

# Update from the Grahams in Namibia

July 2011

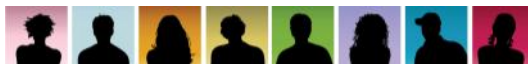


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“Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone wants to become my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.’” ~**Matthew 16:24 -25**

You know, lately I’ve been tempted by the enemy. Not towards some sinister sin that would get me kicked out of the church. No, to a certain kind of sin that would make me welcome in almost every church out there today. I’m tempted to be ordinary. I’m tempted to rest up and be more concerned about illnesses, financial troubles, getting our medical bills paid on time, fixing that lemon of a car, and setting the alarm to the correct time for tomorrow so I can start again...

I often find that God will inspire me to teach on topics that force me to examine myself [I hate it when I am able to use myself as the “bad example” in a message!] Well, I am going to stick my neck out again and share a quick excerpt from a recent message, where I advocated throwing away worldly caution and engaging in a revived “Teenage” kind of faith:



## Top signs you are ordinary/typical

- Everyone knows that you’re “born again”, but only because you tell them.
- You don’t reach out to people who you don’t already know.
- You can quote 100 Bible verses, and can’t apply any of them to your life.
- You only do what is comfortable, and what makes you feel better about yourself.
- You don’t serve in any way at your church.

## Reasons I miss my “teen-age” kind of faith

- Willing to GO anywhere
- Willing to DO anything / and to learn new things
- Willing to ASK questions
- A need for EACH OTHER
- A distaste for the ORDINARY
- A courage that doesn’t make sense / willing to bite off more than you can chew
- A readiness to “go to war”

I invite you to be challenged as I have personally been challenged to step out with a Teen-Aged Kind of Faith.

~ Steve



As you know, Mcshall’s older brother Mcdonald joined us at the end of last year here in Otjiwarongo. We were hoping to (1) reunite the siblings, (2) provide a better place for him to develop into a young man, and (3) open the doors for a better education for him as he has always been an outstanding student.

One of the issues we foresaw was that Mcdonald has lived life on the streets of Windhoek before. Children with this sort of background struggle to stabilize, even in a stable environment. This has been the case for Mcdonald thus far. It has been a difficult year for him. It has also been a difficult year for his sister Mcshall. Mcshall

has been adjusting better than her brother with the environment at our house and the street-child tendencies of her brother were bringing her back to a time when they had to steal and fend for themselves in order to survive.

We have been in frequent communication with experts in dealing with foster children and troubled youth. We began discussing options with his paternal grandmother recently—going back a few weeks— and for his own best interests we have asked her to take responsibility for his care. She agreed to do so and we moved Mcdonald to her place in Windhoek last week.

## Please Pray

- (1) That Mcdonald finds healing through Christ.
- (2) That Mcdonald transitions easily into a new school.
- (3) That Mcshall can also find healing from the effects of a troubled relationship with her brother.

## A Change for Mcdonald



*Mcdonald, Brendan, Susanna, Irene  
(2008—when we met the children)*

## Karrie and Steve In Ministry

Being in closer connection with the adolescents in the ministry has helped us to unearth some areas in which some of the kids have needed extra help. At the end of June we made contact with a Counselor here in Otjiwarongo (Mar-jorie) and we spoke about our work with orphans and vulnerable children. Mar-jorie's excitement grew as we discussed ways in which she might be able to help with trauma and grief counseling for the foster children. Without us even asking, she quickly offered to provide her services as a ministry (no costs) and before we were finished we already had an appointment for one of the youth—Salome. Again, God provided in a big way with this! ["Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear." Isaiah 65:24]

### Please Pray

- **That God will provide healing for especially Salome, Chandre, and Erwina.**
- **That we will be tuned in to the unique needs of the youth in our care.**
- **For the kids as they prepare for their 2nd term exams which begin in 1 week.**

The music ministry that Steve has been involved in has also has some highlights recently as some of his students have been stepping up and participating more in their own church's worship ministries. We recently received a "distress" call from a church in town whose music team has taken a hit with the departure of some of their members. Steve and one of his students have agreed to examine the situation and assist the group to make a plan. Our local church's worship team has also offered to partner with them to train new musicians for their worship team.



## Our Kids

**Kailey** and **Ashlan** continue to grow in their creative arts ministry. They performed a worship dance at Agape Christian Centre with 4 other friends of theirs in June. In addition, Ashlan has been taking drum and voice lessons with Steve's music classes, and Kailey has picked back up with the electric bass which she played with the worship team a few Sundays ago.



**Jessa** is officially a teenager as of the 15th of July. She invited several friends over for a party to celebrate. Her birthday present from her parents—a large walk-in coup that was converted to accommodate her parakeets (chicken wire + palm branches from the yard = aviary). Jessa is also scheduled to volunteer over the next school break in August at the Rare and Endangered Species Trust (R.E.S.T.) about 30 miles south of Otjiwarongo, which was founded and run by an American lady that we have come to be friends with. Jessa is also scheduled to begin orthodontic treatment on 6th of August. We are quite excited because the orthodontic work was going

to be too expensive for us, but the 1 orthodontist in the country offered to do the work and we just "pay what we can afford" because we are missionaries working with children. God deserves ALL the praise for that!!! We will pay all that we can!

**Irene** and **Mcshall** had "cultural days" at their school where the different tribes and people groups were celebrated. The classes were each assigned one of the tribal groups of Namibia to perform and demonstrate traditional culture. For one of the events, Irene was assigned to a group that performed a traditional Ovambo dance (photo to right, Irene is second from left). The next week Irene and Mcshall both had to dress in their traditional tribal dress (they are from the Damara people; sorry, no photos unfortunately). Irene wants me to tell you all that she's "doing kinda good in her school work, and I am fantastic in my English work."

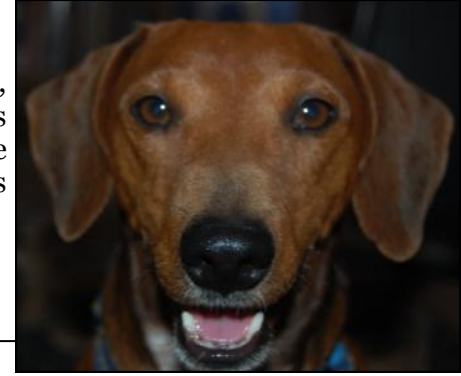


Irene & Mcshall having some fun with their hair



**Josiah's** health has been ok recently. He's had his up days and down days. He has been working to catch up his schoolwork. He also had a unique opportunity to attend Otjiwarongo Christian School for 2 weeks at on a temporary basis, which opened the door to some new friendships for him. He continues to grow quickly and at the age of 10 is now the same height as Karrie.

**Happy** wants me to tell you all that he's doing well, and has been enjoying chasing around Jessa's birds and the new chickens. He especially enjoyed the chicken-breakfast that we got for him, and says it was tasty.



*Memory teaching the alphabet to some of her students*

**Memory** and **Delindi** both lost their jobs in late May when the day care that they were working at shut down for financial reasons. This left the girls scrambling because they had just entered into a rental agreement for a house. The statistic of 51% unemployment was hanging over their heads, but the Lord is good and He provided. With only a week of unemployment for Memory she began to work at the Otjiwarongo Christian School's pre-primary class. This is the same school where Karrie is teaching 1st grade and Kailey and Ashlan have been attending school this year. The income is still small (about the equivalent of \$140 USD per month) but it is enough to pay her rent and a little food and water.

Please pray for **Delindi** as she tries to find steady work. She has been doing odd jobs and selling things like jewelry and snack items for neighborhood kids, but the income potential is very very low. . We are helping to provide food and supplies so that her young son—**Given**—gets enough to eat.

## Youth Outreach

The existing and potential youth outreaches have continued to grow in the past couple months. Steve met with Mr. Graeme Aldom—a missionary from Australia who directs Scripture Union within Namibia— and the outreach at Otjiwarongo Secondary School has been officially accepted and recognized now as a Scripture Union club. Steve has met high schoolers from Donatus Secondary School and Edugate Academy who also want SU-type outreaches into their schools. Unfortunately, the principal at Donatus has blocked the first attempt to start an outreach there.

In addition, Steve has been in discussions recently with a Pastor and other concerned members of the community about the establishment of a youth center. The idea would be to have a multi-purpose facility where the Christian church(es) can hold youth meetings and events targeted at reaching the younger generation.

**34.2% of Namibian population is 14 and under [LINK].**  
Some estimates suggest that 50% of the population is under 18.

*Right: Lucas (one of the CoPMN foster kids) gives a short Bible lesson to the SU members.*



*Below: Steve leads a prayer to end an SU meeting*



**Financial Update** Thank you all for your faithful giving in May. The monthly support provided was over our required support amount by \$1017.32.

We were **under** our required support amount again this past month (June), by **-\$897.68**.

*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](http://www.aimint.org/usa/give) at [www.aimint.org/usa/give](http://www.aimint.org/usa/give)
- (2) by phone at **1-800-254-0010**
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- (4) or by mail (*as of August 2011*).

**Africa Inland Mission P.O. Box 3611 Peachtree City, GA 30269-7611**

### **To individually sponsor a child**

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