

Update From The Grahams

December 2011



“I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.” ~Isaiah 42:16

It's officially holiday time now here. The schools have finished for the year. The shop owners are starting to close down and run off into the farmlands or to the coastline. The travelers are flooding through the town of [Otjiwarongo](#) like a flash flood of human faces, on their way to somewhere else. Some are tourists from foreign lands such as Germany, the UK, and of course our own homeland - with cameras ready to capture the images of beauty in [Etosha](#). Others are the masses of people returning to their family homesteads, leaving their workplace in the city behind.

Of the thousands of journeyers making their way through this area, some are running away from something, and all are running towards something. I wonder sometimes what it is that drives each person. What motivates them? I wonder what awaits them? Probably few people actually know, since without Him we are flying blind. Even some that know Him are walking with their eyes closed.

I feel like the greatest benefit of staring the New Year in the face is that it has the tendency to give us a reason to close our eyes to the past and be reminded that God's hope drives us towards something - a better future. There is newness coming, even when we can't see it. Regardless of how 2011 has been for you, there is newness waiting for you... soon. The calendars will flip, the celebrations will happen, and the ball will drop. Meanwhile, the greatest NEWness is celebrated 1 week prior to that. The new face of a freshly born Savior depicted on greeting cards and within our Christmas decor reminds us that a new horizon is being born in the lives of weary and blind travelers every day.

May your new year begin. Today!

Kehi Yomuti (*“Under the Tree”*) Did you go and watch the video called [The Least of These](#) that we put up on YouTube? Momentum is gaining in the effort to reach out to the people at the dump site outside Otjiwarongo. Karrie has been out there weekly, teaching, feeding, and praying with between 40-50 different children ranging in ages from babies to teenagers (not all at once). Even some adults have been coming to her.

Recently Karrie, Angela, and Courtney were out teaching a mixed group of kids and adults how to read. The classes are regularly held under a tree by the dump site. When they finished, an elderly man approached Karrie and told her that “this is how we learned when we were kids—just in a group under a tree—, and I think it was better that way.” He continued to encourage her and thank her for what they are doing.

Prior to this we were thinking that we should find a way to move the literacy effort to a church building that is relatively close. We

Please continue to pray for:

- (1) Irene and Mcshall's placement with us. It has been a VERY difficult battle so far with the government social workers to get them to even conduct an investigation into the situation, which would be necessary prior to either gaining custody through foster care or adoption.
- (2) The next phase for Children of Promise Ministries (orphan and vulnerable child ministry) in Otjiwarongo, as different circumstances have made it difficult to continue on in the town for 2012.
- (3) Wisdom from God to know how to continue in our outreach to the children at the dump site. Should we proceed on an informal basis? Will we need to register the project with some local authority? There are many questions looming out there and we need God's help to know how to move forward come the new year.
- (4) The AIM Team in Otjiwarongo, which includes the Grahams, Courtney - a social worker, Angela - a teacher and crisis intervention counselor, the Swanson family who is coming in March to do youth outreach and ministry to orphans and vulnerable children, and other potential missionaries.



really felt like this was God's way of telling Karrie to keep it outside and keep it at the dump site.

Come January we intend to explore options with the different government departments (Ministries) to formalize the effort in some way. The reason this is important is that it would allow us to recruit help and assistance in the effort such as missionary teachers.

We appreciate your prayers about this, as we don't expect it to be easy and without challenges.

Financial Update

We were **under** our required support amount again this past month, by **-\$840.59**.
(The month prior we were under by **-\$253.41**.)



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