

THE GILLS IN MALAWI

October 2007

Hello

A big hello to all our family and friends from a sunny Malawi. Time is flying so incredibly quickly here and we can't believe it's been 5 months since we landed in Malawi. So what's been happening with us over the last few months? Well we have seen our puppy Zack recover from his illness, had a close call with a deadly snake, been on a vacation, suffered a few injuries, received our personal effects from the UK, and been busy with all the work on Hope Village... yep its been a hectic time all right but through it all we have seen God at work in our lives and those around us.

Ouch!

Well we thought we should have a short break before the kids went back to school so we went to the lake with the Dennis family. It was a lovely place and we had a great time, swimming, playing sports, windsurfing, kayaking etc. The only slight hiccups were when Tracy, trying to return a cross court forehand from Jackie on the tennis court stumbled and injured her wrist. Benjamin also ran along the beach and some how got a fishing hook caught in his ankle..ouch! It was quite an ordeal, we had to take in him to a local medical centre where they had to inject his ankle 3 times and cut out the hook. The stitches are now out and his ankle is healing nicely. Tracy's wrist is taking a little longer and it may be a few weeks before it fully heals.



Benj by the pool

Chichewa

We have started our Chichewa lessons with Pastor Ganizani as we really want to learn. It may take quite a few years but we are determined and know how much it means to the locals here, if you at least try to speak Chichewa.

Work

Paul has been busy preparing all the paperwork for the NGO board and organising all the budgets for the projects here on Hope Village. He has also been putting together a proposal for a Dutch organisation that may be willing to help finance a guest house on Hope Village which will be great as an income generating project and for when teams and friends/family visit. Tracy has also been helping out with the administration of the child sponsorship programme, for which we have had a few new sponsors. We have also been busy with the Hope Village [blog](#).

We have a car!

Thanks to all those who responded to our last newsletter about a car. We now have a Toyota Land Cruiser and it is a real blessing to us. Tracy's dad managed to get a few thousand knocked off the price so it was too good an offer to turn down. We still need to raise £4250 to pay it off but we are trusting God to provide and we are very grateful to those who gave towards the car and so happy to be able to get around without squashing into the boot of Les & Jackie's car.



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Container

As most of you know our container arrived safely and after much prayer customs agreed to release it duty free which in was a miracle. It's nice to have some of our stuff from the UK including our comfy sofa and we also enjoyed the contents of our survival kit (a present from Church on the Rock containing sweets, coffee and other goodies).

"Whosoever trusteth in the Lord, happy is he".

Proverbs 16:20 KJV

Our House

Well the land has been cleared ready for the foundations of our house to be dug. We are hoping that this will be done and the concrete laid before the rainy season starts otherwise it will be delayed until next year. We are happy with the design of the house and can't wait to see it begin to take shape.



Did you know we now have 2 kittens and 1 dog? Cody, Oliver & Zack



Belinda, Loveness & Chloe

Children

The children are all doing great; Benj is really enjoying home schooling and is doing so well. Chloe is now best friends with Belinda who moved here from Australia with her family 2 months ago and they have both been making friends with the other children onsite especially Loveness one of the girls from the children's homes.

Joel is finding his school work easier now having struggled at first with the volume of work and we have seen his confidence grow considerably. He said at a recent gathering that Malawi had changed his life.

Lauren is doing really well studying for her IGCSE's and is getting good marks for her work. She now has an art lesson with an excellent teacher who says she has real potential. She has a boyfriend, Jon Dennis who also lives at Hope Village so it's an interesting time; those with teenage children know what we mean!

Prayer Needs...

Please continue to pray for us as that God will give us continued grace for home schooling and that the children will do well with their studies. Please pray that our relationship with everyone here and with God remain strong and that we bear fruit in all we do. Please pray for finance as we seek to meet our target monthly sponsorship that we need to survive here, which as the moment we are well short of. If you would like to sponsor us please email us and we will send you details of how you can do this.