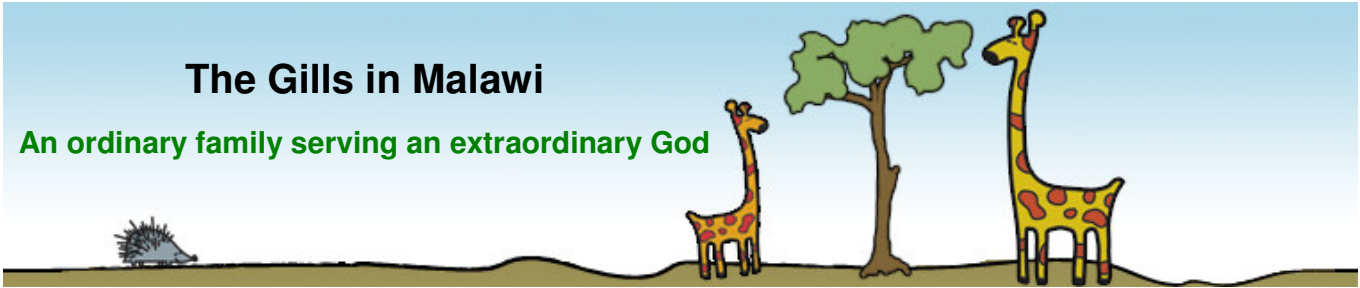


The Gills in Malawi

An ordinary family serving an extraordinary God



May 2010

UK here we come!

So after 3 years away from friends and family we are really happy to let everyone know that we will be returning to the UK on furlough from the 6th August until the 7th October.

Thanks to Hope for the Nations Children's Charity and Elim Northern Ireland we have been able to book tickets from South Africa to the UK. We still need to get from Malawi to South Africa but are confident that everything will work out just fine. We have many places we would like to visit and friends to see all over the UK and Northern Ireland and will be working on an itinerary with Elim missions so if you would like us to visit you or your church please let us know.

We are also going to need a place to stay and would prefer our base to be in Peterborough so please spread the word and if you know anyone with an empty house during that time we would be happy to house sit. If you can put us up please let us know when and for how long. It would be great to have a place of our own as we don't want to be a burden to people but we understand this may be difficult so we are open to any ideas including caravans and mobile homes!

As we have so many places to visit the use of a car would also be great as we do not have money to hire one and public transport for all of us would be expensive so again let us know if you can help.

We can't wait to see everyone and the kids are so excited.

Tracy gets canning

In an effort to save money Tracy has recently started canning tomatoes. It's amazing what you end up doing out here that you wouldn't do in the UK. A can of tomatoes here costs £1.86 so Tracy decided to buy tomatoes and can them herself saving over £1.30. It takes time but as you can see it's worth the effort. If any of you have money saving ideas that might work out here then let us know as every bit helps.

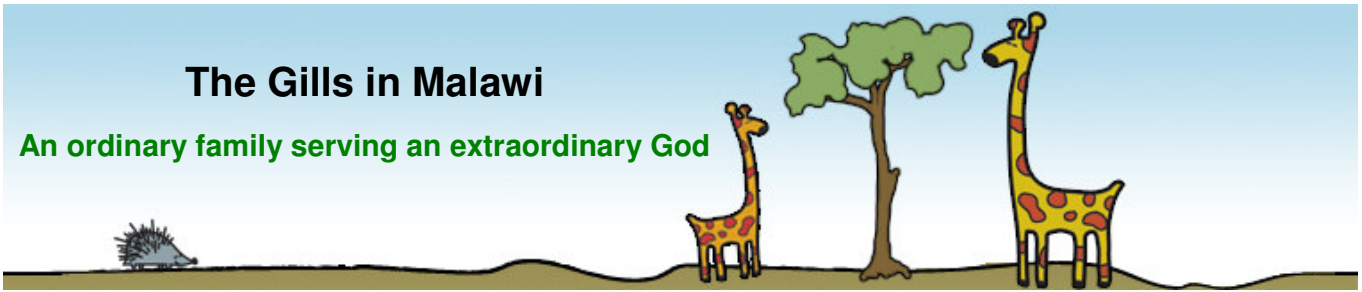


Chloe turns 12

Chloe had her 12th birthday and we had a Skype call with Lauren so that she could watch Chloe open her presents which was really nice. Chloe loved all her presents especially a hand puppet from her nanny and pop that looks just like Zack our dog who died last year and who Chloe adored. Thanks to all the Elim churches that sent cards, she loved receiving them.

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New beginnings

Well as most of you know 2009 was a really tough year for us as a family and for Hope Village. We are really happy though to report that we have really begun to see a change for the better here and have a real excitement about what lies ahead.

Paul has begun teaching at a new morning meeting that we hold with the staff once a week and has been spending a lot more time out with the people rather than behind a desk which he is loving. Tracy has become more involved with the clinic helping Lydia our new nursing assistant with the babies that we are supporting. She has also been helping Charles our day care manager with the setting up of a new pre school that starts next month.

We have also agreed to teach once a week at our day care so that we get to know all of the wonderful children that we look after here at Hope Village. With all of the stuff we have to do here including looking after the project with it's 28 staff and daily issues its easy to get bogged down in stuff that needs to be done but brings little joy so we even though on paper we don't have time for all these extra things we are finding that in doing them we find such a joy and everything gets done in the end!

Tracy and baby Isaac

Here is Tracy with baby Isaac one of the babies we have helped here at Hope Village thanks to the support of Elim Northern Ireland and who is gaining weight and doing so well. For those of you who have not read our blog, Isaac's mother died giving birth to him and two other babies one who died straight away and the other who died of pneumonia later on. Check our blog at www.gillsinmalawi.com for the full story.



Car boot sale in Malawi!

Well winter has started here in Malawi which is great for us as it's a break from the heat but hard for the children in the village as they get so cold at night sleeping on the mud floor of their homes. We normally like to give out blankets to every child but this year the funds are simply not available and whilst thinking about it Tracy was prompted to read 1 John 3:17 and so we thought about what we could do. Basically we have ransacked our home for anything that we have that we don't use, you know those things that sit on a shelf (just in case one day you need it), when in fact you never do and despite being missionaries we still managed to get together a fair bit. Even Chloe, Joel and Benj got stuff from their rooms including clothes and toys and we are going to have a sale, to which we have invited local chiefs and hopefully we will make enough money to buy every child a blanket. It seems so sad to have so much stuff sitting in cupboards collecting dust when to give it away or sell it to raise money could help someone. So here is the challenge for you, why not give something you own away or sell it and donate the money to help the poor. We will update our blog to let you all know if we manage to make enough to buy all the blankets!