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December 2011

Greetings dear friends

Right now we are just so grateful for the abundance of rain we have had over the past week. Our country is looking so lush.

It was really special to have Vicky with us for a few days – she claimed to have brought the rain with her and kindly left it with us. Our time together was relaxing and mainly catching up on our Bognor family news. Vicky also got to meet and experience our family with all its quirks and all. It was sad to have her with us for such a short time. Can't wait for next time Vicky....

Once Vicky had left it was full steam ahead for Odette to get Rebecca and Daniel finished with the terms work and preparing for next year when Reach Academy opens at the church. There are 5 students for next year of which 3 are in year two. So the math game that Kay sent is really going to come in handy. The new school year starts on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January so please pray with us that we find an office desk and some shelving before then.

Rebecca and Daniel used some of the craft goodies Vicky brought to decorate 30 gift boxes Odette had made and then her mom filled them with chocolates – these were given to the old age pensioners at the Christmas lunch that our church does for them every year. These were received with much appreciation.

This month has been a sad month for Rebecca and Daniel as 4 of their friends will not be around next year. These are the kids that lived in our area and were always over at our house for play or a sleep over. 2 have moved to Victoria falls encouraging us to go visit on holiday and the other 2 who live just across the road will only be back for the school holidays. Please pray they will adjust and make more effort to spend time with the friends living on the other side of town.

It is also sad for Odette as her closest friend, Lea, is the mum going to Vic Falls – they spent many hours together chatting about God things and encouraging/challenging each other in righteous living. Odette is praying for a new friend to share her passion for Jesus with and for Lea to find fellowship with other Christians soon after arriving in Vic Falls as there is no conventional Sunday church.

We are gearing up for Christmas and are looking forward to our week in Harare spending time with Brett's family and meeting up with old friends. Harare is like a different country to Masvingo as there is so much to do with the kids and they have shopping malls!!! These are all decorated and the spirit of Christmas is really

embraced. Christmas does not seem to be big in the African culture so with Masvingo being a small town we are lucky to have decorations in maybe 5 of the shops. Oh and Masvingo has a large amount of Islamic and Hindu shop owners, they also have a big influence in the town and in the schools...

One of the managers above Brett left a few months ago and even though this did not translate to a definite promotion his work load has increased. So Brett has more responsibilities, ends up working a little late and is finding he has had to relinquish commitments at church that commence at 5:30pm. So on the up side he has taken up the responsibility of the sound system and is amazed at how little is known about the use of mics and stuff. So please pray for him as he patiently tries work with the worship team explaining the sound systems job is not to make the beautiful sounds but to enhance what is there already – be it good or bad. We do have fun being in a third world country watching the western world. The third world tries to imitate the western world with no idea that it all requires education, training and a new way of thinking to achieve the western world quality and standards. The exciting thing is it is possible if we will just submit and be teachable.

Anyway we are looking forward to 2012 and we are trusting God for a breakthrough in our church. We have heard testimonies of so many spirit filled people in our church that we hope they will share their experiences with others, not only in word but in lifestyle too. We pray for the difference to be so tangible that it will stir up a desire for others to want an intimate relationship with God too. God just has to get thru to one person at a time to transform our church... our prayer is that there will be enough of us already transformed that when God starts with our leaders it would be a smooth transition.

Blessings to all, with thanks and appreciation for all your prayers and support.

May you all have a Happy Christmas and a great New Year

Brett, Odette, Rebecca and Daniel.

PS. Apologies for no pictures this issue.