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tlc Updates

Jim visits

We were blessed to enjoy a brief visit from Jim Lowry. Jim was senior pastor at our home church, Norcross First United Methodist, when we start our short term missionary activities of over eight years ago.



Lydia

We said good bye to our faithful companion Lydia. After 3 consecutive litters of 7 or more pups Lydia became sick. The vet initial assessment was cancer and said we should bring her back after she finished nursing the newest litter. On the return visit to the vet he confirmed the cancer diagnosis and we that the humane course of action was to put her to sleep. We are blessed to have to of Lydia's pups (Bear and Scarlet) as our loyal companions now.



Rice project

The Kalimbeza Rice Project aims at ensuring that Namibia is self-sufficient in terms of food production. Rice from the project is expected to compete favorably, although there are other established brands on the market. "The fact that our rice is grown in Namibia is the key competitive advantage factor. We pride ourselves for fully having been able to grow rice in Namibia for the Namibian market. Our price also does portray a truly Namibian flavor. We can say without prejudice that we are 100% Namibian," Vudzijena added. The different types of rice available to the market include the super grade which can be equated to the Basmatic type of rice and is aimed at the higher end of the market, while the Blue Bonnet type will be aimed at the middle to lower ends of the market. The rice is packaged in different sizes of 50kg, 25kg, 10kg, 5kg, 2kg and 1kg.



Heroes' Day

Heroes' Day is a national public holiday in Namibia. It is recognized by the United Nations as Namibia Day. Celebrated annually on 26 August, the day commemorates the Namibian War of Independence which began on 26 August 1966 at Omugulugwombashe. National celebrations take place annually at different places, usually in the north of Namibia near important battle zones. Hundreds of people annually gather to watch leaders such as Hifikepunye Pohamba, Sam Nujoma and Nahas Angula officially commemorate veterans of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's military wing during the War. We took our older children to the Sports Complex to enjoy the speeches, traditional dances and understanding of their culture where they are raised.



Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your GOD is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9



Praise:

- For our families, friends, prayer team, financial supporters, The Mission Society, our home Church and New Life SS class!
- Praise for God's grace and blessings and love that pours out on us each and every day!!!
- Praise God for the volunteers and people that HE puts in our path that will minister to us and the children.
- Praise God for our safety, our health and for our clear calling to serve HIM in Namibia!

tlc Updates continued

SDA regional gathering

During the last week of August over 10,000 members of the Seventh Day Adventist church gathered at the Caprivi Regional SDA Campground for a week long camp meeting. The theme for this year was "Lift Up Christ Tell the World". Since the 3rd week of August 2011 our usually quiet (if life with 59 children is ever quiet) neighborhood has become very busy and noisy with 10,000 temporary neighbors setting up living quarters in the bush and having church services. The music however, was beautiful praising God from sunrise to sunset!!



Family walk

The last day of August was started with a family walk to "squeaky sand". That morning about 20 of the children joined us for a walk in which we did not know the local or direction to get there. After about two hours we arrived and were treat to a beautiful sight - a stretch of "squeaky" white sand. The children and dogs enjoyed running in the sand. After enjoying the lunches we had packed it was time for more playing in the sand. Several children were buried in the sand. Of course the beautiful blue water of the river was irresistible, and many children jumped in or were thrown in. God was in our day and it was great!!!



We've been counted

Regardless of citizenship or nationality, everybody who spent the census reference night of Sunday August 28, 2011 in Namibia will be counted during the 2 week census. People will also be counted at the place where they spent that night. The counting will cover all people in private households as well as those in institutions, such as hostels, hospitals, prisons, hotels and children's homes. The census is the largest and most exacting operation of the National Planning Commission, and for this census, 81 000 field workers will conduct the enumeration. After spending almost an hour with 2 foreigners (us) imagine the surprise of the census workers went to the next building had 55 children plus 2 staff members that spent the night of August 28. One of the more interesting questions was about the number of bedrooms in our home. From our middle class American perspective we answered 3. The census worker then informed us that only the toilet was not to be counted in the number of rooms that could be used for sleeping. This means that we should count the dining room, living room, office, etc. as sleeping areas.

A Brief History of the Caprivi

There are 13 regions in Namibia, but of these only the Caprivi boasts 6 ethnic tribes – Subia, Yeyi, Mafwe (tribe that owns the land Children of Zion sits on), San, Tortela and Mbukushu. Amazingly, they have adapted a Zambian language – Lozi – as a common medium of communication. The Caprivi is also the only region that shares its borders with 4 other countries – Angola, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Caprivi regional capital is the town of Katima Mulilo, which is located on the Zambezi River. The Caprivi is surrounded by 4 perennial rivers – Chobe, Kwando, Linyanti and the mighty Zambezi! These waterfront areas combine riverine forests with vast wetlands, attracting over 600 species of bird, 4 of the big 5 (less rhino) as well as boasting 4 National Parks – Bwabwata, Mamili, Mudumu and Mahango. Nearly 200 kinds of flora, shrubs, trees and fruits, complement the wildlife and amazing geography. So it shouldn't come as a surprise looking at a map, to learn that the Caprivi Region has a unique history. Until the end of the 19th Century it was known as Itenge and was under the rule of the Lozi Kings. In the late 1800's the strip of land was administered as part of the British protectorate of Bechuanaland (Botswana) until 1890 when Germany laid claim to the British administered island of Zanzibar, to which Britain objected. The dispute was settled by the Berlin Conference in 1890, when Queen Victoria waved her magic wand and acquired Zanzibar, and Germany settled for the territory which became known as the Caprivi Strip; named after German Chancellor, General Count Georg Leo von Caprivi di Caprara di Montecuccoli. The German motivation behind the swap was to acquire a strip of land linking German South-West Africa with the Zambezi River, thus providing easy access to Tanganyika (Tanzania) and ultimately the Indian Ocean. Unfortunately for the Germans, the British colonization of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe and Zambia) stopped them well upstream of Victoria Falls, which proved a considerable barrier to navigation on the Zambezi. During WWI the Caprivi Strip again came under British rule and was governed as part of Bechuanaland. Nowadays most people who live in the Caprivi, survive as subsistence farmers, who make their living on the banks of the Zambezi, Kwando, Linyati and Chobe Rivers.

Prayers:

- For our strength, patience, health, safety, wisdom and that God would shine through us as we become smaller and HE becomes BIGGER!!!
- Pray for our Work Permit approval and that we can stay safely in the country where God has called us to serve.
- Pray for our children – health, safety, wisdom and for their education.
- Pray for our staff – that they might be more like Christ in their actions and words and be an example for the children.
- Pray for the government, community and villages around us.