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## tlc Updates

### Happy New Year!!!!

***For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland. Isaiah 43:19***

We enjoyed the start of our New Year by celebrating in church at Zion. Even the little ones joined in the singing. The big and the small enjoyed a nice walk on a warm day! We played with the children and enjoyed our Sabbath as the start of a new day and a New Year. Our little one pitched right in with the clean up☺



### Pickup of children

On January 9 and 10 we started the process of gathering the children from their home visits. They were gone for about a month. All of the children that have family in nearby villages are encouraged to spend the holidays with their families so that they can become re-acquainted with their family, traditions and language of their villages. Most of the children enjoy these visits home but are also ready to come back with their friends at Zion.



### Outfitting for school

After getting our children settled back at the Children of Zion Village we started the process of getting everyone school clothes. This year we have 21 children that are attending government schools and staying in the hostels. They come back to Zion about one weekend per month. Our out schoolers are in grades 8 through 12. After literally running all over Katima we were able to get 20 of our children placed in 3 different schools. One is attending a special school for the deaf in Windhoek. All schools including Zion require uniforms. One van load at

a time we went for school shoes, 2 shirts, 2 pair of pants/skirts, ties, belts, school books, pens, scientific calculators, pencil sharpeners, erasers, etc. They also have to take everything they need including sheets, blankets, towels, dishes to eat out of, extra snacks, and toiletries. It is quite a venture to gather all of the items for so many children. Thank God for sponsors that provide financially so these children have this opportunity! Below they are organized by school (Not in uniform☺) with 2 missing from the photos. On the left is St Kazito, the middle Sanjo school and the right is Simaata school.



### Christmas

On Friday 13 January a team from Mount Zion UMC arrived. They arrival was anxiously anticipated as they were bringing many Christmas gifts for the children. After getting them safely to Children of Zion Village and giving them a brief rest we start to unpack and organize the gifts so that Mr and Mrs Claus would be ready for the festivities the following day. That's right we celebrated Christmas on 14 January here at Zion☺. After a wonderful Christmas lunch the children were sent to their rooms while the main hall was transformed into the room for Mr. and Mrs. Claus to conduct gift giving. We are so grateful to all that contribute something to make Christmas extra special for the children.



## tlc Updates continued

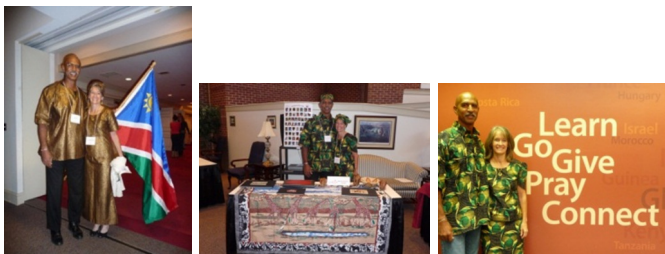
### School registration and drop off

And the fun continues...on Monday 16 January we head off to register our 21 children in school. In the morning it is off to Simaata approximately 70 kilometers to the west. In the afternoon it is off to Sanjo approximately 45 kilometers to the east. It was a full day of long registration lines for school and hostels and paying of fees for 21 children. On the morning of Tuesday 17 January we packed up 6 children and headed back to Sanjo to complete the registration process. In the afternoon we pack up 12 children and headed back to Simaata. Two students returned to St Kizito, just 4.5 kilometers from us, but even their registration process was not easy and took 2 days. We pack the cars tight and journey off to one school at a time. Our final student was put on a bus to Windhoek (1200 kilometers away).



### GIC at NFUMC

On 23 January we departed for our first trip back to the states in 16 months. We were heading to the Global Impact Celebration at our home church – Norcross FUMC in Georgia. The Global Impact Celebration is an annual event to encourage and excite our church to continue (or expand) its activities in local, national and international missions. We were excited to be invited AND to be the featured speakers at the opening banquet on 27 January. We departed for Atlanta on the evening of 25 January. We flew from Botswana to Johannesburg and RAN to catch the flight to Atlanta. After a very long and bumpy 17 hours on the plane, we arrived a bit tired on the morning of 26 January. After some Starbucks coffee, a shower and a haircut for Lorna, we sat down to put the finishing touches on our presentation for Friday evening. We were so excited to see our church family. About 350 people came to the opening banquet. WOW! Just pretend that “no one likes you when you talk”, one of our friends told us to try to calm our nerves. Well, we knew that God would speak through us and in spite of us. HE did! We had a blast and we were recharged for the Lord and refreshed with our stateside friends.



***“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11***

A BIG THANK YOU to **Dave and Margaret** who served here for 3 months. They really have a heart for the children at COZV. They were helpful in many ways including starting a sand bag wall project for flooding, they had a nice party for the outschoolers before they went off to school, Margaret sewed and mended many clothes and did projects with the children and Dave taught many how to fish as well as fixed many things that needed attention, and built a nice pen for the pups. They helped with transport, cooking, child care and much, much more. They were a blessing to us and the village. Also a Big Thank you to the **Mt Zion team** for their service here. Look for a new CD release as Bob recorded the children staff and even Lorna on her flute while they were here. We can't wait to hear our children on CD!!!



### Praises:

- For Jesus Christ who came and was and is and will always be our friend and our Savior!
- For our supporters over the last year and this New Year!
- For our family and friends all over the world who pray for us, support us and encourage us each day.
- For those God has placed in our path and who have blessed this village.
- For our African children/family and staff.

### Prayers:

- For our children and our staff.
- For guidance and wisdom with many decisions we must make every day.
- For health and safety in an unsettled time.
- For relationships, both old and new.
- For each other in a new culture and challenging times.
- For our permission and work permits – still.
- For the New Year and new times in 2012.
- Please pray for safety from harm in our village and the community.

**We thank God for YOU! Your encouragement, financial support, prayers and love!!!**

