



Following Our Hearts!

Dear Friends,

Of course we could not be in Missouri and not visit Debs' Aunt and Uncle, Don and Lorraine Odendaal! I have so many happy memories of times spent with them during school vacations on their beautiful farm in Zimbabwe when it was not safe for us children to accompany Rod and Ellie on their excursions into Mozambique. Uncle Don and Auntie Lo looked after us like their own, and my Ouma (my mum's mum) lived in the same yard, it was great to be near family and friends that we had left behind when we left for Malawi.

Uncle Don and Auntie Lo had their farm designated for resettlement by the Zimbabwe government in the early 2000s, and they left for the USA where they have family and are serving a local church in Chillicothe. The last time we saw each other Gabriel was just a baby, and now he is 13! It was such a gift to spend the night with them in their home, reconnect and know that they are well and happy. Thank you Jesus!

After Chillicothe we spent a night in Kansas City and stopped by International House of Prayer. We have heard so much about it and are glad we went, the prayer room is a special place that has prayer and worship 24/7 - you can log in anytime on their website, <http://www.ihopkc.org/prayerroom/> and spend time in prayer with them. It's a great vision and they are impacting the nations. An added bonus was seeing Jeosafa and Simona there, meeting AWY family in the US was fun!

From Kansas City we journeyed down to Poplar Bluff, stopping for lunch in Steelville along the way with a precious couple, Thom and Joy Lemmons. I hadn't seen them since I was 11! They are dear friends of Rod and Ellie and we had a fantastic barbecue lunch then went to a park with the kids and fed the ducks. A very special time.

In Poplar Bluff we visited New Covenant Fellowship. This church and their Pastor, Jerry Moore, have supported Rod and Ellie and Afrika wa Yesu since 1981! It was incredible walking by the church where it all started so long ago, where God led Rod and Ellie to make contact with New Covenant and He opened door after door for them and continues to do so.

This past week we have been in Little Rock, Arkansas. We stayed in a lovely little historic house downtown and were treated like absolute royalty by Trinity Church of Hot Springs - we did some fun tourist things, like going to the alligator farm and on a duck ride and a high school football game on a Friday night, but our favourite was being a part of their church life. We helped bag groceries for the food pantry and prayed with those who came through to receive food, joined home groups and sorted candy for their upcoming harvest fest. It was a blessing getting to know the church members personally and we loved every minute. Thank you, Trinity!

Yesterday we drove from Arkansas through Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama to Florida and are currently in Pensacola at the Gathering of Champions (www.globalrevival.com) for the week and then will go on to other destinations...

I do hope you all are not finding these emails too long but we want to share our adventure with you and there's just so much happening! We love you all.

God bless,
Chris and Debs
Gabriel, Ashira and Mikayla