

2 0 0 9 2 N D Q U A R T E R

the OWENS family

Theology & Living Skills - all part of the teaching program for new church planters!



“Kindness is a language which blind people see and deaf people hear”

This is the motto of Shanga Beads where handicapped people are employed to make recycled glass beads, shown above covered in fabric. These are sold all over the world and now provide income and dignity for a people once forgotten.

Unity in the Church and how to get along with others who don't agree with you was part of the teaching David gave and discussed with a new group of church planters recently. They looked at the conflict between Paul and Barnabas, discussing situations they faced out of their own lives, whether it was God or Satan at work!!! Later in the week the subject of Hygiene and how disease is spread was also discussed along with how to have and maintain pure water sources with appropriate technology.

SEPARATING ANIMALS FROM LIVING QUARTERS



“We are so excited to go back to our church and tell them of the importance of keeping our cattle away from our living areas. This is why we have so many flies who come and sit in the eyes of our children - causing disease...” commented a pastor's wife who recently completed a training course for kingdom community. Other topics discussed were sanitation, AIDS and food

preparation. This couple are the pastors of the “beading” project church we are involved with. Our goal is to see their arid community transformed.

Swahili sayings:

"A country rooster will not crow while in town.

"A Chicken's prayer does not affect the Hawk."

"A guest only on the first day. On the second day give him a hoe so that he can cultivate (a field)."



Photo One: Farmer Plowing Dry Soil with Oxen, Seragil (Photo from Africa Focus, University of Wisconsin)



Teaching Church Planters; More Beading Designs; Music in a slum; Worship Retreat; Women's Retreat and Update on Judi's Job!

- David recently had the joy of teaching church planters and their wives. That the wives are involved, is a novel experience in Africa, but it was a bit of a shock when one of the wives gave birth on the second day she arrived!
- The Emboret women have designed some new beaded Christmas decorations. Unfortunately, with the world economic crisis and the effect on the Aussie dollar, added to that the cost of retail in the west, it looks as if one of our outlet possibilities will have to wait for now. On a more positive note, my sister's store is about to open in Ballina and will be able to carry the stock for the Masai ladies. Her shop is called "Masai Mama" which is appropriate considering she has a heart for African women and will sell their crafts. (see blog for more pics of beading)
- We recently had a worship seminar at the "slum" church situated next to the sewerage works. The pastor and his leaders were encouraged to sing to God, not just about God. The example was given how we can talk to others about how lovely our children are, but it is so much more intimate when we tell **them** how much they mean to us. Of course, when they crawl up on our lap, that represents intimate worship with God in this analogy. Africans have a lot to teach us about praise, but softness and intimacy are qualities that, in many cases, they are afraid to show publicly.
- Developments for Judi...After working for in a law firm for about 2 weeks, it became obvious that the expectations for her position were unclear and the outcome was probably not going to be successful. It became clear that this was an untenable situation. After much prayer and counsel with others she decided to "resign" although a contract had never been signed. The decision was a difficult one because of all the benefits promised, but in the end the Lord made it clear that this was not the way to go. Subsequently, she and David continue to have friendship with her former boss. PRAY
- We have moved off the base at the Joshua Foundation and feel that God is opening up new opportunities within the Arusha Vineyard for us. We are hoping to start a "homegroup" for some Muslim friends we have been meeting with, while also hoping to see some national Vineyard-style churches here in Tanzania that value grace, intimacy with Jesus, the priesthood of all believers, amongst other things.

Prayer Points and Thanksgiving!

- **Export possibilities**

Pray for success in marketing and selling the Masai ladies' crafts in the West, especially in this challenging market! Blessing on "Masai Mama" as it launches with some of the products for sale. PRAY

- **Justine gets a loan, a new job and loves her course at Bethlehem Tertiary Institute**

Justine qualifies for a student loan in New Zealand and takes some pressure off her study. She also gets a better job tutoring students after school more in line with her passions and loves her course. PRAISE

- **Praise for holistic teaching of Church Planters**

Teaching pastors from a holistic perspective is very rewarding for us and addresses both spiritual and practical needs. Thank God for the opportunity to do this especially to pastors working in areas unreached by the gospel. PRAISE!

- **Praise for Zac's love of boarding school and good grades**

Zac now wants us to stay on campus when we visit so that he won't miss any school events. His grades are really good and he is loving his school. PRAISE

- **Pray for upcoming pastor's training on marriage**

We will be teaching church planting pastors on the subject of marriage for one week. This will be very challenging and rewarding with all of the taboos and hierarchy involved in African marriages. We look forward to discussing cultural and kingdom perspectives on marriage. PRAY

- **Pray for our car to become a blessing....**

After Judi gave back her new car (one of the perks of her job) our own car has behaved very badly. Unfortunately, Judi had the bright idea of "anointing" it with oil. The result was that the oil mixed with dust on the bonnet and caked on by the sun, left a dreadful "birthmark"..... and the car seems "unhealed". Clutches, starter motors etc are all presently resisting our prayers! PRAY

- **Celeste has a successful youth weekend**

Celeste recently had a wonderful weekend with the youth of St. Alban's Vineyard when they explored the subject of relationships and sex. All part of her job as a Youth Pastor at this church. PRAISE!

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