

**News from Alan and Davina Sully.**  
**Out of Africa - Purpose, People, Passion and Plans.**

*April 2008*

Davina writes....

Without a vision the people perish, thus with a vision the people thrive.

Perhaps thoughts concerning the purpose and plans for 2008 have been in your minds also.

For me the start of a new year is a time when I reflect on what God has done during the past year and I wonder what He has planned for the new. Sometimes remaining in the comfortableness of the old can seem appealing; then again maybe we are pleased to leave pain and difficulty behind, looking for a bright horizon. However we feel and whatever we think, Paul encourages us with 'I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward - to Jesus. I'm off and running; and I'm not turning back. Phillipians 3: 12-21 is an encouraging exhortation at the beginning of this year. God has placed a passion for people in my heart. Longing to reach Tanzanians more appropriately I've just completed 2 weeks at language school determined to vastly improve my Kiswahili.

Marieke (my neighbour), her 3 children (under 4 years old), her parents-in-law and I made the 9 hour car journey to the beautiful riverside campsite at Iringa with one thought in mind - to study.

Lessons were held in open air bandas, mouth watering meals were served in a thatched roofed, open air dining room and we stayed in stone bandas with fantastic views. A hippo was seen in the river, a puff adder near the tent, those amazing creations chameleons abounded and one evening 25 newly hatched land snails crossed my path. Do you get the impression study was free from distraction?



How will I use my newly enhanced language skills? As soon as the work permit issue is resolved it's my heart's desire to return to teaching children in our church nursery and Sunday schools and to start English lessons with some of our Tanzanian staff. God has given me the skills, the need is great and I'm willing. Please join me in praying for a speedy resolution to the work permit problems. We can praise God for the rain which He has poured upon Dodoma since November. Its refreshing nature has lowered temperatures and tempers! Our garden is beautiful, lush, green and full of flowers and vegetables: radish, parsley, chives, kohlrabi, chilli and sweet peppers. A heart stopping thud upon the bati roof heralds the fall of another juicy, ripe mango. Perseverance coupled with barrow loads of manure, rain together with Focus our willing gardener have brought forth a harvest for the first time in 3 years.

Home assignment is fast approaching and plans are under way for our visit to UK in April/May. Naturally, I'm looking forward to spending time with our children Demelza, Kirsty and Luke, our parents, family and friends. I hope you will understand that we'd love to spend time with all of you however, this time our visits will be to Durrington, Weymouth, Chelmsford and Bedford.

Alan writes:

Those of us who have always lived in stability probably do not value the peace that it gives us. We thank the Lord that Tanzania is a stable, peaceful country but the same can not be said for the countries that surround us. We started off the New Year with preparing our programme to receive staff and families from the Kenya programme. All of our staff gave amazing support. We thank God that we were not needed but continue to pray for Kenya and its people. Things there are a long way from being settled. We also pray for Mike and Joe Riley who were part of our programme until the middle of last year. They left us to take up the post of programme manager in Chad. They are presently back in the UK as the whole Chad programme has temporarily closed down because of the recent violence. Yes peace is a thing most of us take for granted.

Davina mentions plans. One of last year's major plans for the programme was to build new airfields to either extend or start new safari work. It was hoped to have some new airfields open by now but this has not occurred due to weather issues and late delivery of equipment. The only task that we were able to complete was a rebuild of Handa airstrip which is used on the Sandawe medical safari. Last February one of our Cessna 206s became bogged down and was damaged in soft soggy ground. After a lot of hard work from the airfield building team we now have an all weather strip at Handa. This year, God willing, we hope to open many new airstrips



Another plan we all pray to see fulfilled is the return of our small Caravan 5H-ZBZ. As most of you will know it crashed while landing in bad weather in April 2006. It left Tanzania for the USA nearly a year ago and presently with only one Caravan its return is eagerly awaited. At one stage we were told it would be back by now but the latest estimate is now the end of April. Please pray that its return will be no later. The capacity that the second Caravan will give us is desperately required.

Julius and the Bobcat working at Handa

As with Davina, I look forward to meeting many of you in a few weeks time. Davina and I will both be very pleased to see our children again.

God bless you all, Alan and Davina

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