

# Thanksgiving

November 2008 David & Sylvia De Jong Update

**Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name. Make known among the nations what he has done. Psalm 105:1.** We thank God for His goodness to us and His love that endures forever. He expresses His love to us in a multitude of ways, some which we desire to share using the word THANKS.

**Turkey and food.** Do we stop to think who provides our bountiful supply of food? Do we thank him for the rain, sunshine, farmers and others involved in getting it to us? Joseph Kavuli, a recent visitor to our home from Kenya, shared that famine prevails there and people are starving due to lack of rain. Last year at Christmas, the De Jong family, instead of buying each other gifts, gave money to buy goats for widows. Joseph, when given the money for widows in his community, said he suggested to use it to buy maize (corn) for the widows as there is no grass for the goats. We agreed. We had collected enough for 16 goats or 506 kilos (2.2 lbs per kilo) of maize, enough to feed 25 widows for a month. Would you like to offer a thank offering to God so some starving widows in Kenya can eat? \$50 will buy a 90 kilo bag of maize and will feed +/- 6 widows for a month.

**Home and health.** We thank God for graciously providing us with a comfortable home in Wooster, OH. We have done major renovations and maintenance to it this year with the help of a son, Tim De Jong; a grandson-in-law, Brian Weller, and his brother, Thomas; friends and neighbors. We thank God for the many volunteers who came to help just when they were needed. We continue to be amazed at the good health God gives us, so we can actively be involved in ministry and also care for our home. We praise God. Sylvia's good vision no longer requires glasses except when reading or sewing.



David & Tim building new porch

**Anticipation.** We thank God for the many invitations to minister in Africa. We are anticipating an extended ministry trip to South Africa, Zambia, and Kenya next March and April. Davison Zulu, who has translated Sylvia's book, *Widows of the Old Testament*, into Chinyanja/Chichewa, invited us to visit his family, and experience his church and ministry in Zambia. We plan to work out the final details for publishing and distributing the book in Zambia and Malawi.



Joseph Kavuli planned with us to have a weekend seminar and workshops on several challenging issues. It is anticipated that 400 pastors and elders will meet for this seminar at Scott Theological College, where our son James helped develop their campus and taught. Joseph plans for us to meet Christina Mbwambo, our Kiswahili editor for Tanzania. She is the CEF Director for Tanzania. Stanley Mutais, a member of our translation team for Kiswahili in Kenya, has invited David to have a teaching seminar on missions with church elders at the AIC Missionary College in Eldoret. Our target, Lord willing, is to have the Kiswahili translation completed and in print by that time. Sylvia has been asked to speak to a women's conference in Eldoret. There will be many opportunities for ministry to widows throughout the trip. We are planning to meet Paul Isayi, our primary Kiswahili translator and his family at that time.



Sylvia & David planning Africa trip with Joseph Kavuli

**Needs.** As we anticipate this trip the needs are many, especially for prayer. We realize few of you are able to take such a trip, but you can go with us by your prayers and gifts that enable us to go. We thank God for you who pray for us. We value your prayers greatly. In order for us to go, it is necessary to raise +/- \$7,000 for tickets and expenses related to the trip. Pray that God will also raise up the funds to publish Sylvia's book in Kiswahili and Chinyanja/Chichewa. (continued)

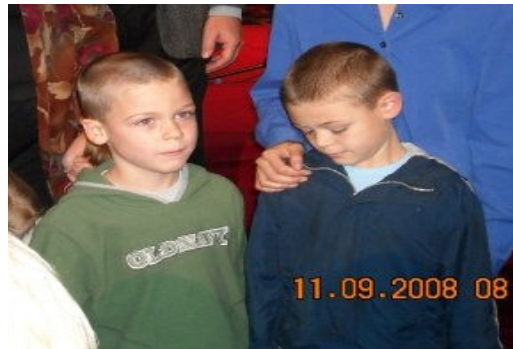
Preliminary research—a publisher in Nairobi charges \$1,500 for 1,000 copies. **Is anything too hard for the LORD (Gen. 18:14)?** Pray for us as we start doing our research and preparations for seminars, work shops, and widows ministry. Pray for the translators and editors as they finalize their translation work for publishing. Pray for wisdom in choosing good publishers and for the release of God’s financial resources. Pray for “Rose” to receive political asylum this month and for God’s provision for her to then bring her three sons to the U.S. from Kenya. **Praise God, the Spanish translation of *Widows of the Old Testament (Viudas del Antiguo Testamento)* is now published and available in book form.** God provided for that need.

**K**ids, grandkids and great grandkids. God has blessed us with 7 children, 19 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren and the 9th one due any day. Evangeline (Evie), the first born of Nathan and Joyce De Jong on Nov. 5th (GP-Tim and Lorie). Daniel and Heather announced Andrew Hunter De Jong’s birth 12/4/08. Some of our great grands have accepted the Lord. Last week Owen (7) and Zander (5) were baptized (P-Brian and Stefanie GP James and Kyleen) . It is a joy to see family members walk in God’s way.



Nathan, Evangeline and Joyce

Pray for Brian and Sheila Weller, who were married this past summer. Sheila (P-James and Kyleen) has infectious mono and must rest quietly for a month. She recuperated at our home much of this month. Brian commuted back and forth to his military base (Air Force Reserves) in Youngstown and Geneva College class in Beaver Falls, PA, where they live. Both have new jobs starting December 1. Pray for God’s strength and healing for Sheila.



Zander and Owen De Jong at their baptism

Rhonda (P-Sylvia) continues to teach full time and is taking one course at a time toward her Master’s Degree. She appreciates your prayers for strength and energy in light of having M.S. Praise God, her son, Shawn, while managing his bipolar disorder very well, is thriving as a college freshman. Pray for him as he faces the stress of completing projects and final exams.



Brian and Sheila on their honeymoon

**S**ufficiency. In a time when so many are without work, we see God providing for us and our families. We are here to support one another during these tough times. Praise God, His grace is sufficient for all circumstances. Our times are in His hands. We are so thankful for all of His provisions for us. We trust Him to sustain us in every way, as we travel and as we are busy at home. We want to say a special “Thank You” to each one who has prayed for us and each individual who has taken time and effort to help us with our various projects. Thank you to churches and individuals who continue to provide financial support. We are eternally grateful. Have a blessed Christmas Season.

David and Sylvia De Jong

