

Hazels in Africa

Hope with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15

Change in direction but not in Focus

Our work visa for Namibia expired in November. After waiting 3 months to hear from the Namibian government about our work visas which we had been told would only take 7-10 business days, we felt God had closed the door for us to return to Tsumkwe to continue living among the San people. This sadden our hearts deeply since we had built relationships with many in the community. We turned to AIM to reassign us to another unreached people group in Africa. This process took about a month and we are happy to share that we have been assigned to go **live among the DIGO people** of Kwale, Kenya. We will be joining a team who has already been serving together for two years in the area.



This change in direction was not part of our plan. But we rest in knowing **God's plans are greater and higher** than our plans. Our focus remains the same to serve among the lost, the poor, and the hungry of Africa. We have had little time to learn about the DIGO people. They are an agricultural people which Claudia will be able to reach out to the community using Farming God's Way. Jeremy has many gifts to reach out to the community through discipleship, youth, and his new passion for Bible Storying.

Who are the DIGO?

population: 500,000

location: SE Kenya and NE Tanzania

culture: The Digo are Bantu people. They are fishermen, farmers, basket weavers & potters. **religion:** 80% folk Islam, 20% animism, 0.1% Christian



New Monthly Support target

We thank ALL of you for giving. God was faithful to supply all our needs while in Namibia. And we trust Him to continue to supply for our needs as we move to Kenya. We are now going to a different country with different cost of living. Thus our support **target has changed and we are currently \$800 short per month.**

We need a few people to step up in faith to support God's work in Kwale, Kenya among the Digo. To give visit our blog

www.hazelsinafrica.aimsites.org. Click on **Support by Giving** to

see the options or use the slip included with this newsletter.

We have plane tickets **back to Africa on April 17th.**

Language School

We have learned the importance of speaking the local language with the people. We will be learning two new languages while living among the Digo people: **Swahili**, the work language, and **Chidigo**, the heart language of the Digo. In Kwale, Kenya, the older generations speak Chidigo and younger generations speak Swahili. So learning both languages is very important. Therefore we are being sent to Language School.



We will travel to Morogoro, Tanzania for 2 months to learn **Swahili**.

Learning Swahili will also allow us to communicate in the whole region of East Africa.

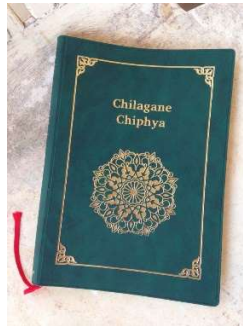
Costs: Tuition total: \$2120 Books: \$130 each

These costs are not covered by our monthly support. Any one-time gifts given at this time will be designated toward these costs.

Chidigo, we will learn like we learned Ju/hoansi in Tsumkwe. We will have language helpers and weekly lessons. 40% of Chidigo is based off Swahili, so learning Swahili first will help us learn Chidigo.

News from Digo Team members of God working in Kwale, Kenya

- ❖ A witchdoctor's wife attends a local gathering of believers and is healed after being prayed over in Jesus' name by the believers. The witchdoctor was angry at his wife but because healing had happened he allowed his wife to continue attending. Later team members went to the village to pray for people. The witchdoctor asked team members, "If I turned to Jesus, how would I heal the people who come from far seeking healing from me? How would I support my family?" The team's respond was "People will be healed in the name of Jesus. Jesus can take care of your needs not the spirits." The man decided to follow Jesus. The team prayed for freedom for him as he turned his life over to Christ. The now FORMER witchdoctor said, "As you prayed I could feel every spirit leave me."
- ❖ In a village where little truth is actually known about Jesus, the Jesus film in their heart language was shown at the prompting of a bold Digo Christian man and his family. Almost 100 curious people showed up to hear Jesus speak their language!
- ❖ In attempts to build relationship with a Digo man, one team member read John 3:16 from the bible in Chidigo, the heart language. The people's faces light up when spoken to in their language. The Digo man started to borrow a Chidigo bible and started attending church on his own. Later, he was given his own bible!
- ❖ Team members have overheard their house help singing some of the songs the team sings during team meetings.



God is at work among the Digo. The religious practices of the Digo are deeply rooted in spiritism and folk Islam making it a very difficult task of reaching them for Christ. These may seem to be small starts, yet God can do BIG things in the hearts and lives of the DIGO people.

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Lessons learned from being with the San people



- ❖ Ministry comes out of BEING. Because we took the time to be with the people and learned their ways, we were welcomed into their lives and family.
- ❖ Importance of learning the heart language of the people. The smiles, joy and laughter that comes from you trying to talk speaks louder than the words you are actually saying.
- ❖ Power of sharing whether it is a cup of tea or a neighborhood shovel. When you share back and forth, community and relationships are built.
- ❖ A community comes together for the benefit of everyone. Whether this is painting a house in just a few hours, discovering why water isn't flowing at the tap, making jewelry with ladies all day or sitting around the fire at night.
- ❖ Sharing life together includes everything from rejoicing in birth to spending days sitting, crying and even grabbing a shovel and participate in burying a loved one.



A Trip to Tsumkwe to say Goodbye

In November, we left our belongs in Windhoek, Namibia in faith we would be back. Unfortunately, the government is not allowing us to return to live. We can return for a short time on a tourist visa. We are going to be able to make a trip to Tsumkwe to say proper goodbyes for now and express our deep love for our San family. This will happen **April 20-28**. While in Namibia, we will pick up our belongs to move to Kenya.

Mission: Christ-centered churches among all African peoples.

Priority: Africa's unreached

