

March 2011

a 'DAY' in Injibara

Hi to all - family, friends and faithful supporters - My heart goes out to those Australians who have been affected by the recent disasters in our country and for the people of New Zealand affected by the earthquake. Since my last newsletter life has been rather busy - lots of travel and outreach ministry. My life here in Injibara is slowly developing - its a daily step by step with the Lord's help. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support. *In Christ's Service, Cheryl*



Travelling with OZ Team I had the privilege of joining a team from Aldinga Bay Baptist as they ministered at Powie and Berber through the KHC (Kale Hewit Church). It was a



fantastic opportunity to share the gospel with many children from all kinds of backgrounds. We ran a Vocation Bible School type program. This was done through testimonies, Bible stories, craft, games (even Aussie rules football drills) and lots of fun. Our theme was God's love.



Many children attended (at times aprox. 300) and were very excited at having white people amongst them. In these areas few whites are seen, let alone take an interest and share God's love. The church leadership were very happy with our ministry times and felt some breakthroughs into the community had been made. We were invited to several coffee ceremonies and the church at Berber

killed and prepared a goat for us to eat - by the way it was very yummy. It was such an enjoyable time and opportunity in getting to know the church leaders. I was away from the 8th-20th January. *Please pray for a continual gospel witness in these communities, for further encouragement and wisdom for the church leaders, and for those who have surrendered their lives to Christ (often they are faced with persecution) to be discipled and grow in their faith.*

If the Lord delights in a man's way, He makes his steps firm; though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with His hand.

Ps 37:23.24

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5FS project The nursery is in full swing at the moment. It's time for seeding the native seedlings (*see heading photo*). This is when we employ around 20 workers to complete the task at hand. This year has been more difficult to obtain the seed stock needed, thus putting us a bit behind. I have been able to go out with the staff to collect seed, which is not always an easy task. The Ethiopians are willing to climb trees as part of the seed collecting process.

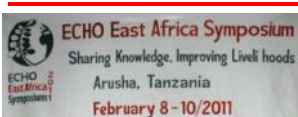


Sometimes the seed is not ready and they need to return at a later date. Often the seed is found in isolated, difficult places to reach and require walking distances to these places. Many of the seed varieties need their shell cracked. This is a tedious task at which the staff sit for hours cracking tiny seed pods. I sometimes sit with them and do this (a good language practice and relationship building opportunity time). I



have even tried hand filling the tubes with soil - which is not an easy task. There were many laughs at my results. Now is also the heart of the dry season so watering the fruit trees and the rest of the nursery is a major task. This is not done by just going and turning on a tap. It is done by hand with watering cans. The water is pumped from the creek into a sump hole and distributed from there.

ECHO Conference Tanzania



Early February I was able to travel with 6 fellow SIMers to Arusha, Tanzania. ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organisation) is dedicated to fighting world hunger through innovative options, agricultural training and networking with community leaders and missionaries in developing countries. ECHO is a place to collect and develop solutions to agricultural problems with growing food in difficult conditions. The conference had different speakers on issues pertaining to food security and poverty issues as well as workshops. We were able to visit AVRDC - The world vegetable centre, Food water shelter (an Australian NGO) permaculture village and WODSTA training facility for women of the pastoral Maasai. What impacted me was the opportunity for networking and opened my eyes further to current issues that are wide spread throughout Africa. I gained ideas, that with some adjustments, can be transplanted into the 5FS project - like soil improvement/conservation and pest management techniques.

What's Next As I'm putting this newsletter together I'm preparing to do an outreach trip with Tafere (Project Assistant Manager) to Desse as part of our project agreement for wider outreach. (this trip was originally planned after Tanzania but was delayed). After this I will have a considerable amount of time working at the project before needing to restock in Addis with supplies. I will continue to develop relationships with the farmers through various activities and continue some language tuition. I have now just begun to learn the Awi language. In April we have our northern team meeting here in Injibara, which I will lead our worship times. Having it in Injibara will be a first, and makes it less travel for all.

Praise God

- for His protection of me (I fell into a 5ft drain in Tanzania and was unhurt) and for the opportunity to go to Tanzania.
- for you - all my supporters. Your faithfulness in prayer, support and encouragement.
- for the impact the OZ team trip had in Powie and Berber.

Please pray

- for the Christians and their witness in Powie and Berber..
- for my life in Injibara - language, building relationships, wisdom in all things, for health and safety (especially when travelling).
- for the work of the 5FS project and its opportunities to be holistic in its approach.
- for the northern team meeting at the end of April.