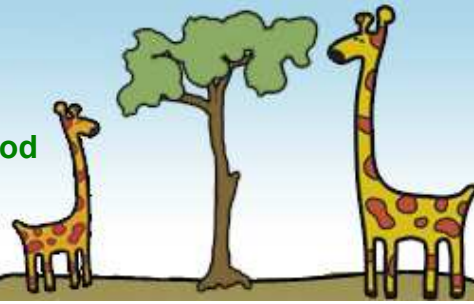


# The Gills in Malawi

An ordinary family serving an extraordinary God



December 2008

## Hello

Well it's almost Christmas and we just can't believe another year is almost over. Whilst many of you have snow we have hot sunshine and are praying for rain, not only to cool down the temperature here but also to ensure the local people can plant seeds and produce good crops. We have been really blessed with the opportunity to go to South Africa for 3 weeks over Christmas for a much needed holiday and all of us are very excited to be going. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year. Thank you to all of you for your ongoing friendship, support, love and prayer.

## Our Malawian Family

We have been spending much more time with the families from our children's homes recently. Sometimes we have been so busy that we can easily lose touch with the important things such as spending quality time with those we have come to serve. The best part of our day is when we take the time to sit with the families and talk, share and laugh together. We have been helping them with their English as they help us with our Chichewa. We went to see the field where one of the families is preparing to plant maize and had a lot of fun learning how to prepare the land. In the picture you can see Paul with members of the Kaswe home. As usual Tracy is the one taking the photo.



## Feeding Programme

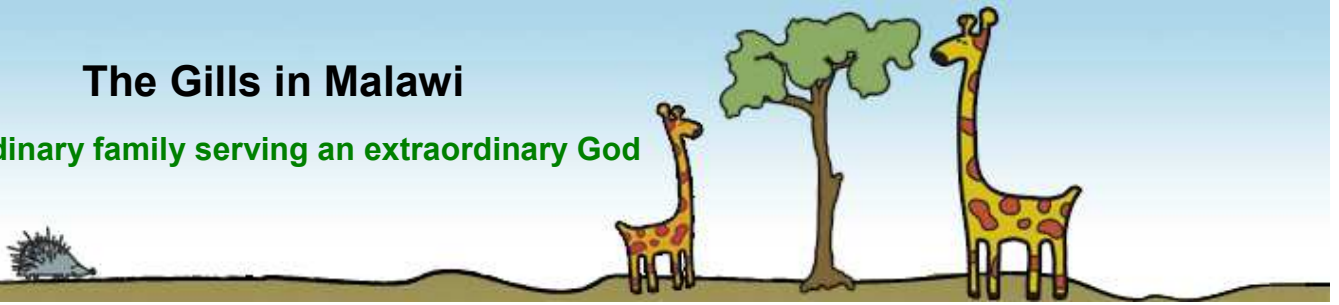
We have set up a 4 month feeding programme to help those families who are suffering during what we call the hungry season here. We both attempted to stir the Nsima which you can see cooking in the pot and now we know why the women have such big muscles here! Boy did we feel like wimps.



We have enjoyed reading 2 new books over the last few weeks, one called The Supernatural ways of Royalty by Bill Johnson and Kris Vallotton about discovering your rights and privileges of being a son or daughter of God. The other is called Jesus Man of prayer by Margaret Magdalen, one of the best books on prayer I have ever read.

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## Monkey Magic

We have way too many animals on site as usual. with the addition of a monkey for a short period. The local villagers brought us a baby monkey after the mother had been killed for food. Joel was helping to care for it but it died after only a few days. We also have 2 tortoises which again Joel (who wants to be a zoo keeper) looks after. Their names are Combi and Camili a boy and girl which we hope will be having baby tortoises one day.



## Visits

We just love having visitors here on site and we have had a few over the last few months including Gina & Mel who come from Yorkshire and who really blessed us and gave us a much needed prophetic word of encouragement which was spot on. We then had Heather & Becky from Elim Clydebank Church who also raised money for the project. Next was our Area Missions Director Ray Cotter from Ireland who also came and encouraged us a lot. We have also just said goodbye to Pastor Jon Featherstone who visited us from our sending church and it was great to catch up and show him around.

## Prayer

God has really been speaking to us about prayer and we sure notice the difference in our own lives when we are not praying. With witchcraft happening all around us the need to spend time with God in prayer is a necessity and we have seen a lot of answered prayer lately. Having people that pray for us makes a real difference and to all those people we say thank you for your sacrifice, you are really valued.

## Quick Facts

So what else is happening? Well Lauren sits her mock exams in January, Chloe went to youth group for the first time and made a new friend, Joel is now taller than Tracy, Benj had one of his teeth pulled out (not a pleasant experience), We have 3 new kittens (not keeping them), still without a car (praying lots), Tracy almost stood on a python (a baby one), our air con broke (typical), Joel fell out of a tree (no bones broken)

For details on how you can donate please visit the following page on our website <http://www.gillsinmalawi.com/sponsorus.htm>. Please stay in touch, an email, a letter, a package full of goodies in the post (cheeky), and don't forget to check out our website for photos, videos and our blog at [www.gillsinmalawi.com](http://www.gillsinmalawi.com). Lots of love and Christmas greetings, the Gill Family xxxxx