

# THE GILLS IN MALAWI

April 2008

## Time really does fly!

Well it's been quite a while since our last newsletter and we certainly hope that you haven't forgotten us! We have almost been here a whole year now and although the general pace of life here in Malawi is a lot slower, time seems to fly even faster. We can't believe it's been a year since we said goodbye, got on the plane and came to Malawi, and so much has happened in that year. Thank you so much to those who have continued to support us both financially and spiritually, you are our heroes and we love you all so much. So what's been happening here at Hope Village? Read on to find out.....

## Time Out

We have been taking time out from our normal daily routine to spend time seeking God individually and together as a team, during the month of March. This came as a result of a word from God really challenging us to look at Hope Village and make sure that it is moving ahead with the original vision of helping the orphans and widows. Its all too easy even in this environment to get sidetracked with all the business of building projects and other day to day things and forget to stop and ask God 'are we in your will?'. Tracy and I have found it both enjoyable and a challenge as God exposes true motives and calls us to live uncompromising lives. We are continuing to seek God and will keep you updated with any developments.



## Millie

Say hello to our new addition, a gorgeous golden retriever called Millie. We had to travel to Lilongwe to get her as they are hard to find. God has really blessed us and we even got her for free, which is amazing as they are quite valuable here.

## Chichewa

God has really been challenging us to be more involved in the lives of the people here, and it's so hard with our limited knowledge of the language. Paul is now having daily Chichewa lessons but it's a hard language to learn. We are praying that God will anoint us as we so desperately want to be able to speak more with the people and share the gospel with them. What we need is a Pentecost experience and the sudden ability to speak the language!! Please pray for us.

## Circular Rainbow

We had the most spectacular rainbow the other day; it was a full circle around the sun. It was so amazing and just made you think of God and his promises to us. Just imagine the rainbow over his throne, how awesome it must be!

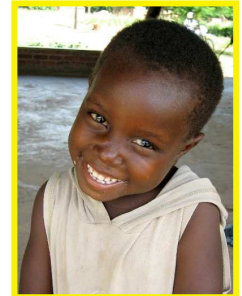


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## Child sponsorship

Tracy has now taken on the role of administrating the child sponsorship here and is busy setting in place a system to make sure that all sponsors are regularly updated and that we have up to date profiles and photos of all the kids. Only a handful of our kids are sponsored and this is an area we believe that God wants to bless, so please pray for Tracy as she takes on that role. If you want any info on sponsoring a child please email us.



## So how is the family?

The children are all doing well although we have had a few ups and downs with the home schooling. It's hard when you have to help them answer one of their questions and you can't even work it out yourself! They have some really good friends on site but we are hoping they can find a few in town as they really need some their own age. Please pray for this. We all had a lovely break at the lake thanks to some friends Stuart and Sue Coulson, who invited us to go with them and stay in a cottage they have access to. We had a wonderful time and got to go snorkelling, swimming and fishing. Joel was the only one who caught a fish which really made his day. Stuart and Sue are an older couple who love God and have been such a blessing to us. Sue gives Lauren art lessons and she is really coming on well.



## Other Stuff

Well our car has been off the road now for 6 weeks and we are hoping to have it up and running again soon. The faulty part is in South Africa, as we are hoping Toyota can fix it otherwise we have to buy a new part for £800 – ouch. Thankfully some friends have lent us a car in the meantime.

Our website is still under construction – check out [www.gillsinmalawi.com](http://www.gillsinmalawi.com). We have been so busy that the blog is terribly out of date but we will be working on that very soon and will let you all know when it has new stories on it.

We found an excellent book store in Blantyre selling 2<sup>nd</sup> hand Christian books and found some real gems. One book we would definitely recommend to anyone is a book by G.C.Bevington called Remarkable Miracles; it is an incredible autobiography and well worth a read. Another book is the Bait of Satan by John Bevere, a great book about offence, a must read for all Christians.