

MARCH-APRIL NEWSLETTER

APRIL 30, 2008

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

Renovations, Repairs and Restorations



These past two months have been characterized by the word, “chaotic.” We moved into this new house on February 15 and since then, it has been crazy. The deal we made with the landlord is that our rent money would go into repair and upkeep costs on the house. So since we’ve moved in, that is what we’ve been doing: fixing leaking roofs, broken win-

dows, mending and sewing curtains, hanging hooks, painting walls, filling holes in the wall, fixing sagging ceiling panels, building shelves, etc. Needless to say, we’ve had painters, fix it men, electricians and workmen in and out giving quotations, fixing things, etc.

Also there are 3 big projects that we are

needing to do: convert the steel gate into an electric gate at the entrance of the property, install our generator to the main electricity of the house, and install a 5000L water tank and pump to store water and pump it into the house as the house often has low pressure water that does not reach the second floor or even no water. We’ve purchased many of the parts we need, but getting quotes, figuring out cheaper ways of doing things and collecting enough cash often takes longer than one would hope. All of these things we’re hoping to get done before baby #2 arrives!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Fix up projects.
- ◆ Catching up with graduates.
- ◆ Celebrating the Passover at TCZ.
- ◆ Calvin continues to grow.
- ◆ Prayer requests.



Graduation



Mat and I got to attend our first graduation ceremony at TCZ. Even though we have been here for 2.5 years, we have missed each graduation ceremony until this year.

We were so encouraged to once again see these students who finished their course work in December and have been out in vari-

ous places doing ministry. I got to catch up with a few students, one of which, Owen, has gone to Botswana and is leading a church there.

He is facing the challenges of language learning and using translation for the time being. Another student, Luke, is back out in his hometown as the associate pastor of the church he had helped out with before coming to TCZ. He is faced with the challenges of living communally with those in his congregation, which

means that he is always having visitors (which culturally you can’t turn anyone away who comes to your door). He is finding it difficult to find the time to study and prepare his sermons.

Overall, graduation weekend went well as we had an evening meal to honor the graduates, their families and those supporting them in ministry. And then the ceremony also was a great time to celebrate with the graduates as an end to all of their hard work.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Personal Updates</i>	1
<i>Graduation</i>	1
<i>Passover and Easter</i>	2
<i>Calvin</i>	2
<i>Prayer Requests</i>	2

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN ZIMBABWE

Theological College of Zimbabwe
Gwanda Road at Riverside
Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
<http://www.tczonline.com>

mkpelletier@gmail.com
kaylepelletier@gmail.com

We're on the Web:
www.sybergnosis.com/zimbabwe

Calvin the Great



Calvin is continuing to grow and continuing to make us laugh. He is learning many baby signs and signing them back to us, which has been a fun way of communicating to him at this phase of his life. He has finally begun to walk on his own just this past week! So he is now exploring all the wonders in the yard and in the house. He is fully capable of feeding himself and has learned that if he picks up the bowl, he can angle his spoon in such a way as to get everything out of the bowl.

Calvin loves the adventure of the stairs (yikes!) and has mastered the art of going up and down. He also loves to play with the dogs, splash in the water bowl and rolling around on our bed. All in all it is really fun to watch him grow, learn and explore.

Celebrating the Passover and Easter

In preparation for Easter, Mat and Craig, another lecturer at the college, took it upon themselves to host a Passover seder for any interested students, staff and faculty at the college. Two lambs were donated to the college by one of the students to be used for the meal. What started off as a small meal with 50 people turned into a huge meal for 120 people! While Craig roasted the lambs on a spit, Mat and I hunted for the other parts of the seder meal: we found horseradish, boiled hard-boiled eggs, picked parsley from a friend's garden and made our own version of unleavened bread. The electricity was out at the college the night of the seder, but we celebrated the Passover by candlelight as Mat and Craig explained the significance of all of the elements of the Passover seder meal. Then we all shared a meal together. It was a wonderful time of being together as a community and understanding the significance of the Passover.

Mat and I also enjoyed celebrating Easter with our church. Our church had Easter Camp together out at Shalom Campground, one hour outside of Bulawayo. Mat and I were asked to give a seminar on Sex and Relationships for Singles and Marrieds. We spent much time planning and preparing this seminar based on what were the common struggles of youth here and how to present this very taboo topic in a culturally sensitive way. Overall, we had about 25 people, mostly single, who attended the seminar. After the talk, various people came to talk to us about things they had gleaned from the talk, what they found most helpful, and thanked us for opening up this "can of worms" so that they could grow from it.

Kayle was also asked to preach at the church of one of TCZ's staff members on Easter morning. So she told the events of the resurrection through the eyes of Mary Magdalene. We were happy to be able to take the opportunity to share in the celebration of the resurrection with the people of this church as well.

Prayer Requests

Thank you for all of your prayers for housing. We are so thankful to be in the house we are in and know that God has provided it for us. Thank you also for your prayers for us over the last term at the college. It was a hectic term with Mat teaching two new classes, with the move and with sorting things out with the house, but we are confident that your prayers sustained us during this busy time.

As always, please continue to pray for our staff at TCZ. Because Zimbabwe is now using US dollars and South African rand as the stable currency, prices have gone up! Life in Zimbabwe has become very expensive and many of the staff are struggling. Please remember them in your prayers and pray that God would sustain them and provide for them.

Baby #2 (a girl, by the way) is well on its way as Kayle is now 6 months pregnant. It is amazing how fast the time goes by. Please pray for us as we make decisions concerning where to have the baby, hospitals, doctors, etc. We would have happily gone back to the same doctor and hospital in Harare (the capital of Zimbabwe) where Calvin was delivered, but the price for delivering has gone up from \$500 with Calvin to now \$2900! It actually now costs the same to deliver in Johannesburg, South Africa (with better hospitals and health care) as it does in Harare. Anyway, please be praying for wise decisions in this area.

Please also be praying for Kayle as she makes decisions concerning how much involvement she will be able to have at the college. Please also be praying for the college to consider what to do if Kayle needs to step back a bit.