



Merry Christmas from the Ongs!

Stories of Belonging

Newsletter of the Ong family serving in Malawi, Africa
Issue 53, Dec 2020

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

We often find ourselves longing for Heaven, longing to escape the sin and pain of this world. Longing to bask in God's glorious presence. Jesus Christ, out of immeasurable love for you and me, did just the opposite. He gave up his place in Heaven and became one of us, knowing the pain and suffering he would have to endure here. Yet he came, he willingly came and willingly died, so we may spend eternity by his side and share in his glory. What amazing grace!



2020: PAUSE... RESUME



Time flies! We apologise for the absence of a proper newsletter for the past year. 2020 has seemed like the year the world paused and we paused along with it.

As you know, we arrived in Sydney Dec 2019 for our four-month home assignment only to have our return to Malawi delayed to October by Covid19. Not much happened in that time, which turned out to be a blessing as it turned out to be a nice sabbatical for us after 8 years in Malawi. We were able to enjoy time in Sydney without rushing from one engagement to another. The Onglets enjoyed going to school and Jo loved doing some casual teaching, while Pete took the opportunity to catch up on life admin and reconnecting with people.

Once we arrived back in Malawi, it felt as though life resumed again. Nov and Dec have been super busy for us with a new class at Tiyamike along with with graduation for the 'covid class'. We also busied ourselves with our little family project/business selling handmade sweet treats at expat fairs and markets. We are thankful to God for providing for us in this way.





In November, we were finally able to start a new class as Covid restrictions relaxed. However, instead of receiving our usual twenty new learners, we took in only twelve to allow room for social distancing in our classroom.

*sewing
ministry*

The re-opening of Tiyamike also meant that our previous twenty learners, who had to stop learning due to Covid, were able to return to finish the last term of their course. We had a wonderful time celebrating their achievement at their recent graduation on 19th December.

After two years of dreaming, praying, and fundraising for a new and bigger school bus for Tiyamike, we finally raised enough from our time in Sydney to purchase a second hand school bus. It finally arrived on graduation much to the delight of all our women! We are so thankful to God for blessing us with this new bus which will enable us to bring more vulnerable women to Tiyamike.



*director
appointment*

After a lengthy process of interviews, prayer, and consideration by the SIM Malawi Director Search Committee as well as SIM international, we are excited to inform you that Pete has been appointed as the next SIM Malawi Director with his five-year term beginning 1st Feb 2021.



We are excited about Pete's new role and the opportunity it gives him to bless others with his servant leadership skills. He is looking forward to serving the SIM Malawi team in this new capacity.

We would love your prayers for our family as Pete transitions into his new role which will mean more in-country travel and time away from home. Both Jo and Pete will reduce face-to-face time in their current ministries in order to focus on his new role.



GIVE THANKS to God for a time of rest in Sydney and for our safe return to Malawi in October.

PRAISE GOD for confirmation of God's calling on Pete as the new SIM Malawi director.

THANK GOD for the new Tiyamike learners and graduates.

GIVE THANKS to God for the blessing of a new Tiyamike school bus!

PRAISE GOD for good health in the midst of the pandemic.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 1 John 5:14

Pete

Please pray for Pete as he transitions into his new role as SIM Malawi Director. Pray that he may lead the team and their various ministries to flourish and thrive as servants of God in Malawi.

Jo

Pray for #theintrovertedmissionary Jo that she will know how to support Pete in his new role as director which will include extra responsibilities in hospitality and peopling....



Teaghan

Praise God that Teaghan is loving being back in Malawi with her friends. Our time away really confirmed for her where her heart is.

Lucas

Give thanks that Lucas has started well in year 7 and is loving school. He is loving making new friends.

Caycay

Please pray for Caycay with her recurring tummy aches that we may find out the cause of this. We are waiting for pathology results.

COMING up in 2021

JANUARY

- 04 Ministries resume
- 04 Onglets back to school
- 09 Jo's birthday

FEBRUARY

- 01 Pete commences SIM Malawi Director role
- 23 Teaghan's birthday

MARCH

- 23 Pete's birthday
- 25 Lucas' birthday

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