

2 0 0 9 3 R D Q U A R T E R

# the OWENS family

## ✕ Anna and her Death Wish ✕

✕



*“My teacher’s have told me I am very gifted in animal husbandry”*

*These were the proud words of Immanuel a young masai man who is being sponsored by the Vancouver Toastmasters club. He came 2nd in his class and 6th overall in his school. He has a 5 yr plan as to how he is going to be educated and break the cycle of poverty.*

*lealeale*

Anna, a mother of seven, was small enough to be a child herself. She was part of the recent church planters course where we taught on marriage and family. Something about Anna was disturbing from the moment we met her, and her total inability to give anything to her children was alarming and perplexing. She often sat in class with her 2 month-old son on her lap while her other 2 small children attended the pre-school. Her 2 yr-old daughter was blind in one eye and was mothered by her 4 yr-old sister, due to mummy’s emotional absence. Often we watched this little 2 yr-old struggle with stairs or her hot chai while her mother looked on listlessly, without response. We began to pray for her and her children. On a daily basis I would ask

her how she much God much her One day, she pray for her. distraught what it was to pray I saw splinter in her infected. A something and was now As we prayed had been



was and tell her how loved her and how children needed her. came and asked us to She was very and wouldn’t tell us about. As we began a picture of a heart that was symbolic insight into that was hurting her wanting to infect her. she told us that she considering poisoning

herself and ending it all. She was exhausted from the battle she waged daily with the temptation to take her life. After prayer she experienced great peace and a sense of God’s love for her. She and her husband were discussing the possibility of using contraception to enable her to regain her physical strength. They’ve learned about each others’ love language and are practicing blessing each other with this daily. God is good!

*Loiborsoit Pre-school*

Has 40 students (160 on the waiting-list!!!), 8 chalk boards, 4 desks, 6 long bench chairs, 2 teachers, 1 cook, 1 box of toys, dirt playground and are served porridge for morning break.... and are very poor and thankful!





## *Arusha Vineyard; a new pet; famine again; womens' beading business continues!*

- April 26th we became team-leaders of the Arusha Vineyard. This church has been our home church since we arrived and is thriving with mission and outreach. The team of leaders we are working with are excited about vision and also love the sense of “flying in unison” together. Church planting, films and media projects, business initiatives, schools, pastoral unity endeavours and business people with a heart for their workplace, are just a few of the exciting ministries within this church.
- “Flash” became the newest member of our household recently. He is an East African Leopard Tortoise with a love for cucumbers. Thankfully, he requires no maintenance and keeps to himself mostly.
- We were recently approached by pastor K about the extent of the famine in his area. People are now going door to door asking for any food others may have. 2 days before meeting with David he had 2 women come to his door for food. His wife gave them some porridge they were keeping for his children so that they could eat something. We have sent out an email to some of you regarding this and the response has been amazing. A church in Casino, N.S.W. and a Christian school in Sydney have risen to the need and given around \$1,500 AUS at the time of writing. Pastor K was overwhelmed that God had heard his prayer and answered it. We still pray for rain for this area. His plan is to buy grain and give widows, those with HIV and those without support, first priority in distribution. Continue to pray for this part of Tanzania as it struggles with famine.
- The women’s group in Emboret continue to bead “Masai Mamas” and Christmas decorations to be sold overseas. They have had a few issues with quality control. For instance, when asked to bead a white snowflake they decided this was truly lacking colour and decided to improvise. The snowflakes came back bright blue and yellow... resembling an octopus having a seizure, rather than a snowflake. Then came the process of explaining what a snowflake is... mmmm a difficult concept when you live in desert and dust.
- Julius is a dress maker that has been sewing many items for sale overseas. He makes cushion covers, back packs as well as table runners. He uses a treddle machine and lives in a slum area of Arusha. This employment is enabling him to pay off his huge loans and provide for his family.
- Salvatore is a fourteen year old boy whose parents are both dead. He is living with his alcoholic uncle and looks more like a ten year old. His uncle, one of the Muslim men David has been meeting with, approached us for help in finding him a home. The search began. Then we came across Dr. Linus, who is part of our church and whose ministry is to place children in homes of love to receive education and care. Praise God that Salvatore is moving to a new safe home.
- We have moved into our own home after months of house-sitting and moving around. We are loving the lovely house we have outside of Arusha in the suburb of Kwaiddi.
- For more information on any of the above topics please check our blog at [www.owensinafrica.blogspot.com](http://www.owensinafrica.blogspot.com)

## *Prayer Points and Thanksgiving!*

- **Justine gets a surprise ticket to visit us**

Justine recently turned 21. We were unable to be with her for this big event. Imagine our pleasure and surprise when she phoned to say that some wonderful person in her church had offered to pay for her to come home for a visit!!! We enjoyed the wonderful 3 weeks with her - Zac being here for 2 of them. Praise God for His kindness in this. Pray also for Celeste to be able to come for a visit. She recently turned 25 and is believing for an after Christmas visit. PRAISE!

- **Zac is enjoying school and takes a well earned break from RVA**

Zachary is getting good grades and enjoying life on campus at Rift Valley Academy. He speaks highly of his teachers and mentors and recently committed his life to serving God in missions. PRAISE!

- **Praise for Marriage and Family teaching of Church Planters**

Teaching pastors about marriage, sex and family was very rewarding for us. We saw God move in the marriages and lives of both pastors and their wives. Thank God for the opportunity to do this especially to pastors working in areas unreached by the gospel. PRAISE!

- **Praise for our car mending its ways and becoming a blessing**

You may remember how rebellious our car was initially. After much prayer it seems to have changed its ways and we have driven to Kenya and back, into the dusty bush, up mountains and on treacherous roads without breakdown. PRAISE!

- **Praise for Immanuel, Julius, Salvatore and many others breaking the cycle of poverty**

We are so blessed to see Immanuel being educated with a plan for the future, Julius making money by dressmaking and sewing and Salvatore find a new home. In each of these cases we see the kingdom of God and his kindness coming to break the cycle of poverty. PRAISE!

- **Pray for Loiborsoit pre-school....**

Loiborsoit pre-school reveals a group of people who although they have very few resources are committed to bringing change and educating their children. They need more desks, chairs, chalk boards and toys. PRAY!

- **Transformation of the Loiborsoit and Emboret communities ....**

The communities of Emboret and Loiborsoit are where many of the folk we are empowering, live. They show a lot of initiative and we are working together with other community groups to see if we can get a bore-hole or well in this area. PRAY!

Thank you for your support and prayers.

