjiwarongo. We are hoping for some farmland just outside of town.

## Financial Update

Even though we were under in our support needs again, we know that some of you gave double in December in January to try and help us catch up. Thank you—from the bottom of our hearts!

We were **under** our required support amount again this past month, by **-\$314**.

Please pray for:

- The financial support needed this month and future months.
- That God would provide ways to keep growing in our ministry in spite of the financial challenges!



# 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**:

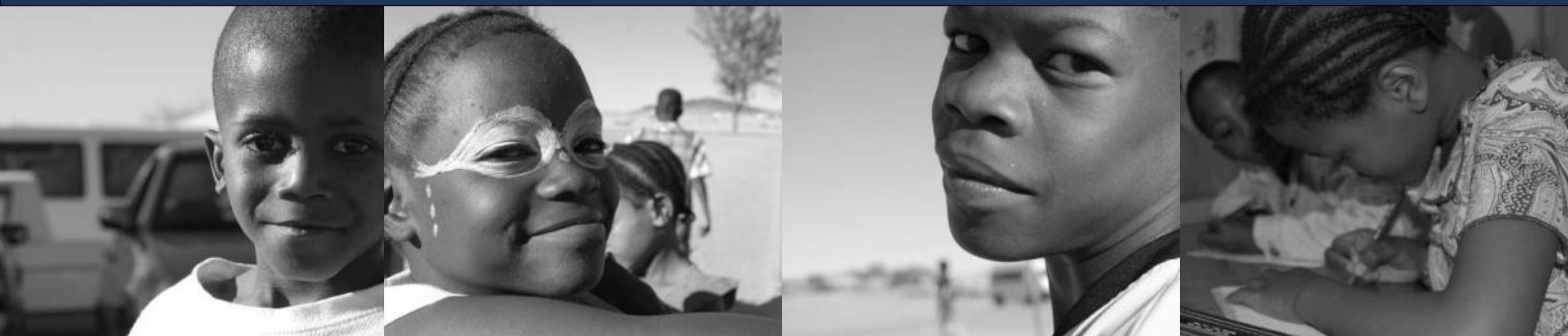
- (1) online at [https://www.aimint.org/usa/online\\_giving.html](https://www.aimint.org/usa/online_giving.html)
- (2) by phone at **1-800-254-0010**
- (3) through Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) (automatic monthly contributions can be set up)
- (4) or by mail.

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/>



# Hand-crafted Namibian Jewelry

by Memory and Delindi



If you would like to order any of the jewelry items below please email us and let us know the item name, quantity, and the color desired (they can use almost any color, and can custom make the jewelry for you at no extra charge). Shipping costs are extra, but we will keep the costs as low as possible for you.



Payments can be sent through "His Promise Ministries, Inc."  
His Promise Ministries, Inc 1106 Old Mill Run DeLand, FL 32720  
online at <http://www.hispromiseministries.org/>

**All profit goes straight to the crafters.**



Copper Beaded Bracelet  
\$10 USD (5 hours)



Flower-Beaded Bracelet  
\$17.50 USD (8 hours)



Striped Bracelet  
\$3.50 USD (1 hour)



Burst Ring & Bracelet Set  
\$8 USD (4 hours)



Benguela Wave Bracelet  
\$6.50 USD (3 hours)



Splash Necklace  
\$21 USD (10 hours)



Cyclone Necklace  
\$13 USD (8 hours)



Spiral Earrings  
\$6.25 USD (4 hours)



Double Spiral Earrings  
\$6.50 USD (4 hours)



Flower Earrings  
\$3.50 USD (2 hours)



Night Dance Earrings  
\$7.30 USD (6 hours)



Loop Earrings  
\$6-00 USD (4 hours)



Water Dance Earrings  
\$6.00 USD (4 hours)