

//Update from the Grahams//

March - April 2011



Please take a moment to review our [Financial Update on Page 3](#)

The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing! ~ Zephaniah 3: 17

I just finished reading this passage sent to us in an email from a loved one this morning. The timing of it is no accident. The sender knows well that our family has been experiencing some real trials on this side of the ocean. In the past (almost) year since we returned to Namibia after our home assignment we have undergone several major life transitions - such as moving to a new town and taking in an additional foster child. We have also taken on greater responsibilities in Christian ministry here since moving to Otjiwarongo.

The Lord has been using this period of time in the last 2 months to highlight some areas of our lives that needed attention. One area of great prominence has been with our kids. The more we reflect on our time in Arandis the more we realize the affect that it had on Kailey, Ashlan, Jessa, and Josiah was not altogether positive. They alone were a major reason for our move to Otjiwarongo. It was a blessing that there was a purpose from within Children of Promise Ministries that allowed for us to remain partnered with them (i.e., the

high schoolers). Now, after getting settled in here, I find myself in a better position than ever to reflect and see what I can do better as a father to preserve and protect our family in the future.

This season of our lives has the potential to catapult us into an even more fruitful time, so long as we are willing to be quieted by His love and allow for His work to be done in us. I also ask that you please pray for our kids and our family, that the Lord will prepare us better for what is yet to come, while providing the needed healing for what has already passed. Thank you.

~ Steve

Independence Day & Thanksgiving Service

Over the weekend of 19-21 March, Steve served as the worship leader for the Thanksgiving Service for Otjiwarongo (giving thanks to the Lord for the last year in Namibia, and looking to Him for another good year to come). There was a large stage and sound system ready to go, but in one of those TIA moments the electrical connection to get everything working wasn't prepared and so we ended up having a large, unplugged, outdoor service. Steve also spoke at

the event. Actually, we should say that he YELLED at the event since there was no working PA system!

The following day he was invited as a VIP Guest at the National Independence Day Celebration, which was held in Otjiwarongo this year. The current and former presidents were both there at the event (there have only been two thus far since independence from South Africa), and also the entire parliament and many other dignitaries. A scripture reading and prayer was led by a Ms. Muriel Fisch, who is a family friend and founder of The Joy Centre, a local children's home.



Karrie continues to serve as a grade 1 teacher this year, and is doing very well with it. This opportunity has started to pay off real dividends for Kailey and Ashlan who have formally begun attending the school—Otjiwarongo Christian School— on a daily basis. They bring their home school curriculum with them on their laptops, while also participating in all of the other instruction.

Karrie also continues to spend most every free moment helping the other kids after school with their homework and home school work. She has become the official Minister of Education within our family! :-)

Steve continues to oversee the education and development of the children within the ministry here in Otjiwarongo. That said, we've started to hit cruising altitude as things have really stabilized in the last month for the kids. We still meet regularly with

them to check their progress and discuss whatever problems arise, but things have been relatively positive recently.

He has taken a little break from ministry for the past week. It's a much needed break because the last couple months have been packed with things like:

- The Thanksgiving Service (see above)
- Independence Day Celebration (see above)
- Spoke and led prayer at the Ministry of Education Stakeholders Meeting for Otjozondjupa Region
- Spoke at Back to Christ Ministries, Orwetoveni
- Spoke and led worship 2x at Agape Christian Centre
- Kicked off and led weekly meetings of the Scripture Union Club at Otjiwarongo Secondary School
- Planning for the AIM Namibia Conference for June 2011.

In Ministry

continued on page 2

- Participated on the worship team for 2 community worship events, sharing lead responsibilities in both.

In addition, Steve and Kailey have kicked off music and dance lessons on Thursday nights that are meant to strengthen the worship ministries of churches in the area. There are members

of at least 6 different congregations participating, with almost 100 people enrolled (including 5 of our children and most of the other ministry children). This is an activity that Kailey and Steve find to be more like a hobby than a ministry outreach, and it has been enjoyable for them to work alongside each other.

Our Kids As mentioned above, **Kailey** and **Ashlan** have started to attend Otjiwarongo Christian School on a daily basis (not just on Mondays now). This means that they now have additional coursework, which includes the second language requirement of Afrikaans. They are also enjoying their new friendships at school!



Ashlan celebrated her 14th birthday in Feb with a party with friends, a family Bday party, and a little girl-fightin' with Memory!

All of the schools in the country tend to front-load their sporting activities near the start of the school year. This year, **Ashlan, Jessa, McDonald, Irene, and Mcshall** all participated in track events. See photos to the right.

Near the end of February **Josiah** and **Steve** took a weekend away together in Swakopmund and Arandis. Steve was able to avoid most of his work responsibilities long enough for them to



have some fun time together. They caught a showing of Disney's new Tron movie (Josiah says that he gives it "one and a half thumbs up"). And, Josiah got his hands on the camera and caught himself in the act of looking a bit goofy!

Look at the lift that Ashlan gets in the long-jump!



Irene leading the pack in the 800 meter race!

The center of attention! Jump Jessa Jump!



McDonald giving his best in the 800 meter race, just a step ahead of Dennis (another child from CoPM)

At the end of March, **Memory, Delindi** and **Given** moved into a place of their own! It's a small clay house in the township area of Orwetoveni, just about a 20 minute walk away from our house. The house has 2 bedroom areas, 1 small kitchen/living area, a toilet room, 1 plug for electricity inside, but no running water (they have to retrieve water with a bucket). It is a real joy to see these girls get a start to their adult lives! It's not easy, but they are already better off than many Namibians who are jobless and living in slum-like conditions. Now, they have to find a way to furnish the house since they only have the 2 beds we gave them!



Children of Promise

Even though things seem to be running in "neutral" now for the kids of Children of Promise Ministries, we have still had some highlights in the last 2 months best shared in these photos:



Left: Chandre shows off the cookies that she made. Karrie hosted all of the ministry children for a day of baking and fun time at our house.

Right: Memory, Fransiska, and Salome have an early-childhood flashback with their goggles and water wings!



Above: All of the high schoolers in Otjiwarongo made a visit home to their foster families in Arandis. Mama Evelyn (middle) jokingly tried to stow away with us as we left to return to Otjiwarongo.

Financial Update

It is a humbling thing for us to write what comes next.

That is, we are asking that you please prayerfully consider asking your church and others you know if they would consider providing mission support for us- at least for a time. We believe we are called to stay and progress in our ministry here, but that will be difficult if we continue to fall short on an every-month basis. We are pressing forward in faith that the Lord will provide. Please be in faith with us.

We were **under** our required support amount again this past month, by **-\$765.**

Details on how to provide support are shown below.



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**
- (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/>

